

## 8th GRADE SUMMER READING 2025



Read *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown- Young Readers Edition

Read *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom

### After Reading

Students are going to write an essay that compares both novels that they read over the summer. This essay will be **2 pages** in length and will identify a central theme in both stories, and then compare the ways that theme shows through.

*The Boys in the Boat* is a non-fiction novel while *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is a fiction novel. The ways we see theme show through are going to be different, but they will both have a general theme that you can assign to each book.

1.) Pick a theme that you feel is present in both novels. Write an introduction paragraph that includes both titles and authors, the shared theme in both novels, and a brief (1-2 sentences) description of why.

2.) Your second portion of the essay will be about *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Talk about how the theme you chose relates to the characters, setting, and plot of the story. Use examples from the text that include proper MLA in-text citations (author last name and page number). (Albom 1)

3.) You will do the same thing that you did for *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* but with *The Boys in the Boat*. Be sure to include the in-text citations.

4.) Wrap up the essay with a conclusion paragraph. How is the theme different and the same across both novels? What did you learn about that theme from both novels? Did reading the novels change your thoughts on this theme?

Make sure your essay is clean and organized with little to no spelling mistakes.