



# Westminster Christian Academy

## 8th Grade Summer Reading

### Foundations of Writing and Literature 8

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 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
L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>
Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie	<i>The Compound</i>
Gratz, Alan	<i>Prisoner B-3087</i>
Gratz, Alan	<i>Refugee</i>

## RUBRIC & GRADING – 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.

Remember, your written response must be received via email by **Friday, July 2** in order to avoid a late grade penalty. 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.

## PART 2: The Second Book – *The Giver* & Google Form

**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**      **RESPOND.** Fill out the [Google form \(https://bit.ly/3d39Dtj\)](https://bit.ly/3d39Dtj) when you are finished reading the book. Make sure to do this by **Friday, August 13.**

\*\*When filling out this form, you may use your book. You may **not** complete this form with the help of a friend, parent, or other person. Your answers should reflect your own thinking and knowledge.

### **SUMMER READING GOOGLE FORM RESPONSE – 5 points total**

Students should complete this form to the best of their ability, following all instructions and answering each question as directed in the form. Students will be held accountable for incorrect answers on multiple choice options, and students will be expected to provide accurate and thoughtful responses to open-ended questions.

Your Google form response is due by **Friday, August 13.** You should receive confirmation that your form was properly submitted upon completion. 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.