



# Westminster Christian Academy

## 8th Grade Summer Reading

### Foundations of Writing and Literature 8 Honors

As we work together with families to create lifelong learners, Westminster Christian Academy expects that our students will continue reading throughout the summer months. In working towards this goal, over the summer all incoming eighth grade students will be required to **read two books**: one choice book selected from the list below and *The Giver*. Please have a hard copy of *The Giver* for class next year.

#### PART 1: The First Book – Choice Book & Paragraph

**STEP 1**     **READ** a choice book selected from the list provided below. Students should pick a book they have not read before. It is important that students select a book that they will enjoy.

**STEP 2**     **WRITE** (type) a paragraph response to your book following the guidelines explained below.

#### **CHOOSE A PROMPT:**

1. Friendship is not only a great thing to have, but it is also said that friendship is essential for human survival. Who, in your choice novel, is a good friend to one of the main characters of your book? Clearly explain what makes them a good friend.
2. Characters, like real humans, encounter obstacles along their journeys. When people encounter obstacles, there is often a lesson to be learned from that hardship or obstacle. Write about an obstacle that your character faced and explain how that character grew as a result of that obstacle.
3. In life and in literature, objects can hold deeper meanings for people and characters. What is an object that is significant in your choice book that could represent something bigger than itself (it could be a symbol or metaphor for a bigger theme)? Explain the object and its significance.

#### **STRUCTURE YOUR PARAGRAPH:**

**Topic Sentence:** Introduce the topic of your paragraph, and be sure to include the title and the author of the book you are writing about. Make sure your topic sentence makes it clear which prompt you selected.

**Supporting Details:** Use specific examples from the book to back up your thinking.

**Analysis & Reasoning:** Thoroughly explain the examples you provided. Connect them back to your answer for the prompt you selected.

**STEP 3**     **SUBMIT** your paragraph by **FRIDAY, JULY 2**. Do this by emailing a copy of your writing to [summerreading8@wcastl.org](mailto:summerreading8@wcastl.org). You may turn this in as early as you like.

Please email and attach your paragraph as a PDF. If you haven't submitted your response by July 2, your parent(s) will receive an email reminding you to finish reading your book and submit your paragraph as soon as possible.

BOOK AUTHOR	CHOICE BOOK TITLES
Rowling, J.K.	Any book from the <i>Harry Potter</i> series
Collins, Suzanne	Any book from <i>The Hunger Games</i> series
Dashner, James	Any book from <i>The Maze Runner</i> series
Riordan, Rick	Any book from the <i>Percy Jackson</i> series
Tolkien, J.R.R.	Any book from <i>The Hobbit</i> or <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> series
Zusak, Markus	<i>The Book Thief</i>
L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>
Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie	<i>The Compound</i>
Gratz, Alan	<i>Prisoner B-3087</i> or <i>Refugee</i>
Verne, Jules	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i> or <i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
Defoe, Daniel	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>

## PART 2: The Second Book – *The Giver* & Paragraph

**STEP 1**     **READ** *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. We will begin the school year discussing this book, so make sure you have a paper copy and bring it with you when we return to school in August. You are not required to annotate as you read, but you are encouraged to do so.

**STEP 2**     **WRITE** (type) a paragraph response to your book following the guidelines explained below.

### CHOOSE A PROMPT:

1. In your opinion, what is Jonas's turning point in the novel? What causes him to stray from the community's expectations of him? Explain.
2. What does freedom mean to Jonas? How do the memories he is presented with impact his understanding of freedom? Explain.
3. Despite the community's emphasis on precise language, language is often used as a tool for social control in *The Giver*. Explain how the community's use of the word "release" distorts or conceals the actual meaning of that word and describe how that word affects the behavior and attitudes of the people in the community.

### **STRUCTURE YOUR PARAGRAPH:**

**Topic Sentence:** Introduce the topic of your paragraph, and be sure to include the title and the author of the book you are writing about. Make sure your topic sentence makes it clear which prompt you selected.

**Supporting Details:** Use specific examples from the book to back up your thinking.

**Analysis & Reasoning:** Thoroughly explain the examples you provide. Connect them back to your answer for the prompt you selected.

\*\*Do your best to type up this paragraph using **MLA formatting**.

**STEP 3**      **SUBMIT** your paragraph to [summerreading8@wcastl.org](mailto:summerreading8@wcastl.org) by **FRIDAY, August 13**.

It is preferable for you to email your paragraph as a PDF. If you haven't submitted your book review by August 13, your parent(s) will receive an email reminding you to finish reading this book and to submit your paragraph as soon as possible.

### **RUBRIC & GRADING – The following rubric applies to both writing pieces.**

#### **Summer Reading Paragraph Rubric – 15 points total**

##### **Topic Sentence: 3 points possible**

The paragraph has a clear structure and position. The topic sentence includes the book title and author and clearly presents the selected prompt succinctly.

##### **Supporting Details: 4 points possible**

The writer references specific, vivid events that display their position on the prompt they have chosen.

##### **Analysis & Reasoning: 4 points possible**

The writer fully explains the support that they provide and shows how that support proves their thinking as it relates to their perspective on the chosen prompt. The writing and thinking clearly display that the writer read and understood the novel.

##### **Grammar & Writing Style: 3 points possible**

The writer pays careful attention to grade-level appropriate grammatical standards: spelling, capitalization, use of complete sentences (no fragments, run ons, or comma splices), subject-verb agreement, and correct word usage.

### **LATE PENALTY**

Remember, your **first written response** about the choice book must be received via email by **Friday, July 2** in order to avoid a late grade penalty. **Your second written response** about *The Giver* is due by **Friday, August 13**. Students will receive a one-point grade deduction per day that the written assignment is late (up to a 50% total reduction). This will be reflected and noted in the first quarter grade.