

**San Rafael High 9th Grade English Honors  
Summer Assignment 2016**

- **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.*
  
- **All students are required to see the 2014 film adaptation, *Unbroken*: Angelina Jolie, Director.**

*Reading Assignment*

Laura Hillenbrand's *Unbroken* tells the life story of Olympic runner Louis Zamperini. He rises above a reputation as a troublemaking youth by discovering how his great talent for running can help focus his passions and energy toward something positive. He runs missions as a gunner on a World War II bomber until the plane crashes, sending him adrift for weeks on a raft in the shark-infested waters of the Pacific. He is captured, imprisoned, beaten, and tortured in a Japanese POW camp. Upon returning home after the war, he struggles to piece his life back together, ultimately to be 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.

*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 version is different from the book not in the general plot, but in what the director decided to exclude in her adaptation. In your essay, you will focus the effect resulting from this process.

*Your 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 (big and small) 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 these decisions? In what ways do these 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 help to guide your annotating. 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 that particular detail.

*Please note, we are absolutely **not** looking for a summary of the book. Please be certain that you are addressing the prompt and providing examples from both texts (book and film) to support your ideas.*

**Print and mail your work:** Give yourself enough time to deliver your writing by the above due date. We will be checking postmarks. Mail or drop-off address: San Rafael High School, 185 Mission Avenue, 94901, Attn: Mr. Cortez. Also, please bring your book to the first class of the semester--*do not* send it with your final essay. Your teacher will collect your book and take a look at your annotations.

*All essays due (postmarked by) Monday, August 15, 2016*

## 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 me via mail before the end of the school year, or as soon as possible once it is received:*

*Mr. Cortez, English Department  
San Rafael High School  
185 Mission Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901*

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(Student's printed name and signature)

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(Parent's printed name and signature)

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(Student's phone number and email address)

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(Parent's phone number and email address)