

May 2019

Dear Rising Ninth Grade Student,

Albuquerque Academy's English department values and encourages lifelong and yearlong reading. To that end, we ask all students to explore at least a few good books over the course of the summer. This year, **all rising ninth grade students are to read the young adult version of *Unbroken*, by Laura Hillenbrand, as well as one other book of your choice.** If you are interested in tackling a longer text with greater complexity and more difficult subject matter, we invite you to read the original, unabridged version of *Unbroken* instead. Furthermore, a PG-13 film version of the book was released in 2014. If you are interested, we encourage you to watch the movie after you have completed the book; the ability to reflect on the two different versions of one man's life will enrich our conversations as we begin our work in the fall.

*Unbroken* tells the true story of Louis Zamperini, an incorrigible delinquent turned Olympic runner who ended up in the Air Force after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On a doomed flight one afternoon in May 1943, Zamperini finds himself hurtling toward the Pacific Ocean praying for a miracle. Left adrift on the wide waters of the ocean, hunted by sharks and enemy aircraft alike, Zamperini is pushed to the limits of his endurance. As you follow his trials on both water and land, we hope you enjoy Hillenbrand's meticulous, beautiful writing and find yourself reflecting on the factors that contributed to Zamperini's survival.

If you're not sure of a **free choice book** you'd like to read, please visit the LibGuide site where we've compiled a list of books our students have enjoyed in the past. You might find something there that catches your eye, but if you choose a book that's not on the list, that's fine, too. We hope you will enjoy what you read, and we encourage your parents to help you select a book that is developmentally appropriate. We also encourage parents to share the joy of reading and discussing these books with you.

Here is the link to the LibGuide site:

<http://albuquerqueacademy.libguides.com/summerreading6789>

**Be sure to bring a copy of your free choice book and *Unbroken* with you when you return to school.** If you read them earlier in the summer, please refresh your memory of each before the first day of class. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on these books in August. May you have a summer filled with great books!

Sincerely,

9<sup>th</sup> Grade English Teachers  
Scottie Buron  
Jennifer Coston  
Katie Dolan  
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Peter Nash

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Chair of the English Department