



**Oakwood Christian Academy Summer 2021 Reading Instructions  
Students ENTERING 9th Grade**

**NEW CHANGE:** Students are required to read **ONE** book over the summer. We will **NOT** be doing book reports this summer, **but the students do need to record the time they spend reading the required book on their reading logs.** Reading Logs should be brought to class on the first day of school.

**Book Required for all students- *Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* (by Laura Hillenbrand) YOUNG ADULT ADAPTATION**

- Please make sure you get the book adapted for young adults (It is approximately 150 pages shorter, and our test will be based on this version of the book).
- **Print off the reading log--document the date, minutes spent reading, & pages read.**
- Please come to class next fall ready to discuss this book.
- We will be taking a test over this book the second week of school.
- Being able to answer truthfully that you have completely read this novel during the 2021 summer break and submitting your reading log is 20% of your test grade.
- **Read** the introduction and epilogue- there will be test information from these sections.
- You do **not** have to read the "In Conversation" section at the end of the book.
- You may skip **Chapters 28-30** if Zamperini's experiences as a prisoner of war are weighing too heavily on you. It is up to you.
- Note to parents: a swear word is implied in chapter 28, but the word is replaced by asterisks in the young adult adaptation of this book.

***Let me set the stage for you:***

This book begins with a real life and death game of "Would You Rather." So before you start reading, I want to ask you:

Would you rather sit in a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific while a Japanese bomber shoots over 350 bullets at your raft, or would you rather dive into the water and face the Great White sharks currently circling your raft?

Similar to *Peak*, the introduction of this story is a *hook*. Louie Zamperini's plane has crashed into the Pacific, and he has to make the above choice.

This book is a true story of Louis Zamperini's life. Laura Hillenbrand does a great job of taking us through Louie's rebel teenage years, his training for the Olympics, his time as a Japanese POW, and finally his struggle with PTSD after the war.



**Discussion Topics:**

- \*How do you achieve big goals?
- \* How do you overcome difficult circumstances?
- \*Does God still work miracles today?
- \* How does Louie Zamperini use his horrible experiences to help others?

I hope there are elements about this book that inspire you. Louie Zamperini endures impossible circumstances, and I'm sure there will be times in the book where you wonder how a human being could possibly survive all that this man went through. In the future when you go through your own difficult circumstances, I hope you remember that in spite of what you face- like Louie Zamperini- God still cares for you. Please come to class ready to discuss this book. :)

**Don't forget to print off the reading log and record your progress as you go.**

If you have questions, please email Miss Kowalcyk at [lisakowalcyk@oca.oakwoodbc.org](mailto:lisakowalcyk@oca.oakwoodbc.org)

