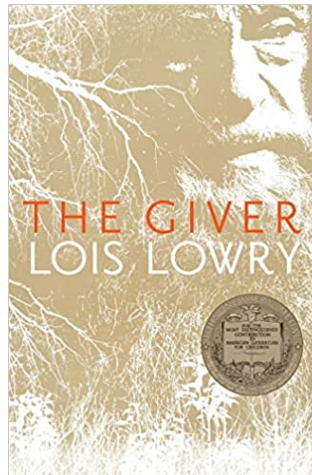


All Rising 8th Graders:

Assignment #1, Read: Your novel is to be turned in to Mrs. Arocho on the first day of school, which may not be the first day of class.

It was with thoughtful consideration that students will read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry for their summer reading assignments. One of the major themes we will be looking at in 8th grade is how, through literature, we can develop an understanding of the world around us and how individuals can help make a difference. For example, if one lived in Jonas's community (the protagonist in *The Giver*), one wouldn't have to endure much suffering since the elders have found a way to eliminate almost all forms of pain. But does the elimination of pain equal a happy life? Through the lens of the Catholic church, we will attempt to answer that question and others.



Assignment #2, Annotate and Summarize Chapters:

Annotating is a way for students to connect with the book they are reading. Close reading allows students to understand the text more deeply and helps them remember information. Read with a yellow highlighter and pencil in hand. Try to read 20-25 pages in a sitting, as this will be comparable to their homework assignments in the coming year. The annotations will look similar to how they annotated *A Long Walk to Water* and *Okay for Now*, at least TWO annotations per page and summarizing each chapter with 4-5 bullet points. This can be done either

in the book or on Post-Its. These need to be complete and thoughtful. (Writing Grade in English - 100 pts)

What to annotate:

- Text connections (self, world, text, etc), unknown words, interesting points, potential themes, figurative language, questions they may have, comments regarding text, etc.
- When returning to school, students will write a thesis/evidence/commentary writing-based essay on the summer reading. In particular, we will be looking at themes about humanity, courage, and authentic community, as well as theological themes such as God, free will, humanity, personhood, redemption, and willingness to sacrifice for others. Try to find some of the listed themes while reading.

Assignment #3 Test: Reading

Upon returning to your Reading 8 class in August, students will take a multiple-choice test on the novel. It will consist of approximately 50 questions (character, plot, and theme-based questions). (Test Grade in Reading 8 - 100 pts)

Assignment #4 Alternate Book Cover

You will create an alternate book cover on a half sheet of computer paper. Be sure to include all the details (title, author's name, and a poignant quote from the novel) that should appear on the cover. The art, color choices, and details should all have a meaning. This should be hand-drawn with color. Be sure to put your name on the back of the cover. (Project Grade in English - 25 pts)