**Middle School Summer Reading Packet**

**Grade 8- Accelerated ELA**

Throughout your summer vacation, you will need to read the following book and complete the attached assignments. This summer work will be due in your ELA class on the first day of class.

Please read the following for your summer reading assignment.



**The Giver**

By, Lois Lowry

*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 goodread.com

Summary of Assignments:

* Activity 1: The Concept of Heroism- Defining Heroism
* Activity 2: Challenges and Character Traits in The Giver- Maintaining a Dialectical Journal
* Activity 3: Is the Protagonist a Hero? Essay

**Activity 1: The Concept of Heroism- Defining Heroism**

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

**Instructions:** Read the following statements. Mark down whether you agree or not with the statement.

 Agree/ Disagree

1. All heroes are brave. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Heroes are created by the events around them. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. You can 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. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. How do you define a hero? When you hear the word “heroes” what images and thoughts come to your mind?
10. Name as least 3 of your heroes. They can be fictional or non-fictional. 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 two reasons why you consider these people heroes.

Hero 1-

Hero 2-

Hero 3-

**Activity 2- Challenges and Character Traits in The Giver- 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 list of character traits. Maintain a Dialectical Journal while you read The Giver. (see example on the next page) **Have a minimum of twenty journal entries**. You may type or handwrite your journal, then staple to this packet.

*Sample Character Traits:*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ableactiveadventurousaffectionateafraidalertambitiousangryannoyedanxiousapologeticarrogantattentiveaveragebadblueboldboredbossybrainybravebrightbrilliantbusycalmcarefulcareless | cautiouscharmingcheerfulchildishcleverclumsycoarseconcernedconfidentconfusedconsideratecooperativecourageouscowardlycrosscruelcuriousdangerousdaringdarkdecisivedemandingdependabledepresseddetermineddiscourageddishonest | disrespectfuldoubtfuldulldutifuleagereasygoingefficientembarrassedencouragingenergeticevilexcitedexpertfairfaithfulfearlessfiercefoolishfortunatefoulfreshfriendlyfrustratedfunnygentlegivingglamorous | gloomygoodgracefulgratefulgreedygrouchygrumpyguiltyhappyharshhatefulhealthyhelpfulhonesthopefulhopelesshumorousignorantimaginativeimpatientimpoliteinconsiderateindependentindustriousinnocentintelligentjealous | kindlylazyleaderlivelylonelylovingloyalluckymaturemeanmessymiserablemysteriousnaughtynervousnicenoisyobedientobnoxiousoldpeacefulpickypleasantpolitepoorpopularpositive | preciseproperproudquickrationalreliablereligiousresponsiblerestlessrichroughrowdyrudesadsafesatisfiedscaredsecretiveselfishserioussharpshortshysillyskillfulslysmart | sneakysorryspoiledstingystrangestrictstubbornsweettalentedthankfulthoughtfulthoughtlesstiredtoleranttouchytrustingtrustworthyunfriendlyunhappyupsetusefulwarmweakwickedwiseworriedwrong |

**Dialectical Journal- example**

Minimum 20 entries required.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Text (page #)** | **Character Trait** | **Insight/ Reaction/ Question/ Interpretation** |
| Cite specific examples of challenges faced by a variety of characters. Include the page number. |  | Explain how the quote demonstrates the character traits. What does it establish about the character? |
| “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” (273). | Dependable | Percy is clearly being tempted by the possibly once in a lifetime chance to see Poseidon’s kingdom. Most kids would go take a quick peek. Unlike most kids, Percy’s friends can count on him to remember that they had things to do and they needed him to return.  |
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**Activity 3- Is the Protagonist a Hero? Essay**

*Student Target: In an essay, reflect on your definition of a hero and decide if Jonas in The Giver is a hero.*

**Prompt:** Based on your reading and journal, do you think Jonas is a hero? Did he exhibit the qualities of a hero? What challenges defined his character? What do you think happens at the end of the book… does this support your argument?

**Instructions:** In a multi-paragraph essay, respond to this prompt. Use evidence from the book. Brainstorm on this page and then type or write your essay on an additional page(s). Staple your essay to this packet.