



San Rafael High School
150 Third Street, San Rafael CA 94901
Telephone (415) 485-2330

May 31, 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Greetings from the English department at San Rafael High School! You have received this letter because you are enrolled in Honors English 9. You might already have received the same documents at school; this follow-up letter is just to make sure everyone has what they need to complete the summer assignment for English 9H. The contents and instructions are as follows:

Please read, sign, and return the contract page to SRHS as soon as possible. It is a description of the agreement you make as an honors student; our commitment in return is that we will support you every step of the way.

Also attached is the summer assignment. Please read the instructions carefully and address any questions you might have to Mrs. Kilgariff by email (LKilgariff@srcs.org).

We'll see you next year and look forward to working with you!

Best Regards,

The San Rafael High School English Department

Mrs. Kilgariff, Ms. Hager, Mr. Allan, and Mr. Simmons

Freshman Honors English Contract

As a student in Honors English, I understand that I am undertaking a year of challenging writing and reading. I also understand that I have responsibilities to the class. Specifically, I understand that as an Honors student, I agree to the following:

- I will be in class every day on time.
- I will meet all deadlines.
- I will come prepared to class having done the required reading and writing assignments.
- I will support the learning of others in the class.

Please return this contract to Mrs. Kilgariff via mail before the end of the 2018-2019 school year, or as soon as possible once it is received.

Mrs. Kilgariff
English Department San Rafael High School
150 Third Street
San Rafael, CA 94901

(Student's printed name and signature)

(Parent's printed name and signature)

(Student's phone number and email address)

(Parent's phone number and email address)

SRHS 9th Grade English Honors Summer Assignment 2019

- **Read and annotate the following book (not the “Adapted for Young Adults” version):**
Hillenbrand, Laura: *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption*.
- **Watch the 2014 film adaptation, *Unbroken*: Angelina Jolie, Director.**

Reading Assignment: Laura Hillenbrand’s *Unbroken* tells the true life story of Olympic runner Louis Zamperini. He rises above a reputation as a troublemaking youth by discovering how his great talent for running allows him to focus his passions and energy in a positive way. When World War II breaks out, he runs missions as a gunner on a bomber until the day his plane crashes, sending him adrift on a life raft for weeks in the shark-infested waters of the Pacific. Eventually, he is captured and imprisoned in a Japanese POW camp. Upon returning home, he struggles to piece his life back together and is ultimately redeemed by the power of his unbreakable spirit and the support of his loved ones.

Read and annotate the entire book. In your annotations, keep track of your thinking about the passages that will be helpful in completing the writing assignment below.

Writing Assignment Overview: Through the art of editing, filmmakers make difficult decisions about which scenes make it into a movie and which must be left out. These edits can create significant and dramatic changes to a story’s arc, a film’s meaning, and the audience’s engagement. *Unbroken* is no exception--the film is different from the book in many ways. In your essay, you will focus on the overall effect that results from Jolie’s process.

Writing Prompt: In a well-organized essay (1,000 words, word processed, double spaced--yes, it can/should be at least a five- paragraph essay), examine the differences in details (major and minor) between the film and the book. What details of Zamperini’s life did Jolie decide to leave out of the film? What do you believe are the reasons behind her decisions? In what ways do her decisions affect how the audience ultimately understands Louis Zamperini’s character and life?

We recommend first watching the film and then reading the book. This will guide you in your reading annotations. As you read the book after watching the film, it will hopefully become apparent what was left out of the movie. Mark these moments as you make your annotations and write your ideas about how they alter Zamperini’s character from the film to the book. Also, note why you feel Jolie might have made the decision to edit out particular details.

*Please note, we are absolutely **not** looking for summaries of the book or film. Please be certain that you are addressing the prompt and providing examples from both texts (book and film) to support your ideas. Every paragraph should include evidence from both the film and the book and the evidence should be cited.*

Submitting your work: Please create a google document and submit via email to LKilgariff@srcs.org

If you cannot email, you can mail a printed essay to the school. If mailing, give yourself enough time to deliver your writing by the due date (below). We will be checking postmarks. Mail or drop-off address: San Rafael High School, 150 Third Street, 94901, Attn: Mrs. Kilgariff.
Bring your book to the first class of the semester--*do not* send it with your final essay.
All essays due by email or postmarked by Tuesday, August 6, 2019

**note: early essays will be gladly accepted as long as effort and care are taken

(NOTE: Please review the book early. If there are any concerns, please contact Mrs. Kilgariff at LKilgariff@srcs.org no later than Thursday, June 20 for an alternative assignment).