



Westminster Christian Academy

12th Grade Summer Reading

AP Language and Composition

Over the summer, read [Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption](#) by Laura Hillenbrand (ISBN-13: 978-0812974492).

From the book jacket:

“In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a floundering life raft. Ahead of starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.”

You will be tested on the full, unabridged version of the text the first week of school, so do not read the young adult adaptation.

Additionally, Hillenbrand’s narrative has been made into a major motion picture. You are more than welcome to watch the film after you finish reading the book, but know that the film will do little to replace the content of the nonfiction narrative, which is rich in historical detail and goes far beyond the time limits of the film. The film probably captures less than 20% of the book and leaves out some of the most important elements, so do not be tempted to skip the reading. It is worth your time.

You might also consider listening to the audiobook if you are traveling somewhere this summer. The narrator does a great job bringing the story to life. However, it will be important for you to stop the audio and mark the text for the sake of future discussion.

Mark/highlight the text as you read for anything discussion-worthy. Also, mark passages with the following in mind:

1. How does Louie manage to overcome the suffering he endures? What character and leadership traits enable him to survive?
2. Pay attention to the themes of sacrifice, power, forgiveness, and revenge in *Unbroken*. Mark the text and be ready to discuss passages that pertain to these themes.