

Eighth Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Book: *The Giver*

Keep an academic reading journal - a journal recording what you read, with an added layer of academic analysis. It doesn't have to be fancy, but it should be durable and comfortable to write in. A composition book, a hardbound diary, or Moleskine-style journal will give you plenty of space in a durable format.

You will use this throughout your years at the Yeshiva each time you read a new book, play or short story.

Write an entry for each book you read. Each entry should include:

- A full bibliographic citation. MLA format required. (Author's last name, First name. *Book Title*. City: Publisher, Year Published.)
- A short (2-4 sentences) synopsis of the book, play, or short story.
- Quotations from your reading. Copy any quotations that you would otherwise highlight or underline — anything that touches you or that you think captures some essential point in the text. You don't have to do this as you read; if you prefer to highlight or underline as you go, just copy them down when you're done. Make sure to record the page numbers.
- A personal response to your reading. 200 or so words capturing your impressions of what you've read. What is this book about? What are the most memorable and most important pieces of the story? Is this book true in whole or in part? How does this work connect with other works you've read? What did it make you think, feel, wonder?
- Questions raised by the text. Challenge your reading material! Think of a set of questions the material leaves unanswered, or that undermine the conclusions reached. These questions might eventually form the basis of a project or larger critique.

(Adapted from "Back to School: Keep an Academic Journal." Dustin Wax. lifehack.org. Accessed 30 January 2018)

You will continue to fill this journal this year and in the coming years of high school, entering a new entry every time you read a book from the recommended reading list. It will be fun (and pretty amazing) to look back on all that you read during high school, and helpful, too, because your record of each piece will aid you in future English classes.