

Summer Reading – Pioneer Valley Christian School 2009

Entering Grade/Course: Grade 8/Literature

Book/Author: *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry and *Messenger* by Lois Lowry

Required to purchase? No, but it is recommended. It is always helpful for students to be able to make notes in the books they are reading. Students must have the books in class for the first three weeks of school. Both books are available at local bookstores.

Requirement(s)

Lois Lowry wrote these books as companions to her earlier novel, *The Giver*. In an interview she said that both worlds could exist at the same time. Each community has its own culture, its own focus, its own underlying motivation for why things are done. Each is different, yet there are similarities as well. As you read, think carefully about the societies/cultures of each community. You will be writing a comparison/contrast essay showing similarities and differences between the communities in the three books. Look for AND TAKE NOTES ON the following areas of comparison and contrast:

1. Read each book in its entirety.
2. **Take notes in your journal** on the “worlds” found in each book:
 - a. Physical surroundings, setting, geography
 - b. Homes and other buildings
 - c. Relationships - families, friends, authorities, etc.
 - d. The way different groups of people are treated and why
 - e. How people live; wealth/poverty
 - f. Government or lack of it - who or what runs things and how
 - g. Religion, if any
 - h. Superstitions, beliefs, etc.
 - i. Clothing, other possessions
 - j. Jobs; how people’s needs are met

Evaluation

Summer reading work will count as a test grade in Literature. The essay will count as a writing grade in English as well.

The points will be accounted for as follows:

1. Journal notes count for 20 points. *Collected first day of school.*
2. Test on plot, characters, and setting: 40 points. *Given on second day of school.*
3. Essay comparing and contrasting the three worlds: 40 points. *Written in class on third or fourth day of school.*

Late enrollees (those with admissions meetings after Wednesday, August 12, 2009):

Gathering Blue (not *Messenger*) must be read in order to be prepared for first quarter material and must be completed by the second week of school. You do not have to complete the journal or take the test; however, you will write an essay.