Mr. Smith Goes to Washington

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Characters:

1. Jefferson Smith- Newly appointed senator. A simple, honest, patriotic man, who works with children and helps people in needs; leader and organizer of the Boy Rangers (like the Boy Scouts).
2. Senator Joseph Paine- The senior senator from the state. He is very powerful and respected in the Senate. He knew, and was close friends with, Jefferson Smith’s father when he was younger. He is in conflict about trying to do the right thing and being influenced to do the wrong thing by Jim Taylor.
3. Jim Taylor- A businessman and political party boss from the state. He has a lot of power and influence in the state; kind of runs things from behind the scenes.
4. Miss Saunders- Senator Paine’s secretary. She is assigned to help Mr. Smith. She is jaded and

disillusioned by what she has seen working in Washington DC.

1. Governor Huber “Happy” Hopper- Governor of the state in the movie. Does whatever Jim Taylor tells him to do.
2. Chick McGann- Jim Taylor’s helper.
3. Diz Moore- Newspaper reporter who covers the Senate for his newspaper. A friend of Miss Saunders.
4. Susan Paine- Senator Paine’s daughter.

Directions: Please answer the following questions while you watch and enjoy the movie.

1. What reasons do the Governor’s children give as to why they want their father to pick Mr. Smith as

the new senator?

2. What gift do the Boy Rangers give Mr. Smith at his party?

3. While Mr. Smith is on the train talking with Senator Paine, how do they say Mr. Smith’s father died?

4. What does Mr. Smith say he would like to do on the morning before he goes to the Senate for the

first time?

5. When the newspaper reporters interview Mr. Smith, what does he tell them he would like to do for

the country?

6. Why is Mr. Smith angry and punching all of the newspaper reporters?

7. What is Miss Saunders’ first name?

8. Why is Willet Creek important to Mr. Smith? Why is it important to Jim Taylor and Senator Paine?

9. Why does Susan Paine keep Mr. Smith away from the Senate?

10. How does Mr. Smith find out about the Willet Creek Dam Project?

11. What does Senator Paine accuse Mr. Smith of doing?

12. After the Senate committee hearing, where does Mr. Smith go? Who finds him? What do they

decide to do?

13. When Mr. Smith returns to the Senate and takes the floor to speak, what does he do to prove that he is innocent?

14. How do the children help Mr. Smith?

15. In the end, what happens to Senator Paine?

16, What qualities of good citizenship does Mr. Smith demonstrate?

17. What did you learn about the legislative process and how a bill becomes a law from watching the

movie?