



Dear Upcoming Eighth Grader,

Summer is the time for relaxing with a great novel! This year, you will have two wonderful ones to peruse and explore. Please be prepared on the third day of school with your sheets for the appointed novel.

Lois Lowry has written a quartet of books that deal with dystopian society. I would like you to read the *The Giver*. Then please pick **one** additional book from the four, either *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, or *Son*. Be ready to talk and write about that other book. There is a worksheet for you to fill out on ***The Giver* only**. Please make sure you finish them and bring it with you on the third day of school. Your homeroom teacher will be collecting them. It will be your first assignment grade for the school year.

In the meantime, relax and rest! It will be an exciting year for you at Saint Vincent Martyr School.

Very best,

Michelle Flanagan
Literature teacher

Name:

Class:

Summer Reading Novel Organizer

Directions: Please complete this organizer as part of your summer reading assignment. Bring your complete organizer and notes to class during the first week of school to be checked, reviewed, and used to complete a related assignment. Feel free to attach additional pages if you wish.

Title:

Author:

First Year Published:

Narrator

*The narrator is the voice telling the story. It can be 1st person (I, me, we) or 3rd person (they, them, he/she). An **Omniscient** narrator knows everything, whereas a **Limited** narrator only knows so much. What kind of narrator tells the story in the novel you're reading? What is his/her point of view?*

Tone

Tone is the opinion of the narrator as they tell the story. Readers get a sense of the narrator's tone from the word choice and observations the narrator makes as the story progresses. What tone does the narrator use over the course of this novel? Does tone ever change?

Mood

Mood is the intended feeling the reader gets as he/she reads the text. Is the story suspenseful? Sad? Exciting? What is the mood you feel as you read this novel, and what events/images in the story are causing that feeling? Where are there significant shifts in mood?

Setting

Setting is the time and place where the action of a novel occurs. Very often, this information will be important to the meaning of the work. Where does your novel take place? What settings seem significant?

Name:

Class:

Major Characters/ Characterization

*Characterization is how important characters are developed in a story. **Direct Characterization** refers to the specific comments the narrator makes about a character, while **Indirect Characterization** refers to what we observe and conclude as readers. Who are the important characters in this novel? How are they characterized? (Physically, Directly/Indirectly)*

Conflicts

*Conflicts can be **Internal** (inside a character- usually involving a decision) or **External** (with another character, nature, a supernatural force, etc.) What are the important conflicts in your work? Where do they take place, and how are they resolved?*

Major Plot Events

List the significant events of the novel in the space below. Your list should include 10-15 moments. The best way to complete these notes is to jot down important events as you're reading on a separate sheet of paper.

Themes

Themes are the larger ideas the author wishes us to consider as we read his/her novel. Some examples: the cost of love, obligation to family, civilization vs. savagery, sacrifice, etc. What are the larger ideas the author is asking you to consider through the events and characters in your novel?