

Directions

1. Divide the novel into four sections. As you read each section, answer a question from that section. You should be writing in your journals AS YOU READ.
2. Your report must be typed and printed before coming to class on September 7. You can find computers at the public library if you need one.
3. The journal entries must be in 12-point font (Arial or Times New Roman only).
4. At the top of your document, include the title of the novel, author and the year this novel was first published. Entries should begin with the question number and pages of the section. (The entries can continue on the same page.) Your document should be no more than two pages typed.
5. You will be writing **four (4)** journal entries for the novel that you read. Every answer must be a paragraph of 5-8 sentences. Remember every paragraph needs to include a topic sentence, details from the novel (at least 2), and a closing sentence.

Proofreading Tips

- The title of a novel is always *italicized*.
- Double-check the spelling of the author's name, characters' names, and settings.
- Don't rely on spell-check to catch all of your mistakes! Print and proofread!
- And of course, check punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure!

SAMPLE REPORT

Name
The Giver by Lois Lowry } *heading*
Published: 1993

Section 1, Question 2, Pages 1-43

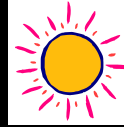
The setting of this story creates some very strange situations for the main characters. The author says, "How could someone not fit in? The community was so meticulously ordered, the choices so carefully made." (chapter 6) This quote relates to the setting because it describes the way people live in this town. To me, this seems to be a great community because everyone has a job and a place in society. Usually when people have a special role, they feel important and are happier. Lois Lowry makes the community seem almost too good to be true. Because things aren't always what they appear, I predict that this "order" will actually make people unhappy and maybe they will revolt against the leaders.

Section 2, Question 2, pages 44-83

The quote that best represents this section is...



Have a great summer!



**8th Grade
Summer Reading
Assignment**



Inside this brochure:

- *A note from your teachers*
- *Directions for the assignment*
- *Ideas for choosing a novel*
- *Questions to be answered*
- *A sample entry*
- *Proofreading Tips*

Due:

Wednesday, September 7

A note from your teachers



In order to prepare for a successful eighth grade year, incoming students will be required to read one fiction novel over the summer. We believe that the freedom to choose your own novel means that you can choose a topic that interests you. The book should be appropriate for your age and grade and should also challenge you as a reader.

While reading a novel of your choice, you will be required to respond to four questions in the form of journal entries. The questions come from four different categories.

Reading should be fun and relaxing, so enjoy your summer and HAPPY READING!

Looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Language Arts and Literature teachers

How do I choose a novel?

There are a number of resources available for choosing the perfect summer reading novel. Here are some websites to visit for recommendations. These websites offer lists of popular novels arranged by topic, genre and age.

- **NY Times Best Sellers List** Check out current and popular novels.

<http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers-books/>

- **American Library Association (YALSA) “Book Awards and Booklists”**

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/yalsa.cfm>

- **Scholastic** This is an interactive tool that generates a list of books based on your interests and reading level (7.0-9.0).

[http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/](http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/viewCustomSearchForm.do#top_of_page)

[viewCustomSearchForm.do#top_of_page](http://bookwizard.scholastic.com/tbw/viewCustomSearchForm.do#top_of_page)

- **Borders.com** Keep in mind, these reviews are not always edited before being posted. The categories on the left allow you to narrow your search by topic.
- **Word of Mouth** Ask friends and family for suggestions of books they enjoyed.

PARENTS, please approve your child’s choice of a summer reading novel by signing the bottom of the assignment before it is turned in.



Section 1:

1. Who are the main characters? Who do you relate to and why? Or if you don’t relate to a character, choose who you are most UNLIKE and explain why?
2. What is the book’s setting? How does the author describe the setting? How do you predict the setting will impact the story? Cite examples that support your prediction.

Section 2:

1. What is the main conflict in the novel? Identify the type of conflict, who/what is involved, and a prediction of the outcome. If you were the main character, how would you solve the problem?
2. Select a quote from this section that best represents the events in this part of your novel. Explain your choice.

Section 3:

1. Identify the climax, or turning point, of the novel. How does the author create suspense leading up to this point? What happens/will happen to the character(s) next?
2. The use of figurative language is part of an author’s personal style. How does this author use figurative language? Identify two examples and explain what they mean.

Section 4:

1. What lesson does the author want the reader to learn after reading this novel? How do you know?
2. The title of a novel is carefully chosen to embody a theme, character, or event in the book. How does the title represent the novel? If you had to change it, what would you use and why?
3. Imagine you are the main character. Choose one major incident and explain what you would do differently in the situation.