

Hingham High School Summer Reading Note-Taking Guide

- Taking notes on your summer reading book is **optional**, but taking notes can help you comprehend more of what you read and notice distinctive elements of the text.
- Any notes you take will not be graded; however, you can use your own original notes to support your participation in an in-class assessment such as a student-led discussion.
- This note-taking guide begins with a few targeted questions for your grade-wide read that your teacher may discuss with you in class; the rest of the guide asks you to note your own observations, questions, and responses to the text.
- You may print the guide and hand write your responses, or you may type your responses.

Grade 11 Summer Reading Note-taking Guide

Book Title: *Boys in the Boat*

Author: Daniel Brown

Essential Points to Ponder:

These questions may be discussed in class when you return to school. Consider these questions as you take notes on the categories in the charts below.



1. *The Boys in the Boat* is set during the Great Depression of the 1930s when millions of Americans lost their homes and jobs. Yet, in the midst of this despair, sports provided an avenue of success for athletes and a major distraction for the public at large. Why do you think sports, and the story of the 1936 University of Washington crew in particular, provided a sense of hope and escape for their fellow Americans? What kinds of things have given Americans hope during these uncertain times of the pandemic?
2. What was so significant about the boys' win in 1936, right at the dawn of the Second World War?
3. How did the boys' personal lives influence their approaches to the sport? What characteristics does Brown suggest can lead an individual to success?
4. What is the theme of the novel? How does Brown's narrative structure help to reinforce this theme?
5. How are the "boys" in the title representative of the American Dream?

Characters: Choose 3 characters that had a significant role in the text

Character's Name	“In the beginning of the book, this character seemed...”	“By the end of the book, this character was...”	What were some reasons for a change (or a lack of change) in this character?
1.			
2.			
3.			

Plot & Story: Choose a moment in the text for at least two of these categories

1. A moment in the story that intrigued me or made me want to know more	
2. A moment in the story that confused me	
3. A moment in the story that contained intense emotion	
4. A moment in the story that left me feeling satisfied or unsatisfied as a reader	

Style & Figurative Elements: Choose at least two of these categories.

1. Describe a potential symbol that appeared multiple times in the text.	
2. How does setting or a character's surroundings affect the story?	
3. What order was the story told in? Was it chronological? Were there flashbacks? Did that keep you interested in the story?	
4. Did you notice any other literary techniques, such as irony, figurative language, or a distinct tone of voice? Anything else unique about the writing style or figurative language in the text?	

Conflict & Resolution

1. What was the most significant conflict in the story?	
2. Were you satisfied with how the conflict(s) were resolved?	
3. What do you still want to know or understand about the conflicts in the text?	

Personal Responses

Adapted from *Disrupting Thinking*, Beers & Probst

- While reading this book, I was surprised by...
- This book challenged or confirmed my thinking about...
- How this book connects to me or people I know....
- This book made me think about the importance of....
- After reading this book, I want to know more about...

