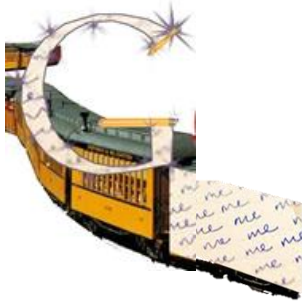


## Google Doodle Analysis

Michelle G.

### **G: Character Representation**



The pencil and paper used to create the G in Google and one of the passenger cars on the train mirror Max Mercy, a newspaper writer in *The Natural*. As a man in search of discovering Roy's mysterious past, Max constantly pursued his topic so he could fill the pages of his newspaper. Max's one-track mind and hunger for Roy's past made him one of Roy's nemeses. One of the key scenes showing Max as a nosy journalist just about pushed Roy over the edge with questions like, "But what's all the mystery about?" and, "Why'd you stay out of the game so long?" (Malamud 97). Within the scene, Roy was turned down for a salary increase only to leave the meeting and be faced with the nonstop questioning of Max. Although Max appeared relentless, his job as a reporter was to fill the pages of a newspaper that would sell to the public, and the public wanted to know about their new baseball hero.

### **O: Symbol**



The wheel and train act as symbols representing Roy's journey in life. The story, *The Natural*, begins with Roy traveling on a train to start his new life as a professional baseball player. The train leads him to a tragic detour in his career, haunting him through dreams. The reader gets a sense of Roy's despair as the author discusses his achievements and the lack of satisfaction he is feeling through his interjection, "He felt he had nothing of value yet to show for what he was accomplishing, and in his dreams he still sped over endless miles of monotonous rail toward something he desperately wanted" (Malamud 85). The train with its endless track portrays Roy's feeling that at times his life was going nowhere and he couldn't reach his goals. The train and wheel are instruments of movement that reflect Roy's never

ending desire to reach a destination that he can't seem to identify. Roy's dreams about endless train rides overwhelm him with feelings of loneliness that he tries to overcome.

### **O: Theme**



Time never stops is a theme within the pages of *The Natural*. The basis of all of Roy's haunting dreams and negative thoughts is the premise that he wants to go back in time and relive some of the decisions that led him to his fateful trip on the train bound for his future. While traveling in his car heading toward a lake for some free time with one of his love interests, Memo, Roy's mind started to wander bringing him face to face with his childhood simplicity. "Sometimes he wished he had no ambitions- often wondered where they had come from in his life, because he remembered how satisfied he had been as a youngster, and that with the little he had had-a dog, a stick, an aloneness he loved (which did not bleed him like his later loneliness), and he wished he could have lived longer in his boyhood," were thoughts that made Roy's dissatisfaction with his present life apparent (Malamud 111). The clock represents time which is a theme and obstacle that Roy constantly battles throughout the novel. Wanting to relive his younger years and wanting to stop from growing older before reaching his goals exposes his battle against time.

### **G: Mood**



The unraveling baseball that forms the second "g" in Google represents a significant scene in *The Natural*. When Roy arrived to play his first game with his new team, his skills were underestimated because of his age. However, on page 74, when Roy was up to bat, he hit the ball so hard that the outfielder could only retrieve the remnants of what was once the ball. This put a home run on the scoreboard for Roy's team and gave the fans something to cheer about. The mood clearly shifted from one of skepticism to amazement. The crowd and other players did not expect Roy to be so talented at his age. They were astonished by his ability to hit a ball so powerfully that the impact would turn it to

shreds. This amazing act led to Roy's increased popularity with the fans and team. The unraveling baseball was used by the author to change the mood of doubt to astonishment, setting the scene for Roy's up and coming fame.

### **L: Connection to setting**



The baseball bat that creates the "l" in Google connects to the setting of *The Natural*. Many years after a tragic event in which Roy was shot in the side, he joined a baseball team called the Knights. Here he found success and fame on the baseball field that most players only dreamed of. The importance of using a baseball field as the setting in the 1950's (the time period *The Natural* was set in) was that this particular sport gathered many people together who wanted to see amazing talents and feel as if they were a part of a team's success. The game of baseball and the challenges the field delivers to a player was similar to the daily challenges Roy was facing as he tried to find satisfaction in his personal life. He was always struggling to win the game of life.

### **E: Conflict**



The "e" in Google is made up of a gun and a silver bullet (along with the path of the bullet). When Roy was shot unexpectedly by Harriet Bird in the beginning of *The Natural*, the path he was heading down changed drastically. Prior to the shooting, Roy was on his way to join a baseball team, the Cubs, to achieve his dream of becoming a professional baseball player. However, being shot created a traumatic hindrance for Roy that held him back from a dream he was so close to achieving. Years later he was able to recover from the injury, but the night that he was shot continued to haunt him. The silver bullet created a fear inside of him that he could not escape even when his dreams of becoming a professional baseball player were coming true. This man to man conflict between Roy and Harriet Bird that resulted in him being shot provided Roy with a past he desperately wanted to hide and forget. His internal battle with the past interfered with him finding full satisfaction with his present life and success.