Grade 8
Summer Reading List and Journal Requirements
2026-2027

1. All eighth grade students are required to read The Giver by Lois Lowry.
   - Students should keep a list of any new vocabulary words they discover as they read, along with the definition.
   - Students should have this book available along with their vocabulary list and definitions, for use during the first three weeks of school for discussion and assessment purposes.

2. Students should research the author, Lois Lowry, and gather at least 10 interesting facts about the author, using at least two credible sources of information ***(Wikipedia is not a credible source.).***
   - Please be sure to note the complete URL for the source of each fact. Note that the URL should be specific to the information being used and not simply, https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors. but more specifically https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/18179/lois-lowry/ so that students will be able reference the resource quickly in class.
   - Students should come to class prepared with the 10 facts (either written or typed) on the second day of school.
     - Facts should include biographical information such as:
       - date of birth and other life milestones,
       - education,
       - family,
       - awards,
       - favorite books,
       - reason for writing, other published books, etc.

   - These 10 Facts will be used in class and will be collected for a graded assignment so please be sure to write your facts in complete sentences and to note your source for each fact.
   - Each fact is worth 10 points.

3. **Writing Journal** In addition to the summer reading, all incoming 8th Grade students are required to keep a writing journal with an entry **once a week for 8 weeks.**
   - These journal entries should be written in the format of a friendly letter and dated.
   - Each letter should include at least three paragraphs – an introductory paragraph of 3-5 sentences, at least one body paragraph of 8-10 sentences and a concluding paragraph of 3-5 sentences.

- **While the topic of each letter is up to the student, one letter entry must be a persuasive argument.**
- Letters should be addressed to the appropriate recipient.
- Subject matter is up to the student but the writing should reflect grade appropriate subject matter and writing abilities.
- Use vivid verbs and descriptive adjectives and adverbs!
- Each sentence should be informative and should garner the recipient's interest.
- You may **not use** the standard "How are you? I am fine." type of line.
- Letters should be substantive; meaning they should be important, meaningful, and considerable.
- Journals should be handwritten on lined paper.
- Some students prefer to type their journals and that is acceptable but not required.
- **Each entry must be dated**. Journals are due the second day of school.
- They should be stapled together with an illustrated cover (hand drawn or clip art) and your name and grade. Hard-covered bound notebooks will not be accepted.

Journals will be graded as follows:

- Each entry of 8-10 sentences, in letter format, dated, with appropriate word choice and format, (80 points in total) — 10 points/each

- Illustrated colorful cover with name, grade — 10 points
- assignment completed neatly and turned in **on time,** stapled as a booklet — 10 points

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Connerty via email at mconnerty@stjosephschoolwakefield.org.

Relax, Read, Write and Enjoy your summer!

Book, Author Facts, and Vocabulary list

Read	*The Giver* Book is needed in school for at least two weeks	Due second day of school.
Gather 10 interesting facts about the author	Lois Lowry ● Complete sentences ● Facts should be interesting ○ **birth, life milestones, education, family, awards, favorite books, reason for writing etc.** From two creditable sources ● Cite the sources!Complete URL for each fact (NO Wikipedia! No AI!)	Due: Second day of school

Vocabulary Lists

Vocabulary list--at least 10 words and definitions of new words	List of at least 10 new words and definitions	Due second day of school

Journals--Cover and Entries stapled like a book.

Journals--entries are letters	● Date the entries ● 8 entries --**subject of your choice** ● **Three paragraphs** ○ **Intro (3-5 sentences)** ○ **Body paragraph (8-10 sentences)** ○ **Closing Paragraph (3-5 sentences)** ● Stapled neatly as a book	Due second day of school
Cover	● colorful, hand drawn or clip art ● name and grade	Due second day of school