

Summer Reading Project

Honors Sophomore Humanities

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 Schluep 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 Duckworth’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!**

1. Use correct MLA format.
2. **Your paper is due Friday, July 27, 2018 by 11pm (submitted to turnitin.com)**

***To turn in your paper, you will need to upload it to the website turnitin.com; failure to do this will result in a “0” for this assignment. You will need to use the following information in order to submit your paper to be checked for authenticity:**

Class Name: SOPHOMORE HUMANITIES 2018-2019

Class ID: 158004351

Password: Human123 (Please note the capital letter H – it must be exact.)

MLA Format Information

Font: Times New Roman

Font Size: 12

Spacing: Double spaced THROUGHOUT

Margins: 1 inch side-to-side and top-to-bottom.

HEADING:

Your name (First and last)

Teachers’ names

Class name

DATE DUE

Title – The title should say something meaningful about the paper. **Don’t use the title of the book as your essay title.** Headers and page numbers appear in the upper right-hand corner of the paper. To use these go to View, drag down to Header and Footer. Tab over to the right, type your last name, add a space, and then click on the # symbol. The pages will automatically be in the right number.

The book title should be in *italics*, NOT underlined, **bold**, **larger** or different font –*The Boys in the Boat*.

Indent one full tab with each paragraph.

Example of how your paper should look with correct MLA Heading

Nunez 1

Jenny Nunez

Mrs. Lochhead/ Mr. LaVine

Honors Sophomore Humanities

27 July 2018

The Strength of the Human Spirit

Daniel James Brown's novel, *The Boys in the Boat*, shows how Joe Rantz endured deprivation, abandonment, and poverty, and yet he endured and moved forward with his life. His story inspires the readers to challenge themselves.

MLA Citations

****Always introduce your quote. Do NOT just throw in a quote by itself.**

Incorrect:

"The rituals of rowing, the specialized language of the sport, the details of technique he was struggling to master, the wisdom of the coaches... – all seemed to Joe to give the world of the shell house a measure of stability and order that for a long time now the outside world had seemed to him to lack" (Brown 134).

Correct:

When Joe was 15, his father and step-mother essentially abandoned him, but he found a place he belonged through "The rituals of rowing, the specialized language of the sport, the details of technique he was struggling to master, the wisdom of the coaches... – all seemed to Joe to give the world of the shell house a measure of stability and order that for a long time now the outside world had seemed to him to lack" (Brown 134).

Pay careful attention to introducing the quotes, punctuating correctly: quotation marks, citing the author's last name and page number, and end punctuation. Because this paper is only 2 pages in length, I want to see more of your analysis, so do not use a quote longer than four lines.

When using quotes with direct dialogue, you must use triple quotes. For example:

Later, Joe explained to Joyce that "‘It takes energy to get angry. It eats you up inside,’" so he did not waste time being mad at his father and Thula because he need "‘to stay focused’" (Brown 134).

Finally, a few reminders on comma rules:

RULE #1

Use a comma before the conjunction in a compound sentence.

Herman wanted to play charades, but no one else would play.

RULE #2

Use a comma after a dependent clause that begins a sentence.

If Mr. Wilson complains, we'll invite him in for a snack.

****If you pay attention to these two rules, you will clean up a number of errors in your paper.**

The Boys on the Boat summer assignment grading rubric

Grading category	Score earned/points possible
Introduction paragraph: starts broad & ends specific (states thesis plainly), hooks reader, background information	_____/20
Paper contains three quotes from the book that PROVE the thesis. Quotes are in correct MLA format	_____/15
Paper contains extensive analysis about what events in Joe Rantz's life led to his success, and how that ties to the topic of "grit"	_____/20
Conclusion: summary of main points and thesis	_____/10
Voice: interesting, thoughtful, original analysis	_____/10
Conventions: correct spelling, punctuation, grammar	_____/15
Appearance: Overall paper has correct MLA format	_____/10

Comments:

Total:

/100