



Westminster Christian Academy

8th Grade Summer Reading

Writing Skills

THE GOAL

We want our students to develop a love for reading—to see it as a relaxing pastime, a means to grow in understanding and empathy, an opportunity to see Truth in new places, and a time to let their imaginations soar.

OVERVIEW

With that hope, students will read and enjoy **two** books this summer (before the first day of school).

1. The first book is ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry. After reading this book, students will write a paragraph essay using the outline below as a guide. **The essay is due July 2.**
2. The second book is a **Choice Book** from a short list of books (found on page 4). The book and the Google form must be finished by the **first day of school**. See page 4 for details.

BOOK & ASSIGNMENT #1: *THE GIVER*

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read all of the directions before beginning this assignment.
2. Read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry between June 1 and June 25.
 - o It is 225 pages long, so you can follow the plan below (only 9 pages per day!) or make your own reading schedule for the month.
 - o If you would like, you can listen to the audiobook as you read. YouTube is a great resource for free audiobooks.

MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
	JUNE 1 Chapter 1	2 Chapter 2	3 Chapter 3	4 Chapter 4	5 Chapter 5	6 Catch Up Day!
7 Chapter 6	8 Chapter 7	9 Chapter 8	10 Chapter 9	11 Chapter 10	12 Chapter 11	13 Catch Up Day!
14 Chapter 12	15 Chapter 13	16 Chapter 14	17 Chapter 15	18 Chapter 16	19 Chapter 17	20 Catch Up Day!
21 Chapter 18	22 Chapter 19	23 Chapter 20	24 Chapter 21	25 Chapter 22	26 Catch Up Day!	27 Catch Up Day!
28 Outline	29 Outline	30 Type Up Paragraph	JULY 1 Edit Paragraph	2 Email paragraph	REMEMBER! You need to read a choice book by first day of school. Look at page 3.	

- Once you are finished reading *The Giver*, answer this question:
HOW DOES JONAS CHANGE OVER THE COURSE OF THE STORY? Use the fill-in-the-blank outline on page 2 to guide your response.
- Type up the outline in a Google Doc or Pages. Once you are done, email it. Follow directions on page 3.

THE GIVER OUTLINE

REMINDER: An outline is a tool to help you prepare to write a paragraph. You are going to fill in the blanks to the best of your ability. Once it is done, turn it into paragraph format and email it.

PROMPT: How does Jonas change over the course of the story?

PREPARATION: Think of a character trait that Jonas has at the beginning of the book (innocent, immature, wants to belong, calm, etc.) and then think of a character trait that is new to Jonas by the end of the book (wise, mature, independent, angry, etc). Choose one trait from the beginning of the book and one trait from the end of the book for your essay.

OUTLINE: On a separate piece of paper/document, write your outline using the fill in the blank column below. Yes! You can use my exact words. You just need to fill in the blanks with your opinions. See the next page for your last set of instructions.

PARTS OF A PARAGRAPH	FILL IN THE BLANK
TOPIC SENTENCE: The first sentence of the paragraph that introduces the main idea of the paragraph.	In <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry, Jonas, the main character, changes a lot.
CLAIM: The claim highlights your specific opinion about the main idea.	It is clear that Jonas changes a lot through the book because at the beginning of the book Jonas is <u>trait from beginning</u> and at the end of the book Jonas is <u>trait from end</u> .
SUPPORT: Support must be introduced. Support is the PROOF that your opinion is the right one.	At the beginning of the book, Jonas shows the trait of being <u>trait from beginning</u> when the book says, “ <u>find example of trait</u> ” (<u>page</u>).
ANALYSIS: You have to connect the support to the main idea of the paragraph.	This proves that at the beginning of the book Jonas is <u>trait from beginning</u> because <u>explain how the quote shows trait</u> .
SUPPORT: Support must be introduced. Support is the PROOF that your opinion is the right one.	Over the course of the book, Jonas changes a lot and by the end of the book, Jonas no longer shows the trait of <u>trait from beginning</u> and is now <u>trait from end</u> . Jonas shows this trait when the book says, “ <u>find example of trait</u> ” (<u>page</u>).
ANALYSIS: You have to connect the support to the main	This proves that at the end of the book Jonas is <u>trait</u>

idea of the paragraph.	from end because explain how the quote shows trait .
CLINCHER: Wrap up your paragraph by restating the main idea.	Overall, Jonas shows a lot of change in <i>The Giver</i> .

THE GIVER PARAGRAPH

REMINDER: You have an outline done. USE IT! Do not write something totally new.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Read all of the directions before beginning.
2. Create a new Google Document or Pages Document.
3. Write your name at the top.
4. Title your paragraph: The Giver Paragraph
5. Indent your first line (press tab)
6. Type up your paragraph using your outline. Each sentence should come right after each other (do not press enter for each section). It should look like a lovely paragraph. Make sure you copy the **punctuation marks** as well.
7. Double check your work.
8. Email it using the directions below.

THE GIVER PARAGRAPH SUBMISSION

WHEN IS MY PARAGRAPH DUE? Your paragraph is due by **July 2**.

HOW DO I SUBMIT IT? Emailing your paragraph as a **PDF** to **summerreading8@wcastl.org**. You should make the subject your first and last name - The Giver Paragraph (example: Nick Hook - The Giver Paragraph)

HOW DO I MAKE MY ASSIGNMENT A PDF? There are tutorials on YouTube about how to turn a Google Doc or a Pages Document into a PDF. Use your resources if you cannot remember how to complete this task.

WHAT IF I FORGET? If you haven't submitted your book review by July 2, your parents will receive an email reminding you to finish *The Giver* and to submit your paragraph as soon as possible.

WHAT HAPPENS IF IT IS LATE? Students will receive a one-point grade reduction per day that the written assignment is late (up to a 50% total reduction). This will be reflected in the first quarter grade.

HOW DO I KNOW IF YOU GOT MY ESSAY? You will know your essay was received because you will get an automatically generated email response after submission.

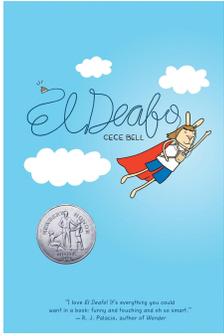
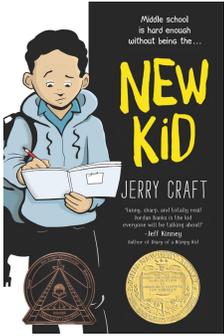
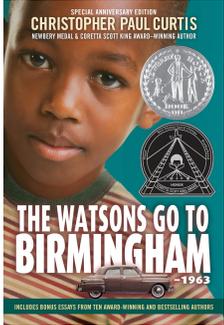
DO NOT FORGET YOU HAVE A SECOND TASK!

Go to the next page for more information.

BOOK & ASSIGNMENT #2: CHOICE BOOK

ASSIGNMENT DETAILS: You will choose **one** choice book off the list below, read it, answer the questions on this Google form (<https://bit.ly/2Qt2XNo>), and get ready to discuss your book during the first week of school.

DUE DATE: BOOK AND GOOGLE FORM DUE BY THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

Author	Title	Short Description	Read This Book if You Like:
Cece Bell	<p>El Deafo</p> 	<p>Starting at a new school is scary, especially with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here, she's different. She's sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories about someone overcoming a challenge • Characters that are really likable • Stories based on true events • Stories with a character who has a disability
Jerry Craft	<p>New Kid</p> 	<p>Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories about someone not really belonging • Stories about being new to a school • Stories about feeling a bit awkward/ out of place • Characters that are really likable • Stories that feel like real life
Christopher Paul Curtis	<p>The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963</p> 	<p>When the Watson family –ten-year-old Kenny, Momma, Dad, little sister Joetta, and brother Byron— sets out on a trip south to visit Grandma in Birmingham, Alabama, they don't realize that they're heading toward one of the darkest moments in America's history. The Watsons' journey reminds us that even in the hardest times, laughter and family can help us get through anything.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories about a family • Stories based on true events • Characters that are really likable • Stories set in the past (this one is set in 1963) • Stories that feel like real life • Stories that are a little bit sad