Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **Common Reading Project 2014:*****Outliers*** “Marita’s Bargain”**Ideas for Writing** |

1. Could you fulfill the bargain that Marita makes to get a good education? This includes dedicated school and study time in the evenings, weekends, and summers; giving up old friends in favor of new friends with like-minded goals; being self-disciplined; and developing a working relationship with authority. Which parts of this bargain would challenge you most?

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1. Would you *want* to fulfill the bargain that Marita makes to get a good education (if the opportunity arose)? Explain why or why not.

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1. In this concluding chapter, Gladwell summarizes: “Everything we have learned in *Outliers* says that success follows a predictable course. It is not the brightest who succeed. If it were, Chris Langan would be up there with Einstein. Nor is success simply the sum of the decisions and efforts we make on our own behalf. It is, rather, a gift. Outliers are those who have been given opportunities—and who have had the strength and presence of mind to seize them.”

Paraphrase Gladwell’s statement (use, as much as is possible, only your own words) and state why you agree or disagree with this statement.

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4. Gladwell also says, “To build a better world, we need to replace the patchwork of lucky breaks and arbitrary advantages that today determine success — the fortunate birth dates and the happy accidents of history — with a society that provides opportunities for all.” What opportunities have you already been given? How did you make use — or how did you not make use — of them?

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5. What opportunities do you hope to get and how will you prepare for them?

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