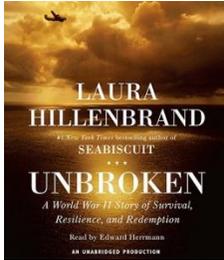


American History
Mrs. Kim Gardner
Summer Reading & Summer Film Assignment



Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption
Laura Hillenbrand

Welcome to Honors American History. This summer, I would like you to read *Unbroken*. It is an amazing story and you will learn much about World War II. But it is also a story of resilience, which is a theme we will discuss often in our class. Throughout time, adversity has only made America stronger. The Great Depression, the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the attacks of September 11, 2001 . . . each time our nation has survived, and each time it has come back stronger. Louis Zamperini, the subject of *Unbroken*, faced the unimaginable and is alive today because of sheer will, determination, and eventually, a faith in God. At 95, he has managed to forgive and now lives a life filled with joy.

As you read, consider the following questions. Type up your responses and be prepared to turn them in when we first meet. I encourage you to write in your book . . . make notes, underline or highlight things that make an impression on you. This will be useful in our class discussion and with future assignments.

Please type your responses...(MLA format: Times-New Roman, 12 pt. font. , double spaced). You do not need to retype the questions, but your answers should restate them.

1. How do you explain the page-turning nature of this book given its grim subject matter?
2. What do you admire most about Zamperini? What enables him to survive the plane crash and POW ordeal? Does he possess special strengths—personal or physical? Did his training in track, for instance, make a difference in his resilience?
3. How do the POW captives help one another survive? How are they able to communicate with one another? What devices do Zamperini and others use not only to survive but to maintain sanity?
4. What accounts for mankind's capacity for cruelty—especially on the part of the Japanese, a highly cultured and civilized society? (The same question, of course, has been applied to the Nazis.)
5. Hillenbrand devotes time to the difficulty of veterans' re-entering life after the war. She says, "there was no one right way to peace; each man had to find his own path." What is Zamperini's path? How does his conversion under Billy Graham help him? What role does his wife, Cynthia, play?
6. Why do you think it took the medical profession so long to acknowledge the needs of soldiers after war? This was the mid-20th century, and psychiatry was a fairly established discipline. Plus, the horrors of World War I were only one generation behind. What took so long to recognize post-traumatic stress disorder?

Honors U.S. History

Summer Film Assignment 2014

Mrs. Gardner

At some point over the summer, please watch *Gone With The Wind*. (It is available to rent on Amazon for \$2.99.)

Margaret Mitchell was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1900. She grew up hearing stories about the Civil War, often told by people who fought in it. She spent ten years writing *Gone With The Wind*. It was published in 1936 and it still one of the best selling novels of all time. Mitchell was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1937 for her work. GWTW was soon turned into an Academy Award winning film. GWTW differs from most Civil War films and novels because it glorifies the South and demonizes the North. This year in U.S. History we will emphasize historical perspective and this film will give you a different view than that presented in your textbook. Both views are valuable for a true understanding of history.

When you finish the film, please answer the following questions. Your responses should be typed using 12 pt. Times-new Roman font. This work will be collected on the first day of school.

1. Identify and describe the four main characters. Include their backgrounds, jobs, etc.

Scarlett O'Hara

Rhett Butler

Ashley Wilkes

Melanie Wilkes

2. How are slaves treated in the movie? Give at least one specific example.

3. Make a list to show what life was like in the South **just before** the Civil War. Include at least five descriptive phrases.

4. According to the movie, why do the southerners decide to go to war against the North?

5. Make a list to show what life was like in the South **during** the Civil War. Include at least five descriptive phrases.

6. What does Scarlett do to help the war cause?

7. What general invades the South and burns Atlanta? What do the Southerners think of this general?

8. What is a carpetbagger and how are they portrayed in the film?

9. Make a list of what life is like in the South after the war, during Reconstruction. Use at least five descriptive phrases.

10. According to the film, how is life different for the slaves after the Civil War?

11. Why is Tara so important to Scarlett?

12. Why do you think this movie has been so well liked?

13. Do you think Mitchell's depiction is an accurate one? If not, explain why you think she might have portrayed events in the manner that she did?