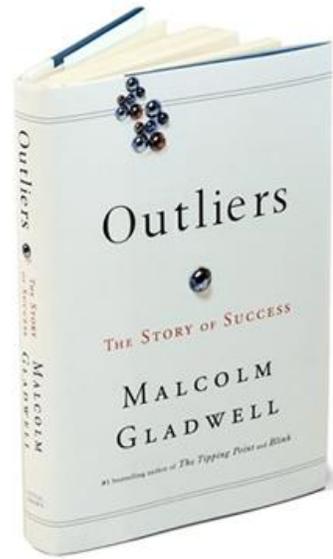


To all incoming Dual-Credit

**1301** students:

I know you probably have your own reading list for the summer, but I need to add one title to it. You need to thoroughly read *Outliers*, by Malcolm Gladwell. You may buy it or order it from any bookstore, but probably the cheapest/easiest way to purchase would be a used book from Amazon or abebooks.com. Currently, the prices range from \$1 to \$9. There is also a Kindle edition for \$11.99, or you can access it through your Audible account.



The book is fewer than 300 pages of easy reading non-fiction. It was #1 on the New York Times bestseller list for 11 straight weeks and has been required freshman reading for many colleges across the country. I hope you will enjoy the read – I promise it is not difficult! While I don't want you to put it off until the last minute, I do want you to be able to discuss the book in an educated manner by the second week of school. If you read it at the first of the summer, you will want to review before coming to class. Attached to this note are the questions that you need to reference and answer as you read. As this class is likely your first college course, you need to be aware of collegiate expectations. No late papers are accepted. Due dates are due dates, even if you are absent from my class that day. If you do not read, or do not obtain a copy of the book in a timely fashion, the questions are still due on the assigned date, and you will still be responsible for the test over the book, which will likely be the day the questions are due.

I am including my email with the caveat that I don't check it very often because I spend the vast majority of the summer camping beyond the range of cell service and internet.

I hope you enjoy a fabulous summer, and I look forward to seeing you in August!

Linda Wensel

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## GUIDED READING QUESTIONS

# *Outliers* by Malcolm Gladwell

As you read, please give real thought to the following questions. You will need to type your answers and turn them in the second week of school, September 11 or 12<sup>th</sup>, depending on your class schedule.

### **Introduction “The Roseto Mystery”:**

1. What is the Roseto Mystery? What overarching idea is Gladwell establishing in his introduction?

### **Chapter One “The Matthew Effect”:**

1. Explain the author’s viewpoint regarding “The Story of Success”. Are personal qualities the sole reason one becomes an outlier?

2. What is the consequence of “prematurely writing people off as failures”?

### **Chapter Two “The 10,000-Hour Rule”:**

3. Explain the 10,000-Hour Rule.

4. Consider the following: “Practice isn’t the thing you do once you’re good. It’s the thing you do that makes you good.” Explain how this philosophy was at work for Bill Joy, The Beatles, and Bill Gates.

### **Chapter Three “The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 1”:**

1. Describe the difference between ‘divergence testing’ and ‘convergence testing’. Is one more significant than the other?

2. Gladwell states that communities and companies in American society “are convinced that those at the very top of the IQ scale have the greatest potential.” After reading the chapter, explain why you either agree or disagree with this statement.

### **Chapter Four “The Trouble with Geniuses, Part 2”:**

1. Compare and contrast Langan and Oppenheimer.

2. What is the difference between “concerted cultivation” and “accomplishment of natural growth”?

### **Chapter Five “The Three Lessons of Joe Flom”:**

1. Explain Gladwell’s statement as it relates to Joe Flom: “Buried in that setback was a golden opportunity.”
2. Consider the following quote: “Hard work is a prison sentence only if it does not have meaning.” Explain how this quote relates to the chapter.

### **Chapter Six “Harlan, Kentucky”:**

1. Describe the “culture of honor” that exists in the Appalachian Mountains.
2. What are the “cultural legacies” as described in this chapter? Why are they significant to understand when dealing with people?

### **Chapter Seven “The Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes”:**

1. Describe the significance of the “willingness to change” as it relates to Korean Air.
2. What is Gladwell explaining about the importance of communication?

### **Chapter Eight “Rice Paddies and Math Tests”:**

1. After reading this section of the book, have your opinions changed about math classes and math ability? Explain why or why not.
2. Describe the connection between the “10,000-Hour Rule” and the wet-rice farmers in Asia.

### **Chapter Nine “Marita’s Bargain”:**

1. Describe the significance of summer vacation as it relates to different groups of students. Why is this significant?
2. Gladwell states “success follows a predictable course.” How does this quote apply to Marita? How does this apply to you?

### **Epilogue “A Jamaican Story”:**

1. What does Gladwell mean when he states, “The outlier in the end is not an outlier at all.”