

WEST Elizabeth
JEFFERSON
Pleasant HILLS



SCHOOL DISTRICT

THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
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Dear Parents and Guardians of the Class of 2012,

Reading is a task that is necessary in most of the curricula of Thomas Jefferson High School. The English Department at TJ is committed to fostering reading, not only as a tool to academic success, but also as a pleasurable experience. We are also committed to meeting the goals of reading that are part of the Pennsylvania Department of Education standards.

In an effort to foster reading in our students and with a desire to continue the Middle School goal of silent sustained reading, the English Department has instituted a summer reading program for our students. The School Board has approved this program. As a result, every high school student at TJ will be expected to complete the reading of one book this summer. The books have been chosen with care in order to meet our goals: reading independently, reading to analyze and interpret literature, and reading for pleasure.

The selection for this year's ninth grade is the novel *The Giver*, by Lois Lowry. This young adult novel has won several awards, most notably a Newberry Medal. We feel that it also meets our criterion for making reading a pleasurable experience. The books have been made available for students in their eighth grade classrooms. Students will also be expected to complete an assignment that will be due on the first day of school. The directions for the summer assignments are printed on the reverse of this letter. We will also post the assignment to the TJ Website under "Summer Reading." Please know that additional classroom activities revolving around this novel will take place at the beginning of the school year.

We hope that you will become involved in this summer assignment. We also hope that you will support us in this endeavor.

The English Department at Thomas Jefferson has been respected for our commitment to our students. We hope that this additional reading experience will instill in our students the love of reading and the desire to excel in the academic arena of TJ.

Sincerely,
The English Department of Thomas Jefferson High School

Summer Reading Assignment: Ninth Grade English

Welcome to Thomas Jefferson High School! Between now and the beginning of the school year in August, please read the novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. *The Giver* explores the value of memory and asks the reader to reflect on both individual and collective memories and how these memories shape who we are today and influence what we will become in the future. You will be responsible for completing the assignment listed below. All components of the assignment are due on the first day of school.

Please complete the following:

1. Read the novel.
2. The story offers a variety of themes. Select one of the following theme topics:
 - The needs of society versus the needs of the individual
 - “Sameness” versus difference
 - Conformity versus obedience
 - Security versus risks
 - The power and importance of language
 - The “truth shall set you free”
 - How to create a “just” society
 - The power of music, art, and creativity
 - The value of freedom
3. Find a quote in *The Giver* that represents one of these themes. Avoid unnecessarily long quotes (length approximately one to two sentences). Copy the words exactly from the novel and place quotation marks around it. Follow it with documentation that looks like this: **“I am looking forward to next year” (Lowry 16)**. Lowry is the author’s last name and 16 is the page number where the quote is found.
4. Using construction paper, prepare either a poster or a collage depicting this quote. The size of the construction paper should be 12” by 18”.
5. Divide the poster/collage into two parts. One half should depict the quote you selected (#3 above) in Jonas’s world with pictures and drawings. The second half should depict the quote in our world today with pictures and drawings. Write the quote on the poster.
6. Bring this book with the completed assignment to school on the first day. This book must be returned to your ninth grade English teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School. If lost, the replacement cost is \$12.75.

BRING THIS ASSIGNMENT WITH YOU ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

Once you begin school in August, expect other assignments to follow including a reading quiz. Please be prepared for the first day of school. **Start the school year in a positive way.**