



Westminster Christian Academy

12th Grade Summer Reading

AP Language and Composition

1. [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 assessed on the full, unabridged version of the text the first week of school, so do not mistake the young adult adaptation for the original book. Additionally, *Unbroken* has been made into a major motion picture that you're welcome to watch, but keep in mind the film will do little to replace the content of the nonfiction narrative, which is rich in historical detail and content that goes far beyond the time constraints of the film.

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 go back and mark any passages you think will be discussion-worthy.

As you read the text, mark/highlight quotes and passages that pertain to the following:

- How does Louie manage to overcome the suffering he endures? What character and leadership traits enable him to survive?
- Themes of sacrifice, perseverance, abuse of power, revenge, and forgiveness.

2. [Brave New World](#) by Aldous Huxley (ISBN-13: 978-0060850524)

Brave New World by Aldous Huxley is a prophetic novel set in a future where society is engineered for efficiency and uniformity. In this “perfect” world, individuals are conditioned from birth to accept their rank and role in a caste system that eliminates discontent and unrest. Happiness is manufactured and medicated to ensure citizens are in a constant state of euphoric distraction, and cultural and intellectual pursuits are stigmatized. Huxley's novel explores themes of freedom, control, and the sacrifice of individuality for the perceived greater good, offering a stark vision of a possible future where humanity is subjected to total manipulation to maintain superficial peace and stability.

As you read the text, mark/highlight quotes and passages that pertain to the following themes: the cost of “happiness,” censorship and the consumption of technology as an instrument of mind control, the sacrifice of individuality for the perceived greater good, the search for meaning in philosophy and religion, and totalitarianism as a means of establishing a utopian society.