

The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams
by Ben Bradlee, Jr.

Some Poignant Things to Think About... a note from discussion leader Mike B. Pondering these questions can augment appreciation and enjoyment of Bradlee's, The Kid.

Discussion Part I of II... Boyhood to Korea (Chapters 1-13)

- Who influenced Ted the most when he was a boy?
- What was family life like during Ted's childhood? How was his relationship with his Mom? How'd he feel about the Salvation Army? His brother, Danny?
- He's on a Mexican Radio (remember that cacophonous New Wave song from the 1980s) ... what are Ted's thoughts and emotions when it comes to his immediate and extended family?
- Bush Leaguer. Consider Ted's sandlot and Minor League days. How did they shape his life-view?
- How fair and friendly were newspapermen toward the Splendid Splinter? What was Ted's relationship with reporters? Is anyone at blame here?
- Public Ted vs. Private Ted? Any difference between the two men? Would you have Ted Williams over your house for a party?
- Dr. Jekyll and Mr....Williams? Let us count the ways... how was TW a truly caring person?
- Red, White, and Bravado. How did Ted view his association with the military... in WW II? In the Korean War?
- Just one more question. With three parts. Consider TW's family life (as a 20+ year old thrust into public adulation and public adulthood)... How did he treat women? How was his relationship with his daughter, Bobby-Jo? How did he view his penchant for fishing? Why? Why? And Why?
- Rounding all the bases... Weighing the first half of Bradlee's book, in what ways can Ted Williams be considered a hero?