



7th grade Core Summer Reading 2024-2025

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Middle School Core Program! Core is an interdisciplinary study, using primary and secondary historical sources, as well as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. The Core curriculum fosters skills that prepare students for a college prep upper school curriculum by encouraging students to think, question, learn, and make decisions based on Jewish and American values.

Please find instructions below for the summer reading assignment. We hope you and your family have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing our middle schoolers after summer break!

Sincerely,

The Core Department

Summer Reading Instructions:

Welcome to seventh grade at Barrack Hebrew Academy! This year, your Core curriculum will build on your sixth-grade exploration of ancient civilizations and their establishment of governments and laws. You will be reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry this summer.

The Giver by Lois Lowry

For this assignment, “active reading” means:

- Highlight passages that relate to the questions below.
- Jot a few words in the book’s margins indicating the question to which information on the page relates. You can also jot notes on Post-it notes that you adhere to pages.

Guideline for Question Responses for *The Giver* and for our One Book, One Barrack selection

1. Be sure your responses are in complete sentences.
2. Include quotations and page references from the book to support each of your responses.
3. The length of your responses, for both books should be two pages, 12 size font and double-spaced.
4. This written work is due during the first week of Core class in September.
5. Please bring your marked-up copy of *The Giver* to class on the first day of school.

6. Your paper must have a proper heading:

In the **upper left hand corner**

Your Name

Class(Core 7)

Date

Questions for *The Giver*:

1. Why did the founders of this society assign roles rather than letting people choose their own roles?
2. What is the function of “the Giver”? What types of memories does he store? According to the Founders, how might the Giver help others in the community to feel content?
3. What choice does Jonas make towards the end of the novel? Why? Do you think it is wise or not? Explain your answer.

Please think about the following question for an in-class writing assignment:

4. What event in the novel stood out to you the most? Describe this scene and explain why it had an impact on you.

Happy reading! We are looking forward to discussing your thoughtful responses in September. Enjoy your summer vacation!