

## Summer Reading Assignment

### Rising 12th Graders - English 12 Accelerated

#### Shoe Dog by Phil Knight

Welcome to Senior Year! Over the summer, all incoming seniors (Accelerated) will be required to read Shoe Dog, by Phil Knight. Shoe Dog is a memoir that chronicles the early years of Nike, Inc., told through the personal journey of its co-founder. The book follows a young Phil Knight as he sets out on a global trip and returns to the U.S. with a bold idea: to import high-quality, low-cost running shoes from Japan. What begins as a small startup run out of the trunk of his car evolves through financial struggles, personal sacrifices, and relentless perseverance into one of the world's most iconic athletic brands.

#### Assignment Requirements

1. Finish reading Shoe Dog before the first day of school. Bring a copy of the novel with you (digital or hard copy) for discussion and assessment activities.
2. As you read the novel please take note of the following details:
  - a. **Comprehension of Events:** Understand the challenges, risks, and decisions that Phil Knight faces during his journey from a simple salesman to CEO.
  - b. **Character Development:** Analyze Phil Knight's leadership style and how he utilizes it stimulate and energize certain key figures in the novel such as Bill Bowerman and Jeff Johnson. Be prepared to describe and discuss relationships within the book including Knight's relationship with his family.
  - c. **Themes:** Identify and explain major themes such as perseverance, innovation, risk-taking, teamwork, failure, and success. Reflect on how these themes are developed throughout the memoir.

#### How you will be assessed:

- a. **Multiple Choice Questions:** Will test your ability to understand important plot details, characterization, major themes, and vocabulary from the book.
- b. **Short Response Questions:** Be prepared to give thoughtful and specific answers that refer to the text.
- c. **Essay Question:** You will be required to write a literary analysis exploring the following themes:
  - How Phil Knight's journey embodies the American entrepreneurial spirit.
  - The role failure and risk in the shaping of success.
  - The importance of relationships and how these relationships contributed to building teamwork and ultimately helped shape the success of the company.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** It is important that you take notes, highlight, and annotate as you read the novel this summer. **This assignment will count as your first major grade of the year.** Stay focused and be ready to think critically and be engaged.