Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive by Laura Hillenbrand

*Unbroken* will be the one book we would like all rising 8th graders to read by the start of the school year. This novel serves as a foundation for exploring reading strategies and skills, literary analysis, genre exploration, and composition skills.

**We recommend the following guidelines for reading *Unbroken***:
- Since you will be referring to and responding to this novel in your Language Arts class at the beginning of the school year, you should read *Unbroken* closer to the time when school starts—keep it fresh in your mind!
- If you have read *Unbroken* before, do read it again before school starts. While you may remember the overall story, reading to refresh your memory of specific details will help you as we work through our beginning assignments about the book. Annotating your book is highly recommended; this will help you sift through historical details and events, as well as significant people you meet as you read.

Left for Dead by Pete Nelson (Intensive LA8 only)

- *Left for Dead* will be the one book we would like all rising Intensive Language Arts 8th graders to read by the start of the school year. This novel serves as a foundation for exploring reading strategies and skills, literary analysis, genre exploration, and composition skills.

**Choice Books**

Yes, books (plural)—your choice. We will be reading many wonderful books together during 8th grade, but what better way to spend the summer than by reading as many books as possible personally picked by...YOU?
Rationale and Guidelines for Choosing Books:

- A marathon runner does not train by running 26.2 miles each and every time he or she goes out to run. Runners build stamina, gradually increasing their time and distance until they are strong enough for 26.2 miles. Beginning in the 7th grade, you probably found that the amount and difficulty of the required reading—across academic subjects—began to increase. Reading requirements increase during 8th grade—help yourself learn to focus by reading. A key factor for your academic success is building your reading muscles—your ability to concentrate for longer periods of time. You can continue building reading stamina by choosing what you want to read and by giving yourself quiet time to focus on that reading.

- Please make use of the public library—we do not expect that you run out and purchase a ton of books. If you do not yet have your own library card, now is a good time to get one (you’ll need a library card later for our research unit). You may certainly download books to an electronic device or purchase books, but we encourage you to be as cost efficient as possible!

- What to read depends on your interests. We do expect that you will challenge yourself—you should not be reading just middle grade books (usually for ages 9-12). Start by talking to your friends—what have they read and loved? Have you loved a particular author? Search for other books by that author. Talk to the librarians—they will know what books have been popular among students your age. Go to the American Library Association website (www.ala.org) and search for young adult literature. Another great site is Goodreads, which provides reading lists for different genres and interests, as well as peer reviews (you can add your own reviews). You’ll want to read descriptions, as there may be books that you or your parents may not be comfortable with.

- Our goal is for you to read—any genre, fiction or nonfiction—beyond the required reading of Unbroken. When school starts, we will celebrate our reading, and we will also think more deeply about how our reading lives can impact our learning.

- ASSIGNMENT: Read as many books as possible. There is no required number, but we are asking that you keep a record of all the books (and their authors) you read. When school begins, we’ll be asking for you to submit that record, preferably in picture form (take a photo of yourself with your stack of books; or, take a photo of yourself holding a readable list of books and authors you read over the summer. Be sure to include the required book(s).

If you or your parents have any questions about summer reading, please contact Mrs. Natalie Bowman (LA8/ILA8) or Mrs. Mimi Ehlen (LA8) by email: natalie.bowman@chca-oh.org or mimi.ehlen@chca-oh.org. We will make every effort to get back to you as soon as possible.