

## **Shoeless Joe: Significant Quotations**

These are not exhaustive quotations but they cover some of the themes, trends and novel developments we discussed in class. I don't have the exact page references but they are listed by chapter.

### **Epigraph**

“Some men see things as they are, and say why, I dream of things that never were and say why not”

### **Chapter 1 – Shoeless Joe Jackson Comes to Iowa**

**“My father...”**

**“If you build it, he will come”**

Joe asks: “Is this heaven”?

“Now I stand ready to cut into the cornfield, to chisel away a piece of livelihood to use as dream currency”

“Shoeless Joe became a symbol of the tyranny of the powerful over the powerless”

### **Chapter 2 – They Tore Down the Polo Grounds in 1964**

The corn listens “like a field of swaying disciples” – Matthew, Mark, Luke & John !

**“Ease his pain”**

Ray installs home plate “like a grave marker” [ foreshadow ? ]

“The process is all so slow, as dreams are slow, as dreams suspend time like a balloon hung in midair”

“Writers are magicians”

“I've built a magical baseball diamond”

“Baseball is a ceremony, a ritual, as surely as sacrificing a goat beneath a full moon is a ritual”

“Within the baselines anything can happen . . . anything is possible in this gentle, flawless, loving game”

“I can tell you have a healthy contempt for authority, big business, academia, religion – all the forces that control our lives”

“There is a magic about it”, I say. “You have to be there to feel the magic”  
“What is this magic you keep talking about”?

“baseball is as steady as a grandfather dozing in a wicker chair on a verandah”

“We’re not just ordinary people, we’re a congregation”

**“Go the distance”**

### **Chapter 3 – The Life and Times of Moonlight Graham**

“Something has dialled us to the same frequency” [ J.D. to Ray ]

**“Fulfill the dream”** voice heard by Salinger but not by Ray

Moonlight Graham was “patted on the head by a dream” – which dream ?

“earachy day” vs “toothachy day” in chapter one

“We are dredging up the past and laying it out in the sunshine to dry”

“We are mixing a cocktail of memories, and history, and love, and imagination”

Re Eddie Scissons, “He carried a white cane, and his mittened hands only partially covered the brass serpent’s head that served as a handle” – like Moses in Old Testament ?

“Doc had as many pockets in his suit as a magician...”

“It’s a sad time when the world won’t listen to stories about good men. It’s one of the reasons I don’t publish anymore” – Salinger (and it’s WP Kinsella too)

“Once the land touches you, the wind never blows so cold again. You feel for the land like it was your child”

“Once you’ve been touched by the land, the wind never blows so cold again because your love files the edges off it”

“Suddenly I thrust my hands wrist-deep into the snuffy-black earth”

### **Chapter 4 – The Oldest Living Chicago Cub**

“Or, could all this be in my imagination” – Ray to himself

“A ballpark at night is more like a church than a church”

“An empty ballpark at night must be like the inside of a pyramid”

“Fathers, bring your sons...” – carnival barker

“Can I have a hot-dog daddy”?

“The kind of people I absolutely cannot tolerate are those, like Annie’s mother, who never let you forget they are religious”

\*\* “But I understand Eddie Scissons. I know that some of us, and for some reason I am one of them, get to reach out and touch our heart’s desire, like a child who gets to pet the nose of an old horse, soft as satin, safe as a grandfather’s lap. And I know, too, that when most people reach for that heart’s desire, it appears not as a horse but as a tiger, and they are rewarded with snarls, frustration and disillusionment” \*\* (p. 218)

\*\* “The word is baseball ... “ speech pp. 227-229

## **Chapter 5 – The Rapture of J.D. Salinger**

“It was instinct that caused me to build that door in the right-center-field fence”

“How would you like to go out with us after the game”? says Joe to Jerry

“This is my creation”

“a man being able to touch the perfect dream”

“The voices of the ballplayers merge with the silky rustlings of the cornstalks”

“a moon bright as butter silvers the night”

“the catcher” ( in the rye/wry ?)