

Dear Future Honors English Student,

We haven't met, but here is some basic information about me: I love Mead High School, and I am very excited to meet you and share a little bit more about myself. Until then, here is the summer assignment to get started on over the next week or two. If you have any questions, you can email me at [Lochhead.Drew@gmail.com](mailto:Lochhead.Drew@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Mr. Lochhead

### **Reading Assignment: *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown**

**Overview:** "Daniel James Brown's *The Boys in the Boat* is the kind of nonfiction book that reads like a novel. Centered around the life of Joe Rantz—a farm boy from the Pacific Northwest who was literally abandoned as a child—and set during the Great Depression, *The Boys in the Boat* is a character-driven story with a natural crescendo that will have you racing to the finish. In 1936, the University of Washington's eight-oar crew team raced its way to the Berlin Olympics for an opportunity to challenge the greatest in the world. How this team, largely composed of rowers from 'foggy coastal villages, damp dairy farms, and smoky lumber towns all over the state,' managed to work together and sacrifice toward their goal of defeating Hitler's feared racers is half the story. The other half is equally fascinating, as Brown seamlessly weaves in the story of crew itself. This is fast-paced and emotional nonfiction about determination, bonds built by teamwork, and what it takes to achieve glory." —Chris Schlupe **Amazon.com Review**

#### **Assignment:**

- (1) READ THE BOOK.
- (2) WRITE A PERSUASIVE ESSAY: In recent years, the topic of "grit" has been widely discussed following the publication of Angela Ducksworth's articles and book titled *Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance*. The dictionary defines 'grit' as courage and resolve; strength of character. As you read the story of *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown, focus on Joe Rantz and write a persuasive essay on HOW GRIT LED TO JOE RANTZ'S SUCCESS. Find three quotes to include in your analysis to support your understanding of the grit Joe exemplifies through the story of his life experiences. As always, this must be your own personal analysis and work. **(2 pages typed) Do not plagiarize!** This will be your first grade in the gradebook this fall.

#### **Requirements:**

1. Use correct MLA format. (see attached document)
2. **Your paper is due Monday, July 30, 2018 by 11pm (please share with Lochhead.drew@gmail.com)**