

Summer Reading Assignment: The Maze Runner by James Dashner

9th Grade Literature and Composition 1

Assignment Overview

Students will read *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner and complete a comprehensive analysis focusing on reading comprehension and narrative techniques. This assignment prepares students for deeper literary analysis in Literature and Composition 1. This resource is available at your local library or as an affordable used copy on Amazon (\$2+).

Reading Comprehension

1. What is Thomas's situation when he arrives in the Glade?
2. What is his emotional state?
3. Who are the key characters introduced, and what are their roles?
4. What rules govern life in the Glade?
5. What is the Maze, and why do the Gladers explore it?
6. How does Thomas's arrival change the dynamics of the group?
7. What conflict arises between Thomas and other characters?
8. What do the Gladers discover about the Maze's patterns?
9. How does Thomas demonstrate leadership qualities?
10. What personal memories does Thomas begin to recover?
11. How does the story resolve? What happens to the Glade?
12. What is Thomas's role in the resolution?
13. What questions remain unanswered?

Narrative Techniques Analysis

For each technique, provide 2–3 specific examples from the text with page numbers:

1. Imagery

Describe how Dashner uses visual, sensory details to bring the Maze and Glade to life.
How does imagery create mood and tension?
Which scenes are most vividly described?

Example format: "On page [X], the author writes, '[quote].' This imagery reveals [effect on reader]."

2. Flashback

Identify moments where Thomas or other characters recall past events

How do flashbacks reveal character development or plot information?

What is withheld from the reader, and why?

Example format: "The flashback on page [X] shows [what Thomas remembers]. This reveals [importance to plot/character]."

3. Point of View & Perspective

The novel is told primarily through Thomas's perspective. How does this limit or enhance the reader's understanding?

What information is kept from both Thomas and the reader?

Due Date Open House August 4, 2026