

Million Dollar Baby Discussion Questions

Pick 5 of the following questions to answer. Restate the question and answer in complete sentences. (10 points each)

1. How is this movie the same as, or different from, other boxing movies, such as *Rocky*? Would you describe this as a boxing movie or a movie about a boxer? Explain.
2. Do you think Scrap's narration/ voice over is an effective method for telling Frankie and Maggie's stories? Explain.
3. Why is the following quote such a driving force for Maggie? "She grew up knowing one thing: that she was trash." Do you think it is dangerous to be so focused on only one goal as Maggie is? Explain.
4. How does Frankie's rule that a boxer must "protect himself at all times" apply to Big Willie, Scrap, Maggie and himself? Explain.
5. Scrap says, "The most important thing for a fighter to have is heart." Why is this quote important for Maggie, Frankie, and Scrap? Explain.
6. Scrap says, "If there is a magic in boxing, it is the magic of fighting battles beyond endurance." Why or how does this become an important part of the film? Explain.
7. Describe and explain the relationship between Scrap and Frankie.
8. Frankie Dunn is a "cut man" atoning for past transgressions trying to heal his pain. What does a cut man do? Explain the metaphor.
9. What is Scrap referring to when he says, "Some wounds are too deep and too close to the bone to stop the bleeding"?
10. Why is Maggie's statement "trouble comes in my family by the pounds" a good description of her family? How do you feel about her interactions with her family: their reactions to her buying her mother a house, and, their reactions to what happens in Las Vegas?

11. Explain the significance of the emblem on the back of Maggie's boxing robe?
12. Why do you think the director chooses to have Maggie use the words, "I'm going to be frozen like this for the rest of my life"?
13. Clint Eastwood says that what the audience doesn't see stirs/teases the emotions. He chose an interesting lighting concept for *Million Dollar Baby*. Based on what you know about lighting, discuss this lighting concept, and include examples from the movie to support your answer.
14. Eastwood also says that the audience has to be properly motivated to care and continue to watch a film. What motivated you to care and continue to watch *Million Dollar Baby*? Give examples.
15. Do you think that what her father does for Axel and what she asks Frankie to do for her are humane acts? Explain.
16. Why does the priest say: "if you do this thing you'll be lost, immersed somewhere so deep that you'll never find yourself again"? What do you think happens to Frankie after the end of the movie?