

Summer Reading Assignment—10th Grade

Dear Parents:

Research shows that the frequency of reading plays a significant role in reading level retention. Therefore, we encourage students to read throughout the summer.

Students:

Thunder Dog is an autobiographical account of Michael Hingson, a blind man who was in his office on the 78th floor of the World Trade Center when it was attacked on September 11, 2001. Hingson's story is about survival, but it is so much more than that. It gives an insider view of what September 11th was like for those experiencing it firsthand, and it also gives a very clear look at what it's like to be blind in a world that is created for those with sight. Hingson adapts and overcomes from the very beginning of his life with his faith in God, supportive parents, and a series of guide dogs leading him through it all.

When reading this book, I would suggest that you read the forward of the book and then the introduction. This will give you valuable insight to Hingson's upbringing. Then, read the rest of *Thunder Dog*. Circle back to "Goodbye to a Hero" after you have read the rest of the book (it is actually the first thing in the book, but it will mean more to you after you have read the rest).

Did you know that reading for just 20 minutes a day has been scientifically proven to increase your academic performance and brain power? The good news? Your reading selection can be something that you enjoy; the important thing is that you are exercising your brain. Think of the last book you read that you enjoyed. Go search for that book on Amazon and see what other people purchased after buying that book. Read some reviews, and when you find something you like you could purchase it or go the FREE route and check it out from the library. Graphic novels count (they're basically comic books with more words). Watch a movie with subtitles. Research something you are interested in online (maybe guide dogs? training guide dogs? September 11, 2001?). Read a magazine. Read the back of the cereal box. Do a crossword puzzle or two. Read as much as you can this summer – keep your brain working. Enjoy your summer, and don't wait until the last minute! See you in August!

Assignment:

- ***Thunder Dog* by Michael Hingson with Susy Flory**

All 10th grade students will read *Thunder Dog*. Reading the book and understanding it is the only assignment portion that will be completed by students during the summer break.

During the first 90-minute class period (the second class day), students will take a comprehension test on the book. This test grade will be worth a 50-point grade for the 1st quarter.

In addition to the test score, students will be required to complete a writing assignment based on the summer reading book. This writing assignment will be completed during the first two weeks of school. Additional information will be given when the school year begins.