



### ***Profiles in Courage***

by John F. Kennedy

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John F. Kennedy had long been interested in the topic of political courage, beginning with his senior thesis at Harvard. The thesis, later published as *Why England Slept*, was a study of the failure of British political leaders in the 1930s to oppose popular resistance to rearming, leaving the country ill prepared for World War II. Kennedy's election to the House in 1946 and the Senate in 1952 gave him personal experience in dealing with the conflicting pressures that legislators face. When Kennedy took a leave of absence from the Senate in 1954 to recover from back surgery, it gave him the opportunity to study the topic of political courage. The project resulted in the publication of *Profiles in Courage* [Public Library], which focuses on the careers of eight Senators whom Kennedy felt had shown great courage under enormous pressure from their parties and their constituents. His own battles with physical pain and his experiences in World War II as a PT boat commander also gave him inspiration. *Profiles in Courage*, which Kennedy dedicated to his wife Jacqueline Kennedy, received the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1957. -Amazon review

### **Due Date**

Summer reading assignments will be due on the first day of school in August.

### **Honor Code**

Plagiarized work copied from another student or any other print or electronic source will receive no credit and further disciplinary actions will be taken in accordance with the St. Luke's Episcopal School Honor Code.

Read the work in its entirety and be prepared to discuss the work on the first day of school. Students will use *Profiles in Courage* throughout the entire semester course. An additional assignment will be presented during the first weeks of school. Email Mrs. Banks at [sbanks@stlukesmobile.com](mailto:sbanks@stlukesmobile.com) for any questions regarding the assignment.