

MOUNT DE SALES ACADEMY MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING 2025-2026



Eighth Grade

Each student entering the 8th grade must read ***The Giver*** by Lois Lowry. **(Required)**

In addition, students must read **one** of the two novels listed below:

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai **(Young Readers Edition)**

or

Outcasts United, by Warren St. John **(Youth Edition)**

In order to enhance *The Giver* reading experience, students must complete the following:

Vocabulary Building Activities for *The Giver*, Lois Lowry (Required)

Devote one section of a composition journal to **Vocabulary**. Define the following words using an online or book dictionary to assist in your reading experience.

Chapters 1-4

palpable, apprehensive, pondered, transgression, chastisement, petulantly, hoarded, nondescript, gravitating, chortled

Chapter 5-8

interdependence, reprieve, relinquish, congregated, meticulously, profound, retroactive, crescendo, benign, indolence

Chapter 9-12

requisitioned, intricate, conspicuous, diminish, successor, exhilarating, tentatively, conveyance, phenomenon, admonition

Chapter 13-17

vibrance, skeptically, chaos, assimilated, assuage, distended, placidly, imploring, pervaded, realm

Chapter 18-23

ruefully, wretched, emphatically, solace, stealthily, languid, augmented, vigilant, lethargy, impeded

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(Required)

Notetaking Activities for *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry

Devote another section of your composition journal to *The Giver* Notes. Take bullet point notes for each of the following questions. Be prepared to write grammatically correct responses in class to each once returning to school in August.

1. Support or Reject - Each member of society should be assigned an occupation consistent with her or his individual skills to prevent unemployment and job dissatisfaction.
2. Create a new scene after Jonas sees the happy home at the end of the book.
3. What do you think happens to the Giver after Jonas and Gabe escape?
4. Why do you think the book ends in December?
5. What are the benefits and costs of living in a society like the one presented in this book?
6. Explain why Jonas cannot join in with his friends playing the war game?
7. Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson said, "Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." What do you think he meant? Support or reject this quote.

(Select for *I am Malala* or *Outcasts United*) Notetaking Activities for *I am Malala*, by Malala Yousafzai

Devote another section of your composition journal to *I am Malala* Notes. Take bullet point notes for each of the following questions. Be prepared to write grammatically correct responses in class to each once returning to school in August.

1. What risks did Malala face for speaking out against gender inequality in terms of education? Was the risk worth the reward?
2. Gender equality is a controversial issue that is found in literature and in life. What are your thoughts on this topic?
3. Jonas is considered a hero in *The Giver*. Do you think that Malala is a hero? Defend your answer.
4. Identify a common theme connecting *The Giver* and *I am Malala*.
5. Do you think that Jonas misses his old society like Malala misses Swat? Explain your answer.

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(Select for *I am Malala* or *Outcasts United*) **Notetaking Activities for *Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John**

Devote another section of your composition journal to *Outcasts United* Notes. Take bullet point notes for each of the following questions. Be prepared to write grammatically correct responses in class to each once returning to school in August.

1. Explain at least two challenges facing the refugees as they settled into their lives in Clarkston, GA.
2. Explain at least two challenges facing Luma, the team's coach.
3. Explain at least two reasons why education is so important to displaced students.
4. Explain at least two ways Luma helps her players other than being their coach?
5. In your opinion, are Luma's coaching tactics extreme? Explain your answer.

Bibliographic Information for Purchasing the Correct Edition

Each of these books is available at Amazon.com. Local bookstores can also order these novels for our students.

ISBN numbers for each novel are listed below:

***The Giver*, by Lois Lowry**

ISBN-10 : 9780544336261

ISBN-13 : 978-0544336261

***I am Malala*, by Malala Yousafzai (Young Readers Edition)**

ISBN-10 : 0316327913

ISBN-13 : 978-0316327916

***Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John (Youth Edition)**

ISBN-10 : 0385741952

ISBN-13 : 978-0385741958