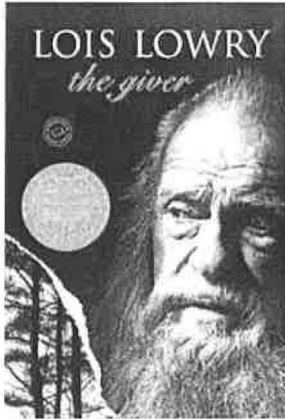


# Middle School Summer Reading Packet

## Grade 8

Throughout your summer vacation, you will need to read one of the following books and complete the attached assignments. This summer work will be due in your Language Arts class on the first day of class. **Please read the following for your summer reading assignment:**



### The Giver

By Lois Lowery

Jonas' world is perfect. Everything is under control. There is no war or fear or pain. There are no choices. Every person is assigned a role in the Community. When Jonas turns twelve, he is singled out to receive special training from The Giver. The Giver alone holds the memories of the true pain and pleasure of life. Now, it is time for Jonas to receive the truth. There is no turning back.

Summary from [www.goodread.com](http://www.goodread.com)

#### Summary of Reading Assignments:

- Activity 1: The Concept of Heroism *Defining Heroism*
- Activity 2: Challenges and Character Traits *Maintaining a Dialectical Journal*
- Activity 3: Is the Protagonist a Hero? *Paragraph Reflecting on the Definition of a Hero*

## Grade 8 Accelerated Summer Assignment

### Activity 1 The Concept of Heroism

#### *Defining Heroism*

**Student Target:** To reflect on statements about heroes and create a definition of heroism

**Instructions:** At the beginning of the school year, you will explore the concept of heroism. Read the following statements. Mark down whether you agree or not with the statement. Go with your first thought.

	Agree/Disagree
1. All heroes are brave.	_____
2. Heroes are created by the events around them.	_____
3. You cannot fail and still be considered a hero.	_____
4. You must decide to be a hero.	_____
5. If you perform a heroic deed, then you are a hero.	_____
6. A hero overcomes physical challenges.	_____
7. To be a true hero, a person would have to risk his or her life.	_____
8. Heroes deserve fame and fortune.	_____

1. How do you define a hero? When you hear the word "heroes," what images and thoughts come to your mind?

2. Name at least three of your heroes. They can be fictional or nonfictional. They can be someone from real life such as a well-known historical figure, or a character from a book, movie or TV show. Write down at least three reasons why you consider these people heroes.

Hero #1 -

Hero #2 -

Hero #3 -

## Grade 8 Summer Assignment

### Activity 2 Challenges and Character Traits

#### *Maintaining a Dialectical Journal*

**Student Target:** To critically read a text for the specific purpose and to respond to a specific passage with comments, questions, or insights to foster active involvement with a text.

**Instructions:** Review the following working definitions of challenges and character traits. Maintain a Dialectical Journal while you read your selected novel. Have a minimum of twenty journal entries.

#### Sample Character Traits:

able active	courageous	gentle	mean	sharp
adventurous	cowardly	giving	messy	short
affectionate	cross	glamorous	miserable	shy
afraid	cruel	gloomy	mysterious	silly
alert	curious	good	naughty	skillful
ambitious	dangerous	graceful	nervous	sly
angry	daring	grateful	nice	smart
annoyed	dark decisive	greedy	noisy	sneaky
anxious	demanding	grouchy	obedient	sorry
apologetic	dependable	grumpy	obnoxious	spoiled
arrogant	depressed	guilty	old	stingy
attentive	determined	happy	peaceful	strange
average	discouraged	harsh	picky	strict
bad	dishonest	hateful	pleasant	stubborn
blue	disrespectful	healthy	polite	sweet
bold	doubtful	helpful	poor	talented
bored	dull	honest	popular	tall
bossy	dutiful	hopeful	positive	thankful
brainy	eager	hopeless	precise	thoughtful
brave	easygoing	humorous	proper	thoughtless
bright	efficient	ignorant	proud	tired
brilliant	embarrassed	imaginative	quick	tolerant
busy	encouraging	impatient	quiet	touchy
calm	energetic	impolite	rational	trusting
careful	evil	inconsiderate	reliable	trustworthy
careless	excited	independent	religious	unfriendly
cautious	expert	industrious	responsible	unhappy
charming	fair	innocent	restless	upset
cheerful	faithful	intelligent	rich	useful
childish	fearless	jealous	rough	warm
clever	fierce	kindly	rowdy	weak
clumsy	foolish	lazy	rude	wicked
coarse	fortunate	leader	sad	wise
concerned	foul	lively	safe	worried
confident	fresh	lonely	satisfied	wrong
confused	friendly	loving	scared	
considerate	frustrated	loyal	secretive	
cooperative	funny	lucky	selfish	
		mature	serious	

List from NCTE.org

Dialectical Journal

Student Sample

Book Title:

Character:

Text (page #).	Character Trait	Insight/Reaction/Question/Interpretation
<p>Cite specific examples of challenges faced by a variety of characters. Include page numbers.</p>		<p>Explain how the quote demonstrates the character traits. What does it establish about the character?</p>
<p>"I wanted to follow her down into the darkness. I wanted to see the court of Poseidon. But I looked up at the sunset darkening on the surface. My friends were waiting. We had so little time...I kicked upward toward the shore." (275).</p>	<p>Dependable</p>	<p>Percy is clearly being tempted by the possibly once in a lifetime chance to see Poseidon's kingdom. Most kids would go and take a quick peek. Unlike most kids, Percy's friend can count on him to remember that they had things to do and they needed him to return.</p>

## **Grade 8 Summer Assignment**

### **Activity 3 Is the Protagonist a Hero?**

*Reflecting on the definition of a hero*

**Student Target:** In a paragraph reflect on your definition of a hero and decide if the protagonist of your book is a hero.

**Instructions:** Review your Dialectical Journal and character traits activity. Based on your work and the reading, do you think that your protagonist is a hero? Did he/she exhibit the qualities of a hero? What challenge(s) defined his/her character? Begin your response with a strong topic sentence that states your answer to the prompt. Then, support your topic sentence with evidence from the text and thoughtful commentary.

## **Grade 8 Summer Assignment**

### **Activity 4 A Personal Challenge**

*Reflecting on a Personal Challenge in a Narrative Response*

**Student Target:** To reflect on a personal challenge in a narrative response.

**Instructions:** In a multi-paragraph essay, describe a time in your life when you faced a significant challenge and include some reflection about which trait(s) within yourself made it possible for you to overcome your challenge.

Brainstorm challenges:

Identify personal traits:

Explain how you overcame the challenge(s):