

MOUNT DE SALES ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2026-2027



Seventh Grade

Each student entering the 7th grade must read two (2) books before returning to school in August, 2025. The two required novels are *Holes*, by Louis Sachar, and *Unbroken*, by Laura Hillenbrand (**The Young Adult Adaptation**).

In addition, students must complete the following activities for each novel:

Vocabulary Building Activities for *Holes*, Louis Sachar

Devote one section of a composition journal (any type) to **Vocabulary**. Define the following words to assist with the reading experience.

Chapters 1-5

stifling, perseverance, desolate

Chapters 6-9

wearily, despicable, defective

Chapters 10-14

barren, engraved, authority

Chapters 15-20

evict, penetrating, agony

Chapters 21-25

defiance, writhing, grotesque

Chapters 26-30

rummaging, hazy, riot

Chapters 31-35

fidgeted, refuge, mirage

Chapters 36-40

protruding, precipice, delirious

Chapters 41-44

inexplicable, astonishment, precarious

Chapters 45-50

strenuous, outraged, tedious

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Notetaking Activities for *Holes*, Louis Sachar

Devote the next section of your composition journal to **Holes Notes**. Take at least **three (3)** bullet point notes for each of the following *Holes* questions. Be prepared to write grammatically correct responses in class for each once returning to school in August.

1. Which character in this story changes the most throughout the story? Explain your choice.
2. What is the most important lesson to be learned in this story? Explain your answer.
3. How does the location of the story shape the events in the story? Explain your response.
4. How does the time period of the story shape the events of the novel? Explain your response.
5. Which of the conflicts in the story are resolved by the end of the novel? Explain your answer.

Notetaking Activities for *Unbroken*, Laura Hillenbrand

Devote another section of your composition journal to **Unbroken Notes**. Take at least **three (3)** bullet point notes for each of the following *Unbroken* questions. Be prepared to write grammatically correct responses in class for each once returning to school in August.

1. Explain why Louie's story is considered inspirational?
2. Explain how Louie's childhood helped to prepare him for the hardships and trauma he would endure as an adult.
3. Should Pete be given credit for Louie's survival techniques? Explain.
4. Forgiveness is a powerful gift. Why do you think that giving and/or receiving forgiveness is necessary for a peaceful life?
5. Explain the parts of the novel that made you feel uncomfortable. Explain the parts of the novel that made you smile.

Bibliographic Information for Purchasing the Correct Edition

Each of these books is available at *Amazon.com*. Local bookstores can also order these novels for our students.

ISBN numbers for each novel are listed below:

***Holes*, by Louis Sachar** ***Unbroken*, by Laura Hillenbrand (Young Adult Adaptation)**

ISBN-10 : 0440414806

ISBN-10 : 0385742525

ISBN-13 : 978-0440414803

ISBN-13 : 978-0385742528