

**Olentangy Local School District
Literature Selection Review**

Teacher: Erin
Centa

School: OHS

Book Title:
Unbroken

Genre:
Biography

Author: Laura
Hillenbrand

Pages: 398

Publisher:
Random
House

Copyright:
2010

In a brief rationale, please provide the following information relative to the book you would like added to the school's book collection for classroom use. You may attach additional pages as needed.

Book Summary and summary citation: (suggested resources include book flap summaries, review summaries from publisher, book vendors, etc.)

On a May afternoon in 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean, a face appeared. It was that of a young lieutenant, the plane's bombardier, who was struggling to a life raft and pulling himself aboard. So began one of the most extraordinary odysseys of the Second World War.

The lieutenant's name was Louis Zamperini. In boyhood, he'd been a cunning and incorrigible delinquent, breaking into houses, brawling, and fleeing his home to ride the rails. As a teenager, he had channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics and within sight of the four-minute mile. But when war had come, the athlete had become an airman, embarking on a journey that led to his doomed flight, a tiny raft, and a drift into the unknown.

Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, a foundering raft, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will.

In her long-awaited new book, Laura Hillenbrand writes with the same rich and vivid narrative voice she displayed in *Seabiscuit*. Telling an unforgettable story of a man's journey into extremity, *Unbroken* is a testament to the resilience of the human mind, body, and spirit.

Provide an instructional rationale for the use of this title, including specific reference to the OLSD curriculum map(s): (Curriculum maps may be referenced by grade/course and indicator number or curriculum maps with indicators highlighted may be attached to this form)

Reading this text accomplishes many of the standards listed in the Common Core Standards for 11-12th grade students in Ohio. The main standard notes that "By the end of grade 11, read and comprehend literary nonfiction in the grades 11-CCR text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range". The enduring understanding for this standard says, "Students who are college and career ready read and interpret texts with confidence and independence" RI. 11.10

Other CCR standards that will be met include:

Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches authors take. RI.11-12.9

Interpret words or phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone. RI.11-12.4

Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text. RI.11-12.3

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas. RI.11-12.2

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text. RI.11-12.1

Overall, reading this text will help students understand how certain people stand up for what they believe in, a theme that will help them work on an action research assignment about their own beliefs.

Include two professional reviews of this title: (a suggested list of resources for identifying professional reviews is shown below. Reviews may be “cut and pasted” (with citation) into the form or printed reviews may be attached to the form)

Review #1

From AudioFile

Both author Laura Hillenbrand and narrator Edward Herrmann share the muse for biography. Hillenbrand (SEABISCUIT) captures the particulars of a captured WWII bomber pilot’s travails of surviving torture and deprivation beyond our abilities to imagine. Keeping in the background, Herrmann avoids upstaging this intimate memoir, loaded with enticing psychological detail. He modulates his voice to communicate emotion, reading the many moments of sadness with respect. Without resorting to the annoying convention of pauses before quotes or conjuring up comedic characters, he conveys multiple personalities and their quotations with subliminal ease. The writer and narrator integrate their talents to bring the life of Louie Zamperini—a juvenile delinquent, Olympic athlete, and decorated combat hero—into suspenseful reality. To the end, they keep the story engrossing. J.A.H. Winner of AudioFile Earphones Award, 2012 Audies Finalist © AudioFile 2010, Portland, Maine [Published: DECEMBER 2010]

Review #2

From School Library Journal

Based on Laura Hillenbrand’s acclaimed nonfiction title for adults (Random, 2010), *Unbroken* (PG-13) tells the extraordinary true story of Louis Zamperini (1917-2014), an Olympic runner and World War II airman who was listed as dead when his plane crashed into the Pacific in 1943. He survived 47 days adrift in a life raft with two other crewmen, and endured imprisonment under vicious and inhumane conditions after being captured by Japanese forces. This epic and inspiring tale of survival, perseverance, and bullish hope spans years and continents.

What alternate text(s) could also fulfill the instructional requirements?

Title: The Nightingale

Author: Kristin Hannah

Title: The Kite Runner

Author: Khaled Hosseini

Title: A Long Way Gone

Author: Ishmael Beah

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Title:

Author:

Document any potentially controversial content:

Discussion of war and violence including torture

Keeping in mind the age, academic level, and maturity of the intended reader, what is the suggested classroom use: (check all that apply)

Gifted/Accelerated X Regular X At Risk

GRADE LEVEL(S): 6☐ 7☐ 8☐ 9☐ 10☐ 11X 12X
Reading level of this title (if applicable):
Date Submitted to Department Chair: 01/05/2016