

BUIST ACADEMY 2018 BOOK SYMPOSIUM

Summer Assignment for Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders: Read *Unbroken: An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive* by Laura Hildebrand (adapted for young adults). Complete your response to the three writing prompts below (200-350 words each) to be submitted to Mr. Garner Wednesday, August 22.

Prompt I: As Louie Zamperini is struggling to complete his 5000-meter run in the 1936 Olympics, he thinks of his brother Pete's words: "A lifetime of glory is worth a moment of pain" (36). Reflect on the meaning of these words. How do they relate generally to Zamperini's life up until this point in the story?

Prompt II: Contrast the responses of Zamperini, Phil (Allen Phillips), and Mac (Francis McNamara) as they floated, stranded, without food and water, for more than a month. How did each try to survive? What approaches to this extreme catastrophe seemed most effective?

Prompt III: "The crash of the *Green Hornet* had left Louie and Phil in the most desperate physical hardship, without food, water, or shelter. But on Kwajalein, the guards deprived them of something deeper: dignity. This self-respect and sense of self-worth, the innermost armament of the soul, lies at the heart of humanness. To be deprived of it is to be dehumanized, leaving victims in a state of profound wretchedness and loneliness, unable to hang on to hope" (140). Describe how Zamperini's experience in the Japanese prisoner of war camps was designed to "dehumanize" him. How successful was Zamperini's degradation? How did he combat it?

SCORING RUBRIC

Each prompt

Complete response (10 pts.)

Thoughtful response (up to 5 pts.)

Response shows close reading, including specific reference to the text (up to 5 pts.)

Quality of writing (up to 5 pts.)

25 pts. /prompt x 3 prompts = 75 pts.

The final 25 points for this assignment will be earned in class Wednesday, August 22.

The BUIST ACADEMY 2018 BOOK SYMPOSIUM will be held Thursday, August 30, location TBA. Parents, students, and faculty are invited to share their responses to *Unbroken* in a powerful and inspirational start to the 2018-19 school year. Please plan to participate.