

2023 Notre Summer Reading
Notre Dame - Bishop Gibbons
English Department
Tricia White * Karen Harp * John Verhayden

We are pleased to roll out our Summer Reading Experience 2023

At Notre Dame - Bishop Gibbons we work to help keep students on track with learning. Part of this is requiring summer reading. Following a study done in 2020, shared in the American Education Research Journal, 52% of students lost an average of 39% of their learning gains during the summer. This evaluation included 200 million test scores, in 7,500 school districts. With this data, we also realize that summer is also a time for kids to recharge - and just be kids. In looking at balancing this, we are requiring one book be read, (details follow below).

We encourage all students to read more than just the Summer Reading Experience book. Read a new author or, one you already like. Try a magazine, newspaper, or blog. Go to a bookstore and wander. Ask the staff for their favorites. Type a book you have liked into Amazon, and see what is suggested under "Frequently Bought Together", or "Customers Who Bought This Also Bought". Chances are you will find things you like to read. Fiction or nonfiction. It's all good reading!

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FIND YOUR PACKET, THERE IS A LINK ON THE ND-BG WEBSITE FOR THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Middle School (grades 6 - 8)

Mrs. Harp (harpk@nd-bg.org)

The Assignment

Read the article, Billy Mills: Running Strong in the Summer Reading Packet. Answer the questions concerning the article, and complete the 20 Day Journal which follows.

High School

Mrs. White (tricia_white@nd-bg.org)

Mr. Verhayden (john_verhayden@nd-bg.org)

The Assignment

Choose one of the books assigned to your grade level, and complete a dialectical journal which will be handed in the second full week of school in September. Directions for how to complete a dialectical journal follow, as well as the number of entries required.

Grade 8 going into 9th

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

OR

Outliers: The Story of Success by Malcom Gladwell

11 Dialectic Journal entries

Grade 9 going into 10th

All My Rage by Sabaa Tahir

OR

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

12 Dialectic Journal entries

Grade 10 going into 11th

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

OR

The Glass Castle by Jeannette Wells

13 Dialectic Journal entries

Grade 11 going into 12th

Montana 1948 by Larry Watson

OR

The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

14 Dialectic Journal entries

Dialectical Journal

The purpose of a dialectical journal is to identify significant pieces of text and explain the significance. It is another form of highlighting/annotating text and should be used to think about, digest, summarize, question, clarify, critique, and remember what is read.

This is an excellent way to more fully understand a text.

Quote

Find a quote which you feel is significant. It can be significant to the story, or it may be a piece that is significant to you personally. The quote may also be a question which you have about a character, event, theme, etc.

Response

Each response should be 3 - 4 sentences.

Possible topics:

1. Raise questions about the beliefs and values implied in the text.
2. Give your personal reactions to the passage.
3. Discuss the words, ideas, or actions of the author.
4. Tell what it reminds you of from your own experiences.
5. Write about what it makes you think or feel.

Example

(From Night by Elie Wiesel)

Quote

"Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere."

Response

This quote shows one of the themes of the book, which is the world being responsible for wrongs that are done to other people. If people do not stand up to what is wrong, the world will spin downward. This is like the idea that any behavior that isn't spoken against, is acceptable. For example, a teen drinking a lot and coming home and not having their parents speak to him or her about it could seem like the it is accepted.

**Attached are reading lists for extra reading ideas outside of the required
Summer Reading Experience.**

Recommended Reading List:

High School List is given first. Middle School list is given second.

This is a listing of books that we feel offers a wide selection of choices from many genres and time periods. Perhaps you would like to try a classic piece, or a mystery, or fantasy, or historical fiction. Perhaps you aren't sure - look in the "General" category. Reading allows you to sit down, and walk into a different world, or way of thinking. Find a book, a comfy spot, with a cool breeze, have a glass of lemonade nearby, and enjoy.

HIGH SCHOOL

Mysteries

The Best of Mystery: 63 Short Stories Chosen by Alfred Hitchcock

Fuzzy Mud by Louis Sachar

Murder on the Orient Express Agatha Christie:

The Magpie Mysteries by Anthony Horowitz

Mrs. Thistlethwaite and the Magpie by J.B. Hawker

General

The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

Sold on a Monday by Kristana McMorris

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button by F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

A Dog's Purpose by Bruce Cameron

The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Fault of Our Stars by John Green

Eleanor and Park by Rainbow Rowell

Burn Baby Burn by Meg Medina

The Absolute True Story of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky

Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

Stars Go Blue by Laura Pritchett

Sparrow by Sarah Moon

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Goodbye Days by Jeff Zenner

A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith

Classics

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
David Copperfield by Charles Dickens
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Wuthering Heights by Charlotte Bronte
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne
The Lost World by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Emma by Jane Austen
Cannery Row by John Steibeck
Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller
The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemmingway

Sci-Fi

Enders Game by Orson Scott Card
Binti by Nnedi Okaofar (Nigerian)
The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer
The Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton

Dystopian

Unwind Series by Neal Shusterman
City of Ember Series by Jean DuPrau
Hunger Game Series by Suzanne Collins
The Man in the High Castle by Phillip K. Dick
Divergent by Veronica Roth Set
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

Fantasy

Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeline L'Engle
Strange the Dreamer by Lani Taylor
The Reader by Traci Chee
The Shadow and Bone Trilogy by Leigh Bardugo
Six of Crows Duology by Leigh Bardugo
Percy Jackson and the Olympians set by Rick Riordan
The Builders of Rollrock Island by Margo Lnangan

Watership Down by Richard Adams
Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkein
Harry Potter Series by JK Rowling

Diversity

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
Piecing Me Together by Renee Watson
Beloved by Toni Morrison
Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
The Help by Katherine Stockert

Non-Fiction

Looking for Alaska by John Green
The 59 Bus by Dashka Slater
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
Dead Mountain by Donnie Echar
Walk to Beautiful by Jimmy Wayne
Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng
Flags of our Fathers by James Bradley
I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
Shaken by Tim Tebow
Five Feet Apart by Rachel Lippincott
Malcolm X Autobiography as Told by Alex Haley
Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do

Holocaust

The Book Thief by Marcu Zusak Knoph
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Historical Fiction

Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan
The Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry
Telegram for Mr. Mooney by Cate Ruane
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Foer

Sports

The Boys of Summer by Roger Kahn
Ball Four by Jim Bouton
A Season on the Brink by John Feinstein
Paper Lion by George Plimpton
Semi-Tough by Dan Jenkins
Friday Night Lights by H.G.Bissinger
The Game by Ken Dryden
Seabiscuit by Laura Hillenbrand
Bang the Drum Slowly by Mark Harris
The Natural by Bernard Malamud
Shoeless Joe by W.P. Kinsella

Ghost/Scary

Suggested authors:

Edgar Allen Poe
Stephen King
Dean Koontz
Bram Stoker
Shirley Jackson
H.P. Lovecraft

Poetry

Poetry is accessible to all ages at different levels.

The Hill We Climb by Amanda Gorman
Gmorning, Gnight! By Lin-Manuel Miranda
The Dark Between the Stars by Atticus
Consider different poets: Emily Dickens, Robert Frost, Walt Whitman,
E.E. Cummings, Shel Silverstein, Oscar Wilde, Dylan Thomas, Pablo Neruda,
T.S. Eliot, Joyce Carol Oates, Seamus Heaney, Fleur Adcock

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mysteries

Serafina and the Black Cloak by Robert Beatty
The National Parks Mystery Series by Aaron Johnson
The Shadow Jumper by J.M. Forster
The Feather Chase by Shannon L. Brown
Skeleton Creek by Patrick Carman
The Virginia Mysteries by Steven K. Smith
The Hardy Boys by Franklin Dixon
Nancy Drew by Carolyn Keene

General

Restart by Gordon Korman
Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
Noticing by Kobi Yamada
Spy School the Graphic Novel by Stuart Gibbs
AddisonCooke and the Treasure of the Incas by Jonathan W. Stokes
The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin
On My Way Home by Joseph Trencher
Smack Dab in the Middle of Maybe by Jo Watson Hackl
House Arrest by K.A. Holt
We Were Liars by e.lockhart
The Worst Years of My Life by James Patterson
I Funny: A Middle school Story by James Patteson

Survival

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Holes by Louis Sachar
Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

Classics

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
Treasury of Greek Mythology by Donna Jo Napoli
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
Narnia by C.S. Lewis
Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan
The Push Cart War by Jan Merrill
Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Sci-Fi

Diary of a Martian: The Discovery by Stephen B. Haunts
Escape From a Video Game by Dustin Brady
The Proto Project Project by Bryan R. Johnson
Earthrise by Daniel Arenson
The Cosmic Fall by Rae Knightly

Dystopian

The City of Embers by Jeanne DuPrau
Alone by Megan E. Freeman
The Maze Runner by James Dashner
The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera
Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
The Knowledge Seeker by Rae Knightly

Fantasy

The Girl Who Looked Beyond the Stars by L.B. Anne
Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan
Hook's Daughter by R.V. Bowman
Reflection A Twisted Tale by Elizabeth Lim
The Book of Chaos by Jessica Renwick
Trial of Apollo by Rick Riordan

Diversity

Starfish by Lisa Fipps
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga
When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller
Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson
The Watsons Go To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis

Non-Fiction

Mental Toughness for Young Athletes by Troy Horne
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate
An Elephant in the Garden by Michael Morpurgo
Code Talker: A Novel About the Navajo Marines of WWII by Joseph Bruchac
The Finest Hours (Young Readers Edition): The True Story of a Heroic Sea Rescue
By Michael Tougias

Holocaust

47 Days by Annette Openlander
Tutti's Promise by K. Keidi Fishman
Alias Anna: A True Story of Outwitting the Nazis by Susan Hood
White Bird: A Wonder Story (A graphic novel) by R.J. Palacio

Historical Fiction

Once by Morris Gleitzman
Behind Rebel Lines: The Incredible Story of Emma Edmonds, Civil War Spy by S. Reit
Risuko: A Kunoichi Tale (Season of the Sword) by David Kudler
The True Confession of Charlotte Doyle by Avi
Crispin by Avi

Sports

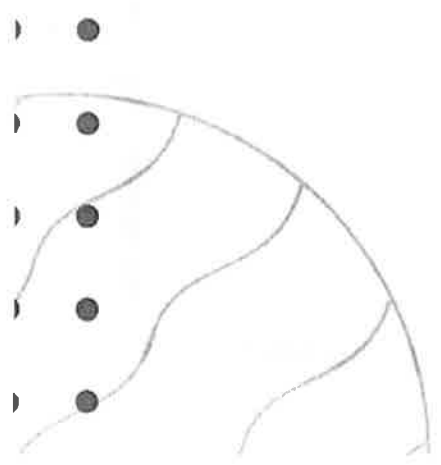
Camp Legend by Greyson Gray
Mental Toughness for Young Athletes
Inspirational Sports Stories for Young Readers by Kurt Taylor

Ghosts/Scary

The Mystery of Darkhill School by CJ Loughy
The Haunting of Elmwood Manor: A Pekin Dewlap Mysteries by Pamela McCord
City of Ghosts by Victoria Schwab
The Girl in the Locked Room by Mary Downing Hahn
Follow Me by K.R. Alexander
Battlefield Ghosts (True Hauntings #2) by Dinah Williams
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark by Alvin Swartz
Ghost Stories for kids by Bernard Shaw
Arthur Blackwood's Scary Stories for Kids by A.M. Luzzader
Ronald Dahl's book of Ghost Stories by Roald Dahl



MY SUMMER JOURNAL



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 1

Question of the day: What is something you're looking forward to about the summer?

Write your answer: _____

What is something you aren't looking forward to?

Running Strong: The Life of Billy Mills



Billy Mills' Olympic victory in 1964 was one of the greatest sports upsets in history. Against all odds and virtually unknown, Billy came from behind in the closing seconds to win the Olympic 10,000 meter race. He is still the only American to win this event. His victory has since been called the greatest track and field battle of the 20th century.

Born on the **Oglala Lakota (Sioux) Reservation**, he was being taught by his father to place the virtues and values of his Lakota culture, traditions and spirituality into his educational pursuit: "It's what gives you direction, confidence, and clarity of mind to

make positive decisions to stay the course, Son, in a world that wants to erase everything that is Indian from your mind." Soon after this advice, Billy was orphaned and thrust into economic poverty. His world came crashing down.

Billy used this crucial educational advice to avoid a poverty of dreams and discover additional educational opportunities to develop his abilities - his personal "gifts." Since his amazing victory, he has spent his life giving back to society.

CHILDHOOD HARDSHIPS

Billy was born in 1938 on the **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation**, whose boundaries are within the State of South Dakota. It was and still is one of the poorest communities in the United States, with unemployment reaching 80%. Very few homes had electricity or running water, families instead getting their water from rivers or creeks. Over half the children didn't finish elementary school. The average income was less than half the national poverty level.

Billy's mother and father had 14 children. Several of his older siblings died from childhood illnesses and tuberculosis.

Billy grew up in a family of eight in a small two-bedroom home. His mother had cancer and spent most of her time in a hospital.

Billy's father had to take an early medical retirement. He worked as a barber and electrician to supplement his income. One day, after Billy's father traded his electrical skills for coal to heat their home, he and Billy each had a wheelbarrow full of coal, and were pushing their wheelbarrows side by



side. Some older kids began to **taunt** them. His father said, "Just be quiet, don't say anything. The greatest strength in times like this is your silence. Take the period of silence to prepare a powerful, intelligent response." His father gave the same advice when he and Billy were discriminated against in white-owned restaurants.

Billy was devastated when his mother died. He was eight years old.

Billy's father told him he had *broken wings*. He drew a circle in the soil and asked Billy to step inside the circle. He advised Billy to look into his heart. "What do you see?" he asked. Then he said, "I will tell you what you see, because I have seen it."

"You see and feel hurt, you just lost your mother. Hate, because others have expressed hatred towards us, jealousy because we don't have much in **material** value. You see and feel self-pity, son. All of those emotions will destroy you. You have to look deeper; way down deep are where your dreams lie. Find your dreams, son. *It's the pursuit of a dream that heals broken wings.*"

His father was showing him the way to choose a positive path in life despite hardships and tragedy. Billy's father encouraged him to follow his dream because it is the dream that leads you down a path to finding your passion in life.

"You develop your skills to equal your passion and bring them together. When you do this, son, what happens?" Billy looked at his father in "silent wonderment." With a gentle smile his father clapped his hands together very loudly and said softly, "Magical things happen, son, and over time one or two of the magical things you do just may be looked upon as a miracle."

Billy recalls that he did have an early dream. Shortly after his mother died, his father and he read an article about the Olympic Games. The article said Olympians are chosen by the Gods. Billy thought that if he became an Olympian chosen by the Gods, he may be able to see his mother again. Billy's father had him believing in dreams, magic and miracles.



Billy's father and mother

Then a second tragedy struck. His father died, and at the age of 12, Billy's world again came crashing down. But Billy was blessed with brothers and sisters that kept the family together.

"What I remember is the tremendous amount of love I grew up with," Billy says. His sister Margie delayed her high school education in the ninth grade and assumed the role of raising and nurturing her younger siblings. His brother, Sid, the eldest and a Navy **veteran** at age of 23, promised the family would not be separated. "He assumed the role of father, mentor and eventually the brother we could always count on," said Billy.

"They were and still are heroes to me. We stayed together but we all had to do our part," he says.

Billy worked behind the meat counter at a local grocery store, weighing the customers' purchases. One summer, with several friends, he hitchhiked to Valentine, Nebraska for a summer job building grain elevators, sleeping in junked cars because no one would rent a hotel room to Indians.

Billy, who is one-half Lakota and one-half white, found himself at times rejected by both societies. This started Billy on a lifetime journey to understand previous footprints laid upon mother earth by his **Indigenous** and European ancestors. These footprints, upon merging, instantly clashed and led to the creation of the following:

The Doctrine of Discovery, Manifest Destiny, treaties signed and treaties broken, slavery, Jim Crow, the New Jim Crow, and the "war on drugs." [See related "Footprints" Lesson.]

Over generations, this created **generational trauma** and **generational privilege**. All of this played a major role as to why Billy felt rejected by both Indian and white societies, and he believes are why we are the way we are today as a nation. "The importance of us as a country to understand these footprints individually and collectively is a must as we choreograph our journey into the horizon of our future," says Billy Mills.

FINDING HIS GIFT AND PURSUING HIS DREAM - THROUGH EDUCATION

When Billy left the reservation for Haskell Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, he felt very vulnerable. His *wings were still broken*, but he was armed with words of wisdom from his father to pursue his dreams, create the magic, and maybe someday even create a miracle. He knew his vulnerability was not weakness.

At Haskell he met Coach Tony Coffin and discovered his gift... the ability to run and perhaps even *heal his broken wings*. He began to **pursue** his dream and found Olympic greatness.

HASKELL INSTITUTE - DISCOVERING TRACK

Billy arrived at Haskell Institute in late August 1953 where he attended senior high school. For the next four years, he would spend every school term in the Lawrence community.

Haskell was originally part of the **federal Indian boarding schools** and offered high school as well as past-graduate degrees in a variety of trades. Today, Haskell offers only college-level classes and is known as **Haskell Indian Nations University**.



At Haskell, Billy became involved in sports. Haskell was recruiting their first cross country team. Coach Tony Coffin wanted Billy to run cross country since he needed only one more runner to have enough runners to field a team.

Billy was only 5'2" tall and 104 pounds, much more suited for cross country, but he wanted to play football. Billy told Coach that cross country is for "sissies." Coach Coffin told Billy cross country was difficult and it called for a lot of character. Regardless, Billy went to dress for football practice.



Haskell's Varsity team was undefeated the year before. Billy's older brother Walter was a starter playing left end. Billy felt he was destined to play left end on the junior varsity football team. Coach Coffin had other plans; he wanted Haskell to have a cross country team.

He asked the older players to rough Billy up in practice, just a little, following Billy's older brother Walters' instructions, but "don't hurt him!" After football practice, Billy went to Coach Coffin and said, "Do you still need me for cross country?" Coach smiled and the rest is history.

At Haskell Billy was the State High School Cross Country Champion three times and the State Mile Champion twice. His senior year in high school, he was ranked #4 in the mile and #2 in the two mile in the nation among those who recorded a two mile time.

Billy was inspired by Coach Tony Coffin who sparked his interest in **social justice issues** and current events by telling him to read, not only about himself in the sports pages, but also about national and world events. Coach Coffin became his mentor, not only in sports, but in life.

KU - A BITTERSWEET EXPERIENCE

Due to his outstanding track and field record, plus good grades when Billy graduated from Haskell in 1957, he received a full athletic **scholarship** to the University of Kansas. This was an amazing opportunity, but also a culture shock for Billy. He was dismayed by the **great economic disparity** between himself and the other students, who were driving nice cars and wearing expensive clothes. He recalls when he dressed up for a track and field road trip and a teammate made fun of his cheap suit.

However, sport is an equalizer and it was on the track team where he was also found respect and friendship. Billy's teammate and friend Bob Covey resigned as Chairman of his fraternity's rush committee when they refused to allow Billy to join because he was an Indian.



One Thanksgiving, Bob took Billy home for dinner with his family. It was the first white home Billy had ever been in.

Billy clashed with famous coach Bill Easton at K.U. when Billy wanted to include speed work in his training. Easton told Billy, "Negroes are sprinters. You're an Indian and Indians run forever!" This form of **stereotyping** occurred often.

Immediately, Billy showed great promise at K.U., however it was mixed with his frequent **faltering** near the finish of his races. When this happened, he was told it was because he has low self-esteem being an Indian, an orphan and from growing up in poverty.

It turned out Billy actually had a medical issue which was the reason he frequently struggled to finish his races strongly. Only after he graduated from K.U. and became a USMC officer, was he diagnosed as **hypoglycemic** and borderline Type 2 **diabetic**. His late-race crashes were brought on by a steep drop in blood sugar.

Nevertheless, Billy trained hard and achieved many honors while at K.U. He was All-American in cross country in 1958, 1959, and 1960. One year he was chosen to represent the USA in the St. Sylvester Midnight Run, a very prestigious race in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The race was on December 31, 1959. This was Billy's first **international** competition. He won the Big 8 Individual Cross Country title and the team finished second in 1960. He followed with the Conference Two Mile title in 1961. The team also won the championship. He was on two Division 1 National Collegiate Track and Field Championship teams - in 1959 and 1960.

The **bittersweet** experience was Billy winning the 1960 Individual Cross Country title and the team finishing second. The Coach called Billy the worst captain he ever had because the team lost. Billy was devastated.



His bittersweet experiences continued - such as being asked to step out of photographs being taken of the All-American Cross Country team. There were many photographers taking photos there, but there were always a few that asked him to step out. They only wanted a photo of the white athletes.

He was also troubled by **discrimination** he witnessed against black athletes. On a trip to a track meet in Texas, the team took a vote to determine if they would split up so the white athletes could stay in a motel and use the swimming pool. The black athletes would stay at a local military base. The team voted unanimously to stay together at the military barracks.

Billy became depressed at K.U. and contemplated suicide, but through the energy in his body he felt an unspoken word that sounded like his father's voice: "Don't. Don't."

Billy knew he had to continue pursuing his goals despite the obstacles. He kept believing: "God gave me the ability; the rest is up to me. Believe. Believe. Believe."

He roomed with Cliff Cushman who won the silver medal in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Billy found inspiration in touching the sleeve of Cushman's Olympic uniform as he imagined his own dream of becoming an Olympic Champion.

The most important experience Billy had at K.U. was proof to him that every cloud has a silver lining. He met Patricia Harris, a fine arts student from Coffeyville, Kansas. They spent many hours talking about her dreams, his dreams and eventually, their dreams.

Billy found it very challenging to balance his time being a student athlete (both are nearly full-time jobs) and finding quality time with Patricia. He learned one of the great empowering lessons in life is critical thinking.

Billy graduated from Kansas in 1962 with a degree in Physical Education. He and Pat were also married that year. Pat later earned a BFA from the University of New Mexico and her MA degree from California State University Sacramento.

They have raised their family in California that today includes four daughters and sons-in-law, twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Pat is a talented artist and has also played a crucial role in all of their businesses, most notably their "Running Strong for American Indian Youth" program (www.indianyouth.org). They love traveling and have visited approximately 100 countries.



THE MARINES AND THE OLYMPICS

Also in 1962, Billy attended the **United States Marine Corps Officers Candidate School** in Quantico, Virginia. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the US Marine Corps on Dec 21, 1962.

Patricia was now able to join him in Quantico, Virginia. They spent all of 1963 in Quantico. While Billy was completing additional Marine Corps Training, he continued his running with hopes of qualifying for the **US Olympic Trials**. It was during this time Billy was diagnosed as hypoglycemic and borderline Type 2 diabetic. For the first time he finally understood his late-race fades and how to manage the problem.



He made rapid improvement and his progress impressed the Marine Corps. They finally sent him to Camp Pendleton, California to join the Elite Marine Corps Track and Field team training for the Olympic Trials.

This was a major achievement for Billy. For the first time in his running career he could focus all his energy on the Olympic Trials.

Lt. Billy Mills and Patricia arrived at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base in California on February 20, 1964, just eight months before the Olympic Games. Billy met Coach Tommy Thompson, the recently retired Naval Academy coach.

Coach Tommy (as he preferred to be called) asked Billy two questions: 1. "What are your goals at the Olympic Games?" and 2. "How is your speed?" Billy replied, "I want to medal at the Olympic Games and my speed needs work. Coach said, "Let's go for the gold, and we need to get started on developing a faster pace and greater speed."

Almost in tears, Billy felt like he was talking to his father, and for the first time since Tony Coffin from Haskell, he had a coach who believed in him.

Billy and Coach Thompson focused on speed work, speed endurance and endurance workouts. Also, Billy would train through all his races until the Olympic **10,000 meter race**.

THE RACE!

With Coach Thompson as his **mentor**, based on fastest times recorded, Billy was ranked eighth in the world, but unranked in the United States. He made the Olympic team in the marathon and the 10,000 meters.

Billy arrived in Tokyo on October 1, 1964. Patricia arrived a few days later. Over the next two weeks as Billy settled into a routine getting ready for his 10,000 meter race, he read about Yoshinono Sakai, a nineteen year-old university student born on August 6, 1945, not far from **Hiroshima** where the first of two atomic bombs fell on humanity, eventually killing over 250,000 people.

Sakai was chosen to light the Olympic torch so that the world would never forget. He embodied the new youth, their prayers for peace, and seeing the world as one. This had a lifetime influence on Billy and his journey promoting global unity through dignity, character, and the beauty of **global diversity**.



It is now October 14, 1964, 4:30 pm - time for the Olympic 10,000 meter run. The greatest field of distance runners ever assembled are on the track. The expectations for Billy were low.

Adidas was the sponsor of the US Track and Field team, providing them with shoes. The United States representative for Adidas refused to provide Billy shoes, saying he had just enough shoes left for the potential medal winners. Billy told him, "But I am going to win." He laughed and escorted Billy out of the store. The next few seconds, the runners are called to line up, the starters pistol is raised, Billy refocuses with **believe, believe, believe**. 80,000 spectators wait. The pistol is fired and the Olympic 10,000 meter race is underway.



In the first lap, Ron Clarke, the world record holder from Australia, settles into third or fourth place, keeping out of trouble. In the middle of the pack is Billy Mills from the United States, starting to work his way up, and Mohammed Gammoudi from Tunisia following. Starting the second lap, Clarke takes the lead and shows why he is the favorite. Over the next two and a half miles he pushes the pace. Runners drop off pace and the lead pack is being formed: Clarke in the lead, followed by Mills, Gammoudi and Mamo Wolde from Ethiopia. It had rained all night; the track is wet and slow.

It is the 5,000 meter mark and the runners are two seconds under the 10,000 meter world record pace. Suddenly, Mills takes the lead. Many of the spectators in the stadium are cheering with excitement, but they know he cannot keep it up. Clarke storms back into the lead and continues to push the pace. Three laps to go, Clarke slows just a little. Billy thinks, "He's no longer going to push the pace; he is slowing to get ready for a strong finishing kick starting with 300 meters or less to go." Billy has to stay alert. He has been practicing his kick, doing speed workouts and speed endurance work for eight months. He asks himself: "Am I ready?" Billy's mind and spirit say, "Yes!"



It is the final lap. Just 400 meters to the finish! Billy moves up on Clarke's shoulder to pass. Clarke refuses to let him pass and pushes him into the third lane. The crowd goes wild with **anticipation**. Gammoudi sees Billy is off-balance as he stumbles into lane three. Clarke is starting his final drive toward the finish line. Gammoudi sprints after Clarke. Billy recovers and again is closing on Clarke's shoulder when Gammoudi tries to squeeze between Clarke and Billy. Once again, Billy is pushed off-balance.

250 meters to go; Gammoudi sprints to the lead with Clarke in pursuit. Billy is beginning to feel the side effects of going low blood sugar (hypoglycemic). He is ten meters behind. 80,000 people in the stadium are hypnotized. Billy only hears his own thoughts and strategy.

Clarke is trying to pass Gammoudi; Gammoudi is holding him off. There are only 100 meters to go and Billy is almost ten meters behind. He's alert and aware that Pat is only thirty-two seats up from where he is. Billy's mind is racing - just one more try. One more try! The effects of the low blood sugar are worse. He glances at a runner in lane four who the two leaders just lapped. As Billy passes the lapped runner, he sees on his jersey an *eagle*. Billy recalls his father telling him someday he would have *wings of an eagle*.

Not hearing the screaming spectators, Billy's thoughts are now, "I may never be this close again. I have to do it now, then I'm going to win - though I may not make it to the finish line first." Billy thought, "Did I just contradict myself?" With his heart pounding, his mind keeps saying, "I have to get to the finish line first!" Then, *wings of an eagle*, followed by, "I won, I won!" as the tape breaks across his chest.

An official comes up to him and asks, "Is there anything I can get for you?" Billy replied, "My wife. I want Patricia." Within a moment, an official taps Pat on the shoulder and said, "Follow me. The Olympic champion wants you by his side!"

At the awards ceremony, Avery Brundage, President of the United States Olympic Committee said, "I have been watching the Olympic Games for fifty years and I have never seen an American respond to pressure like Lt. Billy Mills did in winning the Olympic 10,000 meter race." It was called the greatest distance race in the history of the Olympics. Billy was the first non-European to win the 10,000 meter Olympic race, and he is still the only person to win this race from either North or South America.



Later that night, Billy told Pat the meaning of his thought "I am going to win but I may not get to the finish line first." He said, "*I healed a broken soul* and in the process won an Olympic gold medal."

It's the journey, not the destination, which empowers us. It's the daily decisions we make in life, not just our talents that choreograph our **destiny!**

NATIVE AMERICANS CELEBRATE

When news of Billy's victory reached Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, it was the middle of the night. Nevertheless, the policeman on patrol turned on his siren and lights and drove through the sleeping town. Nuns woke up the students at the Red Cloud Indian School to tell them the news. Billy Mills, an Oglala Lakota from their reservation had won an Olympic gold medal!

Bryan Brewer, former President of the tribe, said, "What made it special was that he's one of our own. Billy is our superstar."



Billy received a hero's welcome from crowds at several locations when he returned home - K.U., Haskell, Coffeyville - but his welcome home at Pine Ridge was the most **profound** for Billy. The elders of the tribe sang about his deeds and declared him a warrior. They gave him an *eagle-feather headdress*.

Then they gave him one of the highest honors: bestowing upon him the special **Indian name** Tamakoce Te'hila which means "loves his country," or more traditionally translated, "respects the Earth."



Billy felt that if his victory honored his tribal nation, it would honor the United States of America, and help make the world a better place. And that fit into the most powerful prayer of the Lakota: "We are all related."

Billy says, "What I took from the Olympic Games was not winning an Olympic gold medal, but an understanding of global unity through dignity of character and beauty of global diversity. And global unity through global diversity is also the future of mankind."

WHERE IS HE NOW?**GIVING BACK**

"My life is a gift to me from my Creator. What I do with my life is my gift back to the Creator."

After Billy's victory, his dream could have come to an end. But he and Pat immediately realized they must use this terrific opportunity to give back to others. Billy recalls, "I felt that moment was a gift, and in Lakota culture, if you have been given a gift, you are asked to give back." Billy wanted to both honor his culture and extend the reach of his giveaway beyond the reservation. He wondered how to do this. His wife Pat said, "You always talk about the people who inspired you. Why not take the inspiration they gave you and pass it on to a younger generation?" They both committed to this new dream.



Billy completed his tour of duty in the Marine Corps on Dec 21, 1965 and with Pat, started the pursuit of their new dream. Taking the virtue of the giveaway in the Lakota culture, they decided the giveaway



would become the vision and mission statement of their new journey; **empowerment** and diversity would be the topics.

Billy spent valuable time earning their living in the insurance business, while Pat started creating ways to implement their dream. Their first project was to create the Billy Mills Speakers Bureau - where Billy addresses topics of empowerment and diversity by sharing his life story. Today, Patricia continues to manage the Speakers Bureau, and Billy speaks to audiences around the world.

Pat says she stills becomes emotional by the number of people sharing with her how Billy has changed their life. They say he gave them hope, purpose, inspiration and confidence to find and follow their own dream.

Today, in his speaking engagements, Billy continues to challenge our youth to use educational opportunities to discover their talents and their gifts, and then set high goals and have the passion to pursue them. He says:

“Follow your dream; every dream has its passion. Every passion has its destiny!”



RUNNING STRONG CHARITY

Through the power of education, Billy and Pat began to understand the various causes of generational trauma and generational privilege, and the **devastation** of economic poverty and the poverty of dreams it forced upon generations of Tribal Nations and their citizens.

In the Lakota **culture**, the elders have the visions and the youth have the dreams. Billy and Patricia wanted to empower the visions of the elders and inspire the dreams of the youth.

Billy and Pat met with Gene Krizek, who had just founded Christian Relief Services in 1985. Gene is a man of extraordinary vision. Together in 1986, they founded “Running Strong for American Indian Youth”: a **non-profit organization** dedicated to helping American Indian people meet their immediate survival needs - food, water, and shelter - while creating opportunities for self-sufficiency and self-esteem in American Indian youth. (www.indianyouth.org).





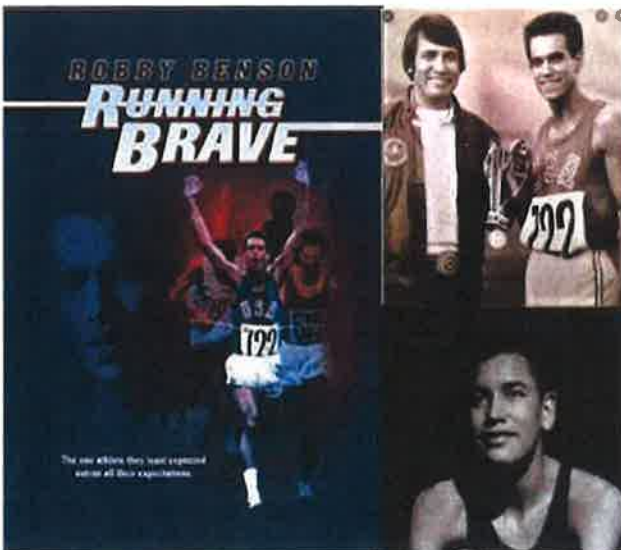
For example, Running Strong administers a youth **grant program** called Dream Starters. Any youth who meets the age requirements, and has a dream that can empower their community, can partner with a local non-profit organization and apply for a \$10,000.00 grant. Running Strong picks ten applicants per year and awards them a \$10,000.00 grant. See www.indianyouth.org/dreamstarters.

Running Strong also sponsors organic gardens, food distribution, schools, and youth centers. It helps provide clean, running water to families, conducts culture and language programs, helps provide safe housing, conducts seasonal programs and provides basic needs, emergency assistance, and women's and children's health care.

Also, since Billy found out he is Type 2 diabetic, he promotes diabetes prevention and management education for adults and especially for youth. He helps people with diabetes learn how to live a healthy lifestyle and lead better their lives. (See more about Running Strong at www.indianyouth.org).



MOVIE: *RUNNING BRAVE*



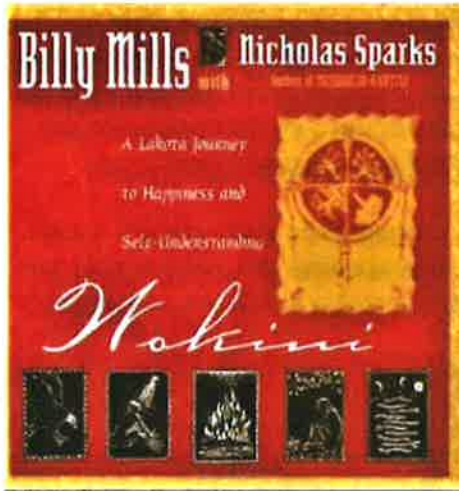
The next project that Pat and Billy undertook was the movie *Running Brave*. This was to fulfill a desire to pass the inspiration given to Billy on to the younger generation. The movie has been shown in over thirty countries.

Billy Mills' life was portrayed in this 1983 film. A major motion picture starring the famous young actor Robbie Benson, it dramatizes the effects racism has on Native Americans, as well as accurately portraying Billy's inspiring Olympic victory. Acclaimed Native actor Graham Green was also part of the cast.

This beloved film continues to tell Billy's story to grateful viewers and is considered one of the best inspirational movies for young people.

BOOK: WOKINI - A LAKOTA JOURNEY TO HAPPINESS AND SELF-UNDERSTANDING

In 1990, Billy joined writer Nicholas Sparks to co-author *Wokini - A Lakota Journey to Happiness and Self-Understanding*. Patricia was the illustrator. The book is a parable about the journey of a young man suffering from depression after his sister dies. His father gives him a strange scroll based on traditional wisdom that teaches the boy how to pass beyond his grief and pain, understand his emotions, and live a happy, fulfilling life in spite of difficulties.



Wokini has been published in seventeen countries and is available in seven languages. After reading it, many readers buy additional copies to give to friends and family. They feel it actually transformed their lives, helping them through a hard time in life, and inspiring them to live more fully and with sincere happiness. They describe it as a true spiritual journey.

HONORS

The honors Billy has received include the following:

- Sports Halls of Fame
- USA Track and Field Hall of Fame
- USA Olympic Hall of Fame
- American Indian Hall of Fame
- Kansas University Hall of Fame
- State of Kansas Hall of Fame

Other honors very special to Billy include:

1. The President's Citizen Medal from United States President Barack Obama
2. Renaming of Billy Mills Middle School in Lawrence, Kansas
3. University of Kansas Honorary Doctorate
4. Anti-Defamation League Acts of Courage, Concert Against Hate, 2014
5. City of Lawrence designating Billy Mills Day



There are two paintings of Billy Mills that are very special to him (see next page):



Wings of an Eagle

Permanent collection at the Crazy Horse Memorial
Museum in South Dakota.



Torch of Memory

Permanent collection at the World Olympic Museum in Lausanne,
Switzerland

The artist of both paintings is Billy's wife: Patricia Mills, BFA, MA.

Billy and Patricia continue to follow their dreams!

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This article was compiled by Billy and Pat Mills with Anne B. Wilson in 2020, for educational use at Billy Mills Middle School, USD 497, Lawrence, Kansas, and in the Billy Mills Native Studies Project.

Please answer each question.

READING: BIOGRAPHY: "RUNNING STRONG - THE STORY OF BILLY MILLS"

PREREADING QUESTIONS



1. What does the title tell you about what type of article this is?
[The Life of...]
2. What is a "biography"? [what are meanings of "bio" "graphy"]
3. So, is this a fictional story or nonfiction essay?
4. How can you anticipate what will be the most important words and terms - so you can decode them from their context?
5. What other formatting / layout tools can help you identify sub-topics and key phrases within the article?
6. How are the topics in this article organized? - i.e. what ORDER or sequence is used?
7. Skim the first paragraph - what makes it special and different from the rest of the article?

Name _____ ANALYSIS & TIMELINE



BIOGRAPHY: "RUNNING STRONG: THE LIFE OF BILLY MILLS"

Read the above-titled **biography** of Billy Mills' life & answer the following questions which are in order of the topics in that article:

ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

1. Describe two of the hardships of Billy's childhood:
2. Describe two of the positive aspects of Billy's childhood:
3. What was Billy's father's strategy for dealing with unfairness of people?
4. How did Billy's father help him deal with his sadness over his mother's death?
5. What was Billy's first dream?
6. What are three of the "footprints" which Billy says created generational trauma and privilege?
7. At Haskell, why did Billy change his choice of sports?
8. How did Coach Tony Coffin at Haskell affect Billy's interest in the wider world?
9. Tell two challenges Billy ran into at KU:
10. Describe two positive aspects of Billy's time at KU:
11. What did Billy learn was the cause of his feeling weakness toward the end of races?
12. Who was Billy's leader and father-figure while in the Marines?
13. What was the location of the 1964 Olympics, and how did this have a lifetime influence on Billy?
14. In the Olympic race, from what two countries did Billy's main competitors come?

15. What three continents were represented by Billy and these two other runners?
16. Describe the expectations for Billy's success in this race?
17. When Billy saw the image of an eagle on his competitor's jersey, what did it symbolize to him and how did it help him win?
18. How significant long-term has Billy's victory been regarding the 10,000 meter Olympic race?
19. What did Billy's Indian name mean?
20. Why do you think the tribe gave him this name?
21. What does Lakota culture say you should do with a gift, and how did Billy decide to do this?
22. What is the name of the non-profit organization does Billy helped establish?
23. What does this organization do?
24. What is the name of the movie about Billy's life and inspiring Olympic victory?
25. What is the name of the book Billy wrote about a young boy learning to find happiness despite great loss?
26. What do you think is the biggest honor Billy Mills has received?
27. Which sentence in the article do you think best states the author's purpose? Copy the sentence - tell pg. no.

TIMELINE - Chart & label three important dates in Billy's life - including early and later periods.
Write date above and event below.

DAILY JOURNALING DAY 2

Question of the day: Who is one person that you look up to and why?

Write your answer: _____

How can you be a role model?



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 3

Question of the day: What is your favorite meal to eat?

Write your answer: _____

what is your least favorite meal?

DAILY JOURNALING DAY 4

Question of the day: What is one mistake you made today and what did you learn from it?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:



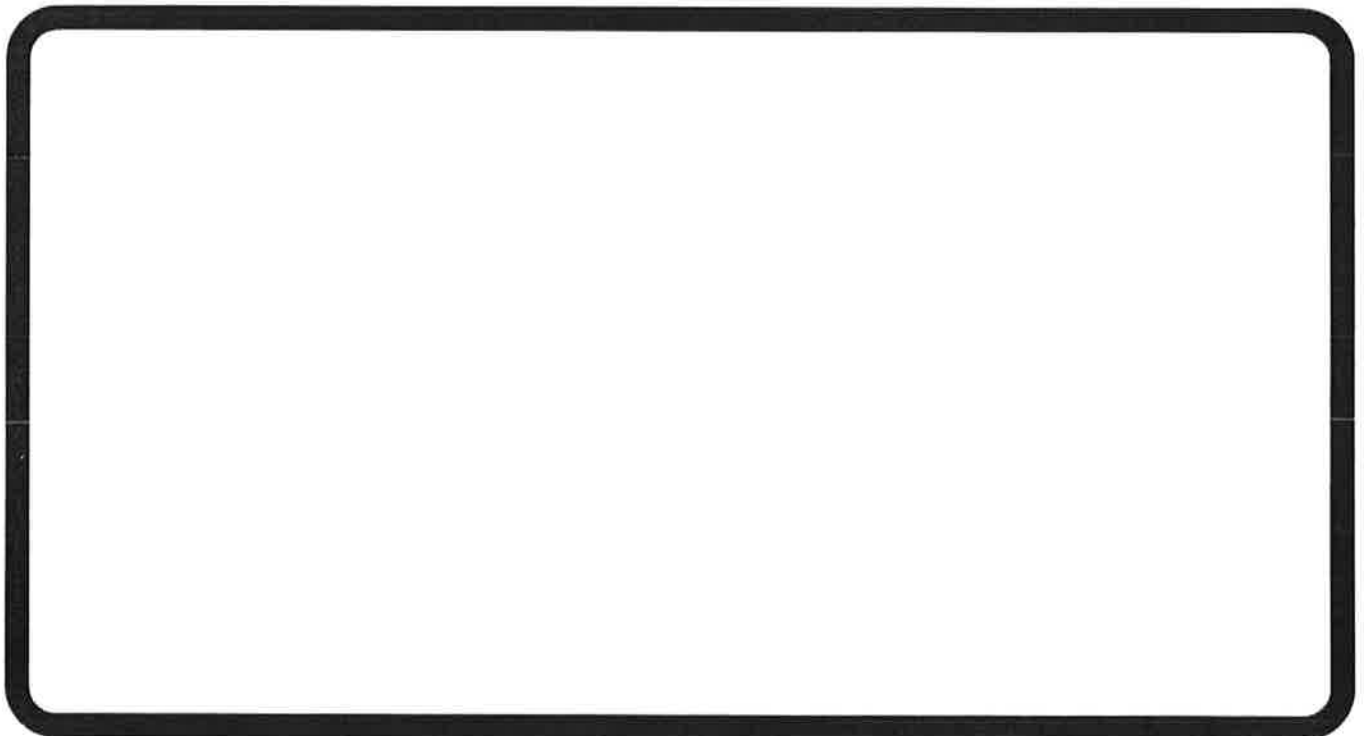
DAILY JOURNALING DAY 5

Question of the day: What is your favorite memory?

Write down as many details as you can remember.

Write your answer: _____

What is your least favorite memory?



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 6

What are three things you're grateful for?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:

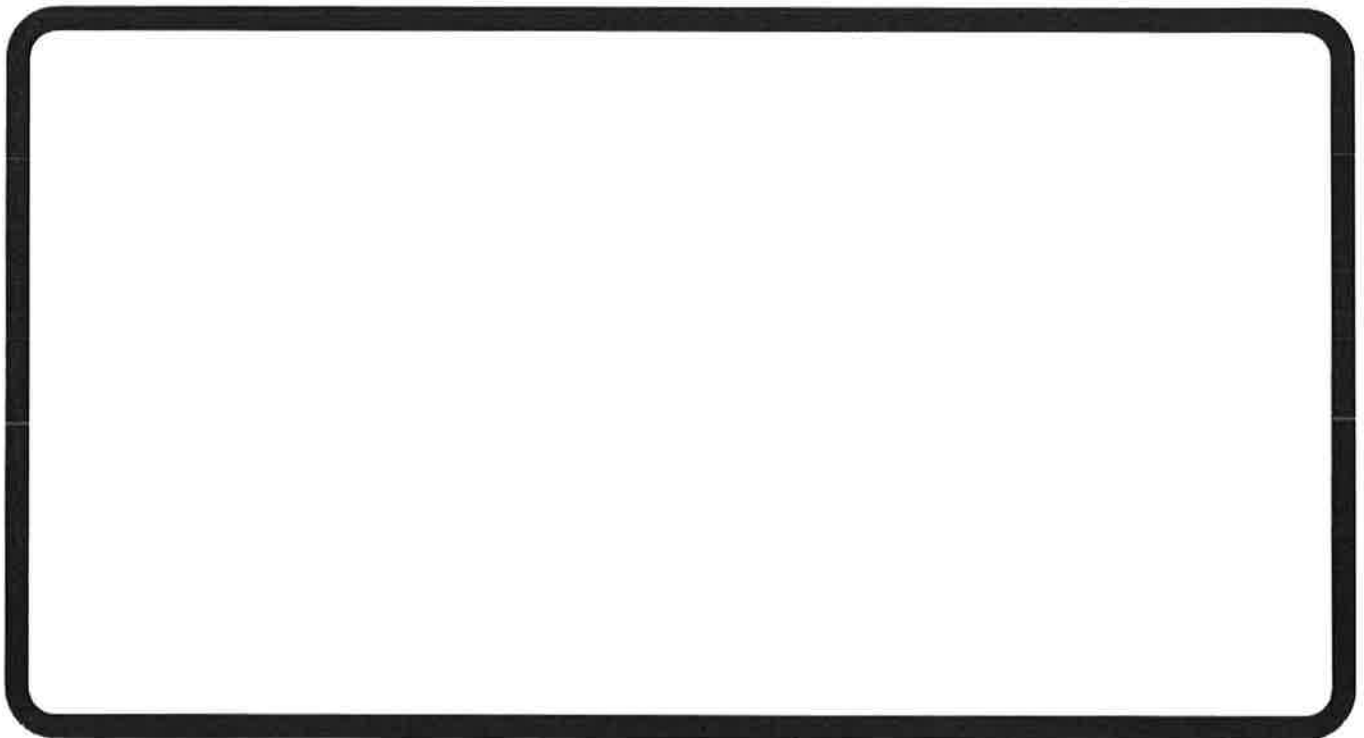


DAILY JOURNALING DAY 7

Question of the day: What is one mistake you made today and what did you learn from it?

Write your answer: _____

Draw how that mistake made you feel.



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 8

Question of the day: Who is your favorite person? Why are they your favorite?

Write your answer: _____

Who is your least favorite person?
Why are they your least favorite?



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 9

Question of the day: If you could spend one day doing anything you want, what would you do?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 10

Question of the day: Look around you. What do you see? What do you smell? What do you hear?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 11

Question of the day: What's one thing that helps you when you're feeling upset?

Write your answer: _____

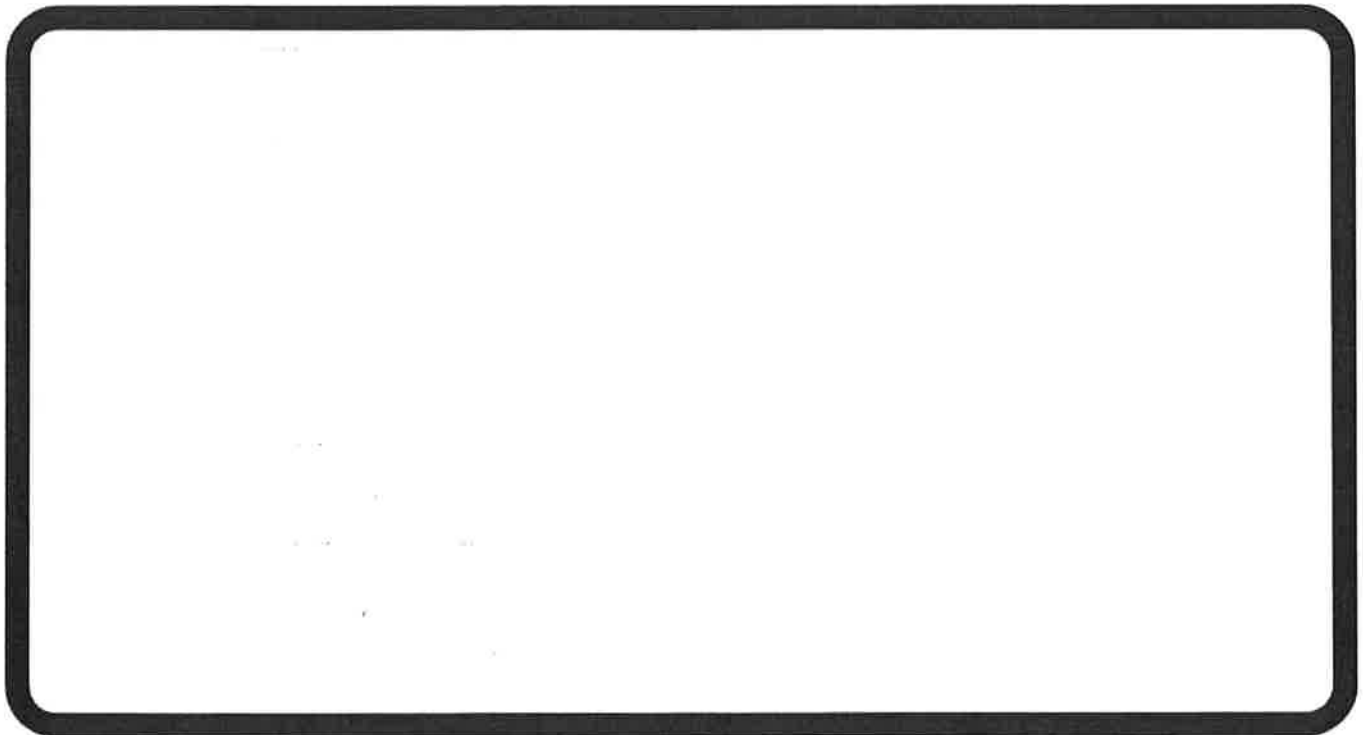
How can this help you in school?

DAILY JOURNALING DAY 12

Question of the day: What is something you learned in school this year?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:

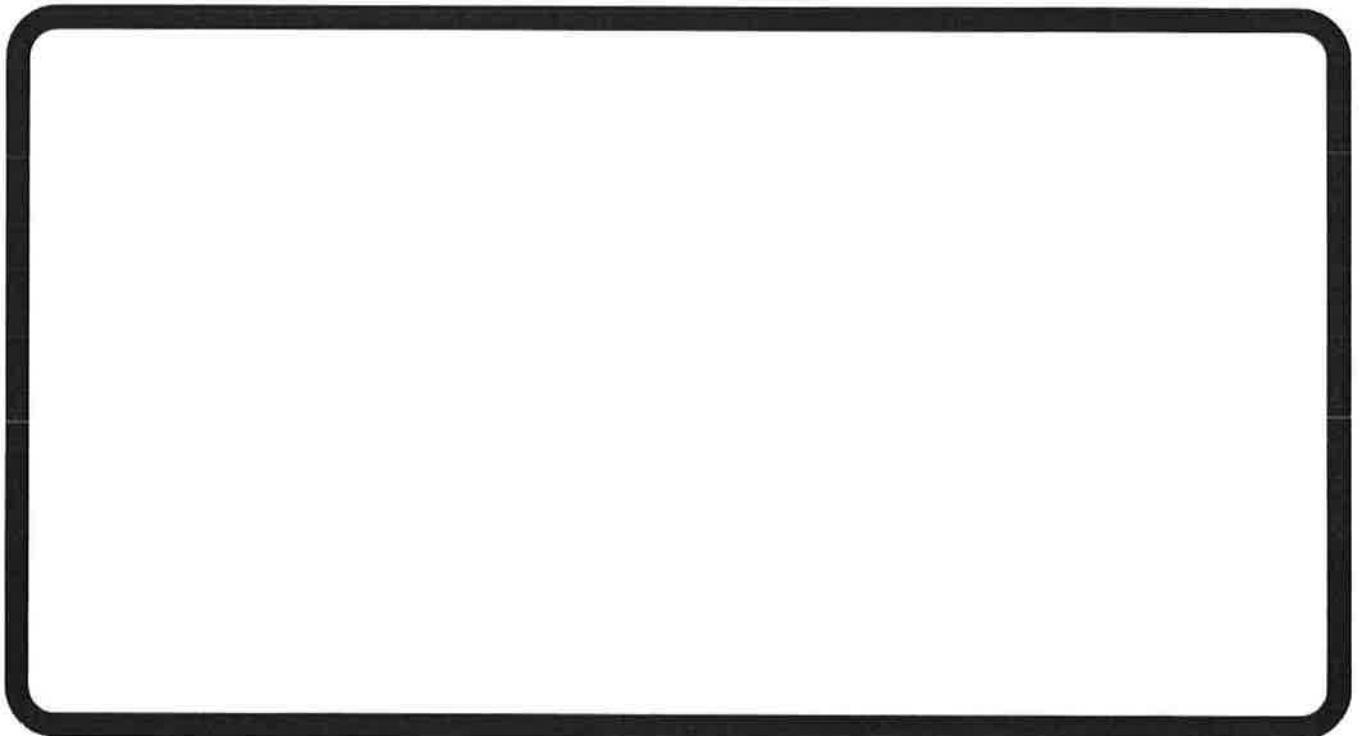


DAILY JOURNALING DAY 13

What's the funniest knock-knock joke you can think of?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 14

Question of the day: What are three things you like about yourself?

Write your answer: _____

What are three goals that you have?

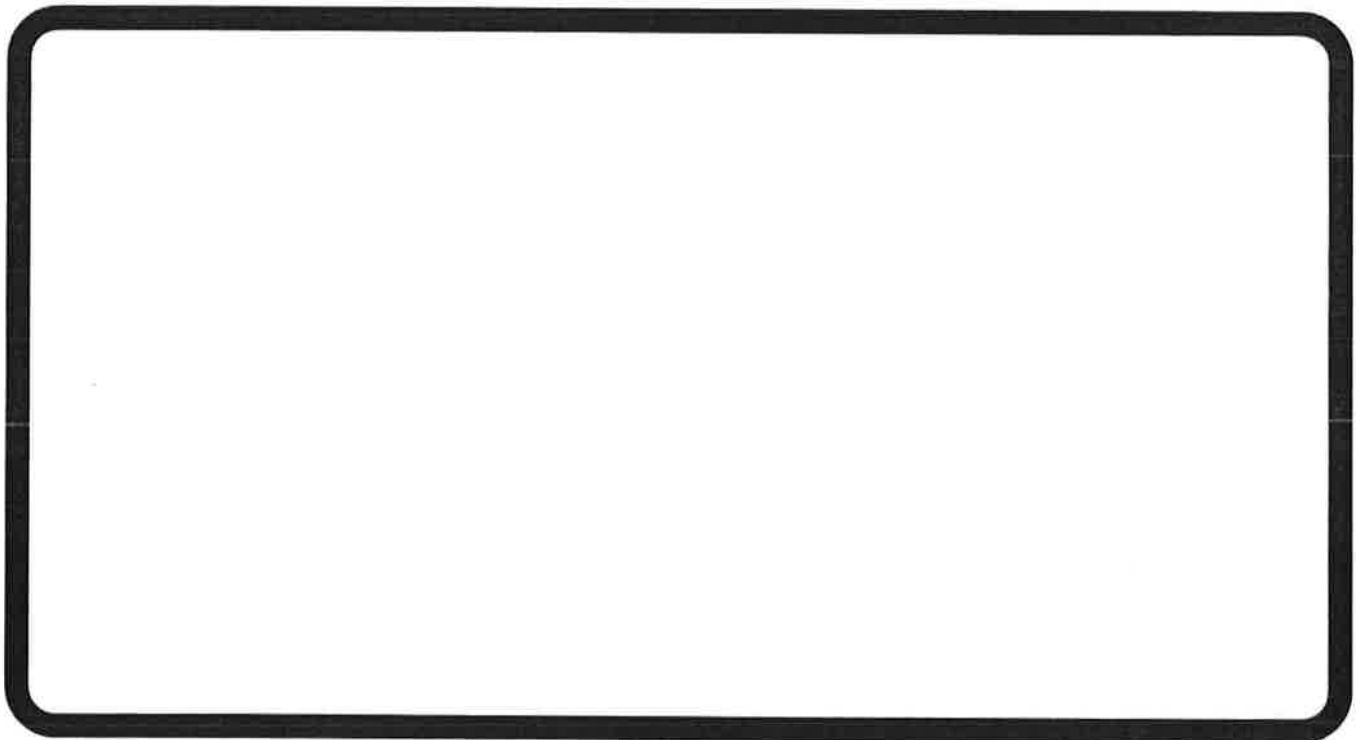


DAILY JOURNALING DAY 15

Question of the day: Do you have a favorite book? Why is it your favorite?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 16

Question of the day: If you had a time machine and could go back to anywhere in time, where would you go and why?

Write your answer: _____

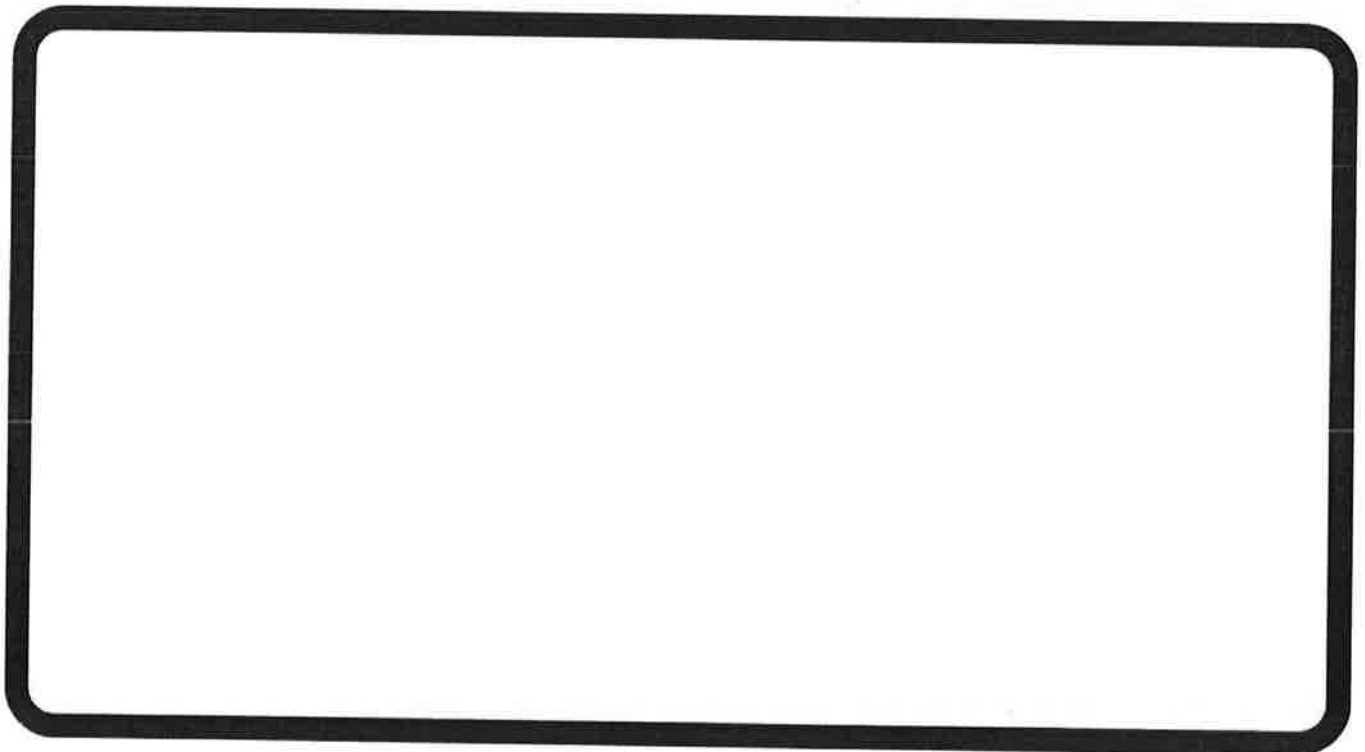
Would you ever want to know your future?

DAILY JOURNALING DAY 17

Question of the day: If you were in a fairy tale or comic book, who would your character be? What would they do?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 18

Question of the day: Who is someone you miss?
What would you say to them if they were next to
you right now?

Write your answer: _____

How do you deal with anxiety?



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 19

Question of the day: If you could have any superpower, which one would you choose? What would you do with it?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 20

Question of the day: Would you rather only be able to whisper, or have a really loud voice?

Why?

Write your answer: _____

Who has a quiet voice? Who has a loud voice?



DAILY JOURNALING DAY 21

Question of the day: If your day was a color, what color would it be and why?

Write your answer: _____

Draw your answer:





**WE ARE SO
GRATEFUL FOR
YOU! HAVE A
GOOD SUMMER**

