Dear Incoming Freshman,

Welcome to Pali High! As your future English teachers, we have a small request: pick a book that you are excited to read this summer. This book is your choice, but please make sure you choose a book that you’ve never read before. It may be fiction or nonfiction. You do not need to buy the book, and we encourage you to use the LA Public Library to check out digital books until libraries re-open. Please watch this video for a short tutorial on how to use this resource. You may also access titles through the Internet Archive, where you may borrow books from the Open Library.

Please do not read the books on the following list so that you can read them with your English classes during your time at Pali: Do not read these titles

While you are reading, keep track of quotes* that you find interesting or significant. After you are finished reading the book, create a chart consisting of six quotes like the one below. Two of the quotes should connect to characterization, two should relate to a theme you identified in the book, and two of the quotes should be connected to your own life experience. Please use 12-point, Times New Roman font in order to follow MLA guidelines. Please see the sample on the next page for some examples of what your work should look like.

Include the title (italicized) and author here

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quote (include context and page number)</th>
<th>Commentary (Focus on characterization, theme, and connections)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Begin with context (who, what, where, and when), then include the quote. Finish with the page number of the quote in parenthesis.</strong></td>
<td>Commentary is the place for your ideas. For each of your quotes, we’d like you to focus your responses on answering these questions: What does the quote tell us about a character and what kind of person he/she is? What connections (books, movies, games, history, current events, etc.) can be made to the quote? What message (theme) can be learned about life from this quote?</td>
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<td>Example: In the middle of the forest, in Red Riding Hood’s grandmother’s house, the sun shines brightly through the window. Little Red Riding Hood is confused about what she sees in her grandmother’s bed. Although she does not know it, a wolf is dressed in the grandmother’s bedclothes. Little Red Riding Hood brings food and exclaims, “Oh grandmother, what big eyes you have” (12).</td>
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*Quotes are words that you copy directly from the book. They do not have to be dialogue, but they may be if you choose.*

We wish you a wonderful summer. Please be prepared to turn in your work during the first week of School. Enjoy reading!

Warmly,
The Pali High 9th-Grade English Teachers

**Sample**

*The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Context, Quote, &amp; Citation (pg.)</th>
<th>Commentary</th>
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<td>1) While describing the Washington Varsity Crew Coach, Al Ulbrickson, Brown writes, “In order to attend Franklin High School, he has to row a small boat two miles over to Seattle and back every day for four years…. [At the University of Washington] he excelled in both areas [crew and classes], and when he graduated in 1926, Washington quickly hired him as the freshmen crew coach, and then as head coach” (14).</td>
<td><strong>Characterization:</strong> This quote shows that something taxing and time consuming that Ulbrickson had to do was what brought him his success in life. The rowing he did everyday contributed to his ability to be so successful in rowing later in life. This expresses that hard work will pay off. The hard work he puts into rowing everyday leads to a payoff – a successful rowing and coaching career. This demonstrates what a dedicated and hardworking individual Ulbrickson is.</td>
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<td>2) Don Hume, the stroke seat of the Washington Olympic boat, got sick right before the team’s Olympic qualifying races. He was able to race, and get the boat into the Olympics, but since getting sick he had never fully recovered. A few days before their first Olympic race, their coach, Al Ulbrickson, told the press, “Hume means everything to us. Unless he recovers quickly and regains condition we don’t have much chance” (322).</td>
<td><strong>Theme:</strong> While the Olympic team did bring alternate rowers to fill in for anyone unable to compete, Ulbrickson was still very confident that they could not win without Hume. This goes to show how vital each and every person in that boat was to their success. Had Hume or one of the others not been able to race, they most likely wouldn't have won. Each boy was one part in this big machine, and with one of them changed, the whole thing would've fallen apart. With this, the author is able to give insight into that concept of “the boat” and help readers better understand the team dynamics.</td>
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3) An unnamed former coxswain who encounters the brilliance of George Pocock, University of Washington’s boat-builder and advisor to the crew team, describes him by saying, “In his presence Washington crewmen always stood, for he symbolized that for which God’s children always stand” (48).

**Connection:** The ex-rower’s comments about George Pocock sufficiently summarize the man’s stoic presence. It was such that commanded respect without a word, godly almost. The traits described exemplify those of an experienced mentor. Some of the greatest coaches of all time, such as Phil Jackson and John Wooden exhibit the same qualities as Pocock.