**Roaring Twenties, The Boxing Match between Tunney and Dempsey**, 1927

Paperboy, Mary Kay Kroger and Louise Borden, Clarion Books. New York 1996

(Fictional characters in fictional situations, but in the context of a real historic time period.)

This story is narrated in third person through the eyes of Willie Brickman. He was selling newspapers to make money for his family. The Brickman family lived in New York City during the Roaring Twenties.

At the beginning of the story Willie Brickman is starting his day peacefully selling newspapers. As he’s walking he passes by a line of boys signing up for the extra pack of newspapers. Willie goes in the line and signs up. Willie is very dedicated to his work and thinks he will be able to sell the extra newspapers after the big match between the boxers Tunney and Dempsey. Even though the favorite boxer loses, Willie went to sell the newspapers after the match. His Boss gives him the best place to sell newspapers because he was the only one to show up for the newspapers.

Willie is reliable because after the favorite boxer lost the match, he went straight to his boss for the newspapers even though he knows it will be hard to sell the papers. That shows he is reliable. When he saw he could sign up for the extra newspapers he signed up. That shows he is a risk taker. Willie is also dedicated because he went early to see if he was the person that got the extra newspapers. He was a hard worker and that paid of for his family. He was willing to take a chance because he signed up to get more newspapers that would maybe not get sold. Willie learns hard work pays off. When the boxer in the neighborhood everyone wanted to win lost, no newspaper boy went to get the extra newspapers except for Willie so his boss gave him a better job.

The story would be told differently if Willie’s little brother was telling the story. Willie’s little brother would be wishing he was Willie because he wanted to make money for his family just like Willie. He also would want to feel important by making the money to make his parents proud.

The character’s interactions show kids actually had to make a living off of selling newspapers to make money for their family. The interactions also show how boxing matches were also a big part of the community. Also people had radios to listen to and not TV’s to watch.

Historical Facts from Story

1. Boxing matches were actually a community thing back in time.
2. People used radios in the past because they didn’t have TV’s.
3. Newspaper selling was a true thing kids did to make money.
4. The two boxers Tunney and Dempsey were actual boxers that had matches against each other.

Historic Facts from Authors notes

1. Tunney the boxer was the actual heavyweight world champion.
2. Jack Dempsey was elected in the boxing hall of fame in 1954.
3. Jack Dempsey’s nick name was “the Manassa Mauler.”
4. Gene Tunney’s nick name was “Gentlemen Gene.”