Summer Reading 2015-2016

English 11- American Literature- Honors

Required Reading:

Unbroken  Laura Hillenbrand  (read this book before Hiroshima)

Hiroshima  John Hersey

Choice Fiction Reading—Choose ONE:

Dear Marcus*  Jerry McGill

Fahrenheit 451  Ray Bradbury

The asterisk (*) denotes that this book contains adult themes and language—only meant for the most mature reader. This is also the Hilbert READS book selection for next year. If you choose to read this book, you must be available to go to the presentation on October 20, 2015 at 7:00. Do not choose this book if you think you will have a conflict. If you are unable to go due to an emergency you will be required to write an essay.

Please annotate as you read the novels. Mark things you find interesting, important, or confusing. Find examples of themes, symbols, characterization, and other literary elements. These annotations will be part on an in-class activity so make sure to take the time to read actively.

There are assignments for each book assigned attached to this sheet. Please look up any words in the directions (and in the books) that you do not know so that you can successfully complete each assignment.

All of these books are available through the Erie County Library System or can be purchased at Barnes and Noble, Amazon.com, or your local bookstore. You may also purchase the books on an e-reader, but make sure you bring your device to class with you and that it is fully charged. If you borrow these books, please be aware that you MUST have the books with for the first two weeks of school.

If you have any questions about the books or the following assignments, please e-mail me at lhager@immaculataacademy.com.
Assignments in this packet

- All assignments are to be typed in MLA format
- Please make sure the following information is on all work you turn in:
  - Full Name (Sally Smith)
  - Class – Period (ex. English 11 Honors- Per. 7)
  - Assignment (Summer Reading – Unbroken)
  - Date (September 9, 2015)

Plagiarism/ Cheating

- Plagiarism is not tolerated and will result in a zero. There will be no chance for a make-up.
- Plagiarism includes:
  - copying from other students
  - using outside sources (the internet) and claiming others’ thoughts as your own
  - reading summaries of books- these do the thinking for you and will not help you to pass the assignments or this class
- Plagiarism in an English Honors class will result in the student not being eligible for an honors class the following year along with receiving a zero on the assignment.

Late Work

- Late summer reading homework will not be accepted. If work is not turned in on the first day of school, September 9, it will be considered a zero.

Supply list for English 11 Honors

- 1 inch binder
- Loose leaf paper
- Post-it notes
- 3 packages of index cards
- One box of tissues for the classroom
- You will need to purchase novels throughout the year. We will order the books through the school and you will have roughly two weeks’ notice for when money is due for each book. You should plan on spending around $30 total for these books.
Before reading *Unbroken*

Read this article on PTSD to understand what it is that Louie suffers after the war.


**Things to consider while reading *Unbroken***

Write out one well-developed paragraph for each question when you are finished reading.

- Do the ends justify the means (consider this in all areas of the story)

- Louie sat down with the author and told her his story in detail, this took months, he only gave his own perspective - what would the story be like from "the Bird's" perspective or another perspective

- We will be comparing this novel to Hiroshima - the story of the aftermath of the first atomic bomb. How do the Japanese soldiers in Unbroken portray that they believe their emperor was a living god - a result of extreme nationalism

- Some versions of the book have photographs embedded throughout the text. How do these add to the authenticity of the story?

**Themes to annotate for:**

- Forgiveness
- Friendship
- The outsider
- Vengeance
- Family
- Violence
- Patriotism
- False hope
- Vices
- Honesty
- Identify a few of your own

- **Motifs** to look for: religion, sharks (literal and figurative), see what others you can find

- **Symbols:** look at names (of people and things), look for others

We will utilize these discussion questions in class. There are some spoilers in these questions, so you might want to use them for reflection after you finish the book.  
http://laurahillenbrandbooks.com/discussion-questions/
Unbroken Assignment (Pick One)

1. Watch the movie Unbroken (it is quite different from the book in the things it focuses on)
   a. Draw a Venn Diagram and compare the book to the movie
   b. Find an article that discusses why Angelina Jolie (the director) focused on the areas of the story she did. Write one well-developed paragraph explaining if you agree with this decision. Make specific references to the movie and the book.
   c. Write a 500 word (roughly) review of the movie and include: what areas you liked, what events were not included that you would have if you were the director, if you felt the “characters” were accurately portrayed, if you think others who have read the book should take time to watch the movie, and include some of your own ideas as well. Include word count at the bottom of the paper.

2. Find three sources on one topic present in the book Unbroken (PTSD, POW camps, alcoholism, survival skills, etc.)
   a. Read the sources and compare their information to that found in the novel (remember that most of this novel does not take place in the present, so you will want to find sources that match up with the correct time period).
   b. Write a 500 word (roughly) research paper in which you argue if Louie had a typical experience in respect to the topic you researched.
**Hiroshima Assignment**

**Before reading:**
Refresh your memory on what happened in Hiroshima. Use this website to do so
http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki

**While reading:**
- Pick one of the six main characters and create a timeline to track their experiences before, during, and after the bombing. Make it as detailed as you can. Feel free to include pictures.
- Annotate for the same themes you looked for in Unbroken.

**After reading:**
- Write a 250 word reflection on the events of the book. Pick what you would like to focus on.

There will be a formal essay assignment on Hiroshima and Unbroken in September. Please retain your copies of these books and your annotations until we have finished that assignment.
Choice Reading

Dear Marcus

The assignment for *Dear Marcus* includes attending Hilbert READS on October 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. An additional worksheet will be distributed for completion before the event.

1. **BEFORE** you read *Dear Marcus*, please write a personal reflection in response to the following question:

   How are you different (think about your interests, family life, physical appearance, an ability, etc.) from your peers and/or your family? How has being different from others shaped your life experience?

   Your response should be typed using MLA format and be at least a few paragraphs long, but no more than 3 pages total. Here are some more questions you may want to answer to help guide your response:
   a. How often has being different from your peers affected you?
   b. How often do you go outside your comfort zone to imagine your individuality being different?
   c. How has this difference affected the relationships in your life: family, friends, romantic, work, school, etc.?
   d. Does it have positive or negative effects?
   e. Besides your own personal relationships, what kind of impact do you think individuality has on relationships throughout the rest of the world?
   f. Please email this response to me (lhager@immaculataacademy.com) **BEFORE** you start to read the novel. I will respond to you to confirm that I received your reflection. If you do not receive a confirmation email from me, then I never received it.

2. **As you read** annotate for the following themes:
   - forgiveness
   - anger
   - justice
   - a few of your own

3. **After you read:** Write one well-developed paragraph for each of the following:
   - How do you think that Jerry’s language and vocabulary are representative of his upbringing? Education? Does his use of crass language surprise you? Explain.
   - Who do you believe was most influential in Jerry’s life? How so?
   - What did you think of the format (mixed genre) the book was written in?
• There are several positive reviews for this book on the front cover, inside the book, and on the back cover. Pick one review and state if you agree or disagree with this quotation and why.

• Put yourself in Jerry’s place for a moment, would you have been able to forgive your assailant? Explain.

In 250-500 words: Discuss the major conflicts Jerry faces, his interactions with the people around him, how his life was positively impacted, and anything else you feel is relevant. Include a thesis statement, introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
Choice Reading

Fahrenheit 451

Fahrenheit 451

1. **BEFORE** you read *Fahrenheit 451*, please write a personal reflection in response to the following question:

“What impact has technology and social media had on your life?”

Your response should be typed using MLA format and be at least a few paragraphs long, but no more than 3 pages total. Here are some more questions you may want to answer to help guide your response:

a. How often do you use technology and social media?

b. How often do you go outside and explore or do things without technology?

c. How has technology and social media affected the relationships in your life: family, friends, romantic, work, school, etc.?

d. Does it have positive or negative effects?

e. Besides your own personal relationships, what kind of impact do you think technology and social media have on relationships throughout the rest of the world?

Please email this response to me (lhager@immaculataacademy.com) **BEFORE** you start to read the novel. I will respond to you to confirm that I received your reflection. If you do not receive a confirmation email from me, then I never received it.

2. **WHILE** reading the novel, please do the following:

a. **Annotate** – make observations as you read and make notes of these observations in your book by underlining, highlighting, and commenting. If you find issue with writing in the book, perhaps you are borrowing it from a sibling, the library, or it is a collector’s edition, etc. then you must use post-it notes or loose leaf paper. If you are using an e-reader, you can take notes right on the reader if it allows you to do so, but if you find this to be a distraction or too time consuming, use a separate sheet of paper to make note of the page number and observation.

b. **Find Quotes** – pick out **at least** 10 quotes that stand out to you while you read the novel and state why you chose them. Write these quotes and your explanations on a separate sheet of paper. Did you just think it was interesting? Did you see a
connection to your own life? Does it have importance to the story? Does it speak about the role of technology in our lives? These questions may help you decide what quotes to choose as you read. The quotes should not all be from the first 20 pages of the novel. Spread them out. If you have more than 10, that is more than ok.

The quotes will be collected and the annotations will be checked on the first day of school.

3. **AFTER** finishing the novel, type a final reflection. This will be collected on the first day of school. It should be typed using MLA format and should be at least a few paragraphs long, but no longer than 3 pages total. Use quotes to support your thoughts and be as specific as possible with examples. Respond to the following question:

“What connections do you see between the novel and our world today?”

Some guiding questions to help:
   a. Do you agree with Bradbury’s thoughts in this novel? Why or why not?
   b. Did this novel alter your previous opinions about the role of technology and social media in our lives?
   c. Did it confirm some of your previous opinions?

This will be collected on the first day of school.