

Summer Reading Assignment

ELA 8th Grade

The Giver by Lois Lowry

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

As we enter into the 1st nine weeks, it's important that we start the year successfully! Your summer reading assignment is to read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. It is suggested that you start reading early, read and reread (if you don't understand certain parts), and even take notes on things you like or are confused about. After you read the novel, complete all parts of the assignments listed on this letter. Everything should be completed AND brought to school THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. Summer reading work will be taken up and used for grades, classwork, discussions, quizzes, or whatever other assessment your teacher determines is necessary.

Please send Ms. Manning or Mrs. Rich an email if you have any questions, comments, or concerns as you go!

Ms. Manning

Assignment #1-- Journals Entries

Journal your reading experience throughout the novel. Each journal entry to should fully answer the question and should be at least ½ page in length. There must be 6 entries and each entry should be single spaced, Times New Roman 12 font.

1. What tone is set at the opening of the novel? how are the tone (attitude of the narrator) and (underlying feelings) established? In what ways does the opening of the novel inform the reader about the kind of book it is?
2. How does the author develop a picture of the community? Give specific details of the community and how those details help you understand the community as a whole.
3. At the Ceremony, why is the family whose child Caleb drowned given another child with the same name? What does calling the new Caleb “a replacement child” demonstrate about the community?
4. What is significant about each of the five qualities a Receiver must have? Why are those particular qualities important for the job the Receiver does?
5. What are the implications of Jonas;s mother’s explanation that the word “love” is “so meaningless that it has become almost obsolete”? What does this statement reveal about the community?
6. Explain what the Giver and Jonas plan to do near the end of the novel. Why does Jonas have to change the plan? What do you infer are the consequences of the change for the Giver and the community?

Assignment #2-- The Writing Response

Select ONE of the following prompts and write a response. Your response should be at least one page, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 font.

a) “It was one of the rituals, the evening telling of feelings.” What other rituals or rules must Jonas follow before the Ceremony of Twelves? How do these compare with the rules you are expected to follow at home, school, or a place of worship? Which rituals or rules do you think are better? Why?

b) Describe in detail Jonas’s relationships with his friends and family. How does his “selection” change these relationships? If you were friends with Asher and Fiona, how do you think that being a Receiver-in-Training would affect your relationship with them?

c) Jonas lives in a community of Sameness. Describe times in your life when you choose conformity. Why do you make this choice? When do you choose to act independently? If you could choose only one --*conformity* or *individuality*-- which would you choose, and why?