

SUMMER READING

9th Grade English Summer Reading Assignment

This summer, you will be required to read the book *Do Hard Things: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations* by Alex and Brett Harris. I have provided a list of questions that will be useful for this assignment. While reading, keep notes that you can use later when writing your answers to each question. You need **textual evidence** for your response questions so make sure you are marking down page numbers and direct quotes. There will be a **test** over the material in this book on **Tuesday, August 15th**.

Literary Questions

1. "We don't think 'average teenagers' exist," write the twins. Do you feel average? If so, why? Does that ever feel like a good thing? If not, what is it that makes you feel not average?
 2. Have you ever found yourself responsible for a task that seemed too big for you to succeed at? If so, what happened? Did that experience turn out to be a bad thing or a good thing in your life?
 3. What was your reaction to the stories of George, David, and Clarissa (pages 31-32)? Have you ever thought you could accomplish a lot more than you are now?
 4. The authors write, "What each of us will become later in life largely depends on what we become now." Do you agree or disagree? What might a mature adult who knows you well say you are becoming?
 5. Which of the five hard things that the authors list motivates you the most? Why?
 6. The Bible says, "The complacency of fools destroys them." Do you think it's possible to be popular, smart, and successful and still be complacent and foolish? If so, how?
 7. On pages 135-137, the authors identify the top five reasons why doing small tasks is so hard, as well as five ways we tend to respond in not-so-rebelutionary ways. Talk about the five reasons and come up with a rebelutionary response to each.
 8. Do you think it's harder to take a stand for what's right around friends who say they are Christians or around friends who don't? What are some of the different challenges in each case?
 9. On pages 176 to 179, Alex and Brett talk about how we need character, competence, and collaboration to truly succeed in our endeavors. Do you agree? Which pillar comes hardest for you, and why?
 10. Which part of this book inspired you the most? Which part made you the most uncomfortable? Explain why.
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Combating the idea of adolescence as a vacation from responsibility, Alex and Brett Harris weave together biblical insights, history, and modern examples to redefine the teen years as the launching pad of life and map a clear trajectory for long-term fulfillment and eternal impact. Written by teens for teens, *Do Hard Things* is packed with humorous personal anecdotes, practical examples, and stories of real-life rebelutionaries in action. This rallying cry from the heart of revolution already in progress challenges you to lay claim to a brighter future, starting today. Featuring a conversation guide, 100 real-life examples of hard things tackled by other young people, and stories of young men and women who have taken the book's charge to heart, *Do Hard Things* will inspire a new generation of rebelutionaries.

