

Advanced Placement American History Summer Reading Assignment

Book Title: Unbroken
Author: Laura Hillenbrand
Publisher: Random House

You are required to read the above non-fiction book by the end of the summer vacation. This book is an amazing story about a World War II pilot who ends up having to deal with numerous challenging events. The book does a magnificent job of telling a story while including historical events. This year in American History you will be challenged to do the same. The advanced placement American history class requires that you too begin to tell your own story with accurate historical references and analysis.

The goal here is to have you read a book and enjoy reading the book. While you are reading the book I would like you to take notes on 5 by 7 index cards. On the note cards take notes with the ideas and questions listed below in mind. In total it would be appropriate to have 10 - 20 index cards (front and back) reflecting the questions below by the time that you finish the book. I would like your reading to be an active rather than a passive experience. Please give the book a chance! I truly think that it might change your view of WWII and the events that occurred before and after the war. Even Steven Spielberg agrees! He is or has already made a movie about this. I would like that to be our first field trip, to go and see the movie.

Questions are on the next page!

1. Highlight and reflect upon the various personal experiences that the characters in the book go through.
2. Based upon those many events, what characterizes the United States prior to World War II?
3. Based upon those many events, what characterizes the United States after World War II?
4. There are many acts of courage in the story. Highlight and take notes on those acts of courage to be retrieved and reflected upon at a later time.
5. Take notes and reflect upon events that surprised you in the book.
6. Take notes and reflect upon events in the book that inspired you.
7. Take notes and reflect upon events in the book that made you sad.
8. Make a list of questions throughout your reading experience that we can discuss when we meet in September.
9. Make a list of topics that you would like to know more about.
10. When you are done reading the book, take some time to react to the book reflecting upon whether or not you liked the book, would recommend it to a friend, whether or not you want to see the movie and overall whether or not you think that his was a good choice for a summer reading book!

PLEASE DO NOT THINK THAT YOU HAVE TO DO ALL OF THESE GUIDING QUESTIONS!! I JUST WANT YOU TO USE SOME OF THESE AS A GUIDELINE FOR YOUR READING EXPERIENCE