What is KSBN?
The K-State Book Network (KSBN) is part of K-State’s first year experience program, K-State First. K-State First was established to help first-year students transition to campus by providing them with the elements necessary to create a solid foundation that will help students be successful in college. These elements are mentoring, small interactive classes, community, and a shared academic experience.

KSBN is a large committee of students, staff, and faculty who select a book that can be read over a summer, that can be used in a variety of different classes, and will provide an interesting topic for conversation.

Why read a common book?
K-Staters wear purple, do “The Wabash,” and read books. This year, we invite the K-State community to read *Spare Parts* by Joshua Davis. A committee of over 50 students, staff, and faculty selected this book because they believe the book will provide a great introduction to the academic culture at K-State.

By participating in this common reading you will
- be introduced to thought-provoking ideas
- participate in engaging discussions
- learn persistence
- build community by interacting with others in activities and discussions built around the book and the issues it raises
- use what was learned from the book in other settings, both in the classroom and more broadly in the university community

How to read a book in a scholarly manner/tips for reading critically
No matter what your skill level, everyone comes across a text that is difficult to read, hard to follow, or just not interesting at least once in their college career. Regardless of the reason, these tips can help you get through the text and retain the information so you can be successful on your next test or essay.

**Environment**
Do you do better reading in a quiet space or a lot of background noise? Take that into consideration when before you pick up your book.

**Read**
Read in manageable sections. Don’t force yourself to plow through the assigned readings all at once if your brain is fighting it.

**Take notes & summarize**
Underline or highlight sections that seem important or spark questions. Break the rules and write in the margins of your book, no one will tell. Write a short summary in your own words of the chapter, section, or paragraph you just read. It will make it much easier to review when it comes time to study for the test.

**Talk about it**
Make a new friend in class and talk to him or her about what you read or explain the text to your roommate. Remember, if you can’t explain what you read simply, you simply do not understand what you read.

**Summary of the Book**
Oscar, Lorenzo, Cristian, and Luis were all born in Mexico but raised in Phoenix, Arizona, where they lived in constant fear of deportation. Their poverty-stricken high school was the last place you’d expect to find kids building an underwater robot, but two big-hearted teachers believed that the four students needed something different in their lives. The underwater robotics championship at the University of California, Santa Barbara was that something. They were up against some of the best student engineers in the country, including a team from MIT, with only $1,000 and scavenged parts. An underdog story of diversity and teamwork, *Spare Parts* shows how four ordinary boys did the extraordinary in their fight for the new American dream.

~~~ RESOURCES ~~~

K-State
  - One Stop Shop
  - Powercat Financial
  - K-State Libraries
  - Center for Advocacy, Response, and Education
  - Career and Employment Services
  - Multicultural Student Organizations
  - HandsOn K-State
  - StrengthsQuest

Other titles of interest
Read-a-likes-
  - *The Underdogs* by Mariano Azuela
  - *Up Where We Belong: Helping African American and Latino Students Rise in School and*
Life by Gail L. Thompson
- *Entrar en la Universidad, Una Guía para el Estudiante Hispano Entrando a la Universidad* (Entering the University, a Guide for the Hispanic Student Entering the University)
- *School Kids/Street Kids: Identity Development in Latino Students* by Nilda Flores-Gonzalez
- *The Student Leadership Challenge: Five Practices for Being an Exemplary Leader* by James Kouzes and Barry Posner
- *Please Stop Laughing at Me: One Woman’s Inspirational Story* by Jodee Blanco
- *Failure is Not An Option: Mission Control From Mercury to Apollo 13 and Beyond* by Gene Kranz
- *The Sky is Not the Limit: Adventures of an Urban Astrophysicist* by Neil deGrasse Tyson
- *Sonic Wind: The Story of John Paul Stapp and How a Renegade Doctor Became the Fastest Man on Earth*
- *Speak* by Louisa Hall
- *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown
- *David and Goliath* by Malcolm Gladwell

**Watch-a-likes-**
- *Stand and Deliver* (1988)
- *Selena* (1997)
- *A Brilliant Young Mind* (2014)
- *No Escape* (2015)
- *Spare Parts* (2015)

**TED Lectures**
- A 12-year-old app developer with Thomas Suarez
- Let’s teach kids to code with Mitch Resnick
- Advice to young scientists with E.O. Wilson
- What a bike ride can teach you with Shimon Schocken
- Life lessons with tinkering with Gever Tulley
- Teach statistics before calculus! with Arthur Benjamin
- Do schools kill creativity? with Ken Robinson
- The unheard story of David and Goliath with Malcolm Gladwell

**Facts, Statistics, and Terms to Know**

**Phoenix and Arizona**
Phoenix was founded in 1868 by former Confederate officer Jack Swilling. Swilling met a Hispanic woman and eloped. Together, they settled on the canal, and began farming sorghum and other crops. In 1870, Anglo immigrants named the streets after US presidents and after Indian
tribes. Because of the difficult pronunciations, the Indian-named streets were renamed to numbers, allowing the Anglo settlers to feel that the land was rightfully theirs.


**Fast Facts**
- Capital of Arizona; located in Maricopa County
- 1.45 million residents, sixth largest city in US
- 65% white, 40.8% Hispanic, 6.5% African-American, 3.2% Asian
- Major league sports teams include Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB), Arizona Coyotes (NHL), Phoenix Suns (NBA), and Arizona Cardinals (NFL)
- Does not observe Daylight Savings Time
- Largest industries present include real estate, financial services, manufacturing, healthcare, and retail
- Home to PetSmart, Honeywell’s aerospace division, U-HAUL, Best Western, and the University of Phoenix
- Arizona was admitted to the US as the 48th state in 1912

**Terms to Know**
- **First Generation Students** - students whose parents have not graduated from college with a baccalaureate degree
- **Immigration** - to come to a country of which one is not a native, usually for permanent residence.
- **Emigration** - to leave one’s country or region to settle in another.
- **Green card** - an official card, originally green, issued by the United States government to foreign nationals permitting them to work in the US.
- **Proposition 200** - passed in 2004 as initiated state statute. Elements of the law were overturned in 2013 by the United States Supreme Court in Arizona v. The Inter Tribal Council of America, Inc. The Supreme Court struck down parts that required proof of citizenship from individuals who use a federal voter registration to vote, and rejected the state’s attempt to require more from voters than what is prescribed by the National Voter Registration Act.
- **Proposition 300** - in the November 2006 election, it was a legislatively referred state statute, and requires verification of immigration status of persons who are applying for state-funded services, and in-state tuition and financial aid for college students.
- **Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act** - American legislative proposal for a multi-phase process for illegal immigrants in the US that would first grant conditional residency and upon meeting further qualifications, permanent residency.

**Compare and Contrast**

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<th>Phoenix</th>
<th>Wichita</th>
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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#### Themes
- EDUCATION
- UNDERDOGS
- ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS
- ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- CREATIVITY
- IMAGINATION

1. Discuss a time when you had to think out of the box in order to achieve a desired solution. What was the situation or task, what actions did you take, and what was the result?
2. “To kids like Cristian and Lorenzo, getting good grades sometimes seemed like the least of their problems.” (pp. 36). What are your anxieties and fears that keep you from your studies? How can you overcome these adversities?
3. Oscar found his niche in the ROTC program at Carl Hayden High School. What programs and activities interest you at K-State and why?
4. What qualities did each student possess that differentiated them from the group, and how did their uniqueness make the group successful?
5. What are your Strengths? How does your Strengths help you work in a team?
6. The book opens with a quote from the competition’s design and building specs, reminding students to pursue an imaginative exploration of the new and the unexpected. What did the Carl Hayden team discover about the importance of imagination and creativity, in engineering and in life?
7. What motivates Fredi Lajvardi and Allan Cameron to dedicate their careers to public school teaching?
8. Fredi and Dr. Cameron were both mentors for the four students. Who are your mentors, and what benefit do they provide?