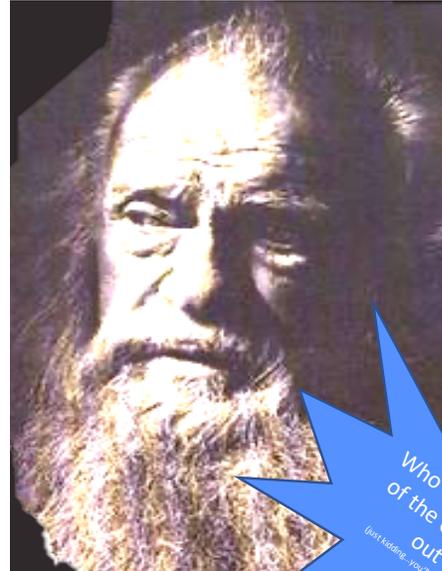


Name _____

Class _____

The Giver vs Simba: Literary Essay Packet o' Excitement



Who will win the Fight
of the Century?! Find
out inside!
(Just kidding...you'll have to figure it out yourself!)

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Unit Objectives

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

- 1) Write a strong introduction with:
 - a. an engaging hook
 - b. background information of the topic
 - c. a clear three-point thesis

- 2) Organize their essay with:
 - a. clear topic sentences (statement of point/reason)
 - b. transitions between evidence & explanations
 - c. transitions between paragraphs

- 3) Argue their point with:
 - a. clear, relevant, specific evidence from the book (two per paragraph, including one quote)
 - b. clear explanation of evidence
 - c. clear connections back to the thesis

- 4) Write a strong conclusion with:
 - a. a restatement of the thesis/argument
 - b. a catchy ending (that may connect to the larger world)

- 5) Maintain a formal style that utilizes:
 - a. MLA format & heading
 - b. in-text citations (page numbers)

- 6) Demonstrate proper knowledge of:
 - a. paragraphs
 - b. grammar
 - c. spelling
 - d. capitalization
 - e. diction/word choice at an appropriate level



Essay Assignment

Over the next few weeks in class, you'll be writing a five-paragraph literary essay, step-by-step, about a topic from *The Giver*. Please choose one of the following three topics.

- **Mild:** Is Jonas a positive role model? Why or why not?
- **Medium:** In what ways is this society a *utopia* for its citizens?
- **Spicy:** What is the author's message of *The Giver*? How does the reader know that?

Your essay must have:

- A clear thesis (we'll go over this in class)
- 3 body paragraphs
 - With 2 examples/explanations—including one quote—in each (just like PEE)
 - A link to the thesis at the end (we'll go over this in class)
- An introduction + conclusion (we'll go over this in class)
- A title
- A heading with your *full name* and *your class*
- Standard MLA Formatting
 - Times New Roman
 - Size 12
 - Double-Spaced

For more details, look at the rubric on pages 16-17.

Tentative 1st Draft (typed) Due Date: Monday, December 2

Tentative Final Draft Due Date (Moodle): Thursday, December 5

Essay Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Read the essay on the next two pages and put the correct essay features in the text boxes. All these should be review from PEE paragraphs and the essay last year.

- A) 3-point thesis statement (highlight it)
- B) Hook (highlight it in different color)
- C) Background information (highlight it in different color)
- D) Explanation that explains *both* examples in the paragraph at once
- E) Transition from hook to background
- F) Transition to a 2nd example
- G) 3rd Point/Topic Sentence
- H) 1st example of the 2nd body paragraph
- I) Restating the thesis + points in different words than in introduction (highlight it)
- J) Link connecting point/topic sentence back to thesis
- K) Catchy ending that connects to the world in general (highlight it in different color)
- L) Introducing a quote with a colon
- M) Shortening a quote with brackets

Essay #1: Is Mufasa a hero? Why or why not?

Full Name
Class



Lion-Hearted: Mufasa in Disney's *The Lion King*

What makes a hero? Is it sacrifice, risking one's life to save another's? Or is it simply making the world a better place on a daily basis with a smile and small acts of kindness?

These questions are regularly posed in Walt Disney's *The Lion King*. In the film, Simba's father, Mufasa, is king of the Pridelands, but is constantly faced with the murderous intentions of his brother and the hyenas while raising his headstrong son. Through it all, he shows his heroism in both big and small ways. Mufasa is a hero in the film because he saves Simba's life multiple times, he consistently protects the kingdom, and—like many heroes—he has a fatal flaw that leads to his downfall.

One reason Mufasa is a hero is because he saves Simba's life multiple times. For example, Scar tricks Simba and his friend Nala into sneaking away alone to an elephant graveyard, "practically gift-wrapp[ing] those cubs for" the hyenas "to dispose of them" (27:01). Just when they have them helplessly trapped against a wall, Mufasa leaps out of nowhere and pins them down before they can. In addition, when Scar and his hyena henchmen create a wildebeest stampede, Mufasa makes his way through hundreds of massive beasts galloping against him to save Simba's life, risking his own life multiple times in the process. Clearly, Simba owes his life to Mufasa because he would have died twice without his father's help. In summary, by regularly risking danger and putting his son's life above his own, Mufasa reveals himself to be a hero.

Another reason that Mufasa is a hero is because he safeguards the whole kingdom.

For example, when his assistant Zazu screams to Mufasa that hyenas have entered the Pridelands, Mufasa jumps into action before Zazu has even finished the last line! This shows

[] that hyenas coming into their land is both a rarity *and* something that Mufasa takes very [] seriously, proving he's a valiant protector. Furthermore, after Mufasa dies and Scar takes [] over, the Pridelands quickly fall into decay, as Simba's mother Sarabi makes clear to Scar:

“There is no food. The herds have moved on. [...] There is nothing left” (1:13:09). The fact that life in the kingdom literally dies out right after Mufasa's death makes clear that he was an integral part of keeping it lush and safe. In short, a hero is someone who protects others

[] big and small, in large and tiny ways; Mufasa clearly fits the bill.

[] Finally, Mufasa has a fatal flaw: he is too trusting. For example, he lets the hyenas go, even though they have just tried murdering Simba and Nala; he believes that the threat “[i]f you ever come near my son again...” (22:08) is enough. In addition, he trusts Scar to save him from the hyena stampede, despite the fact that Scar tells him in the beginning of the film, “Perhaps you shouldn't turn your back on me” (6:32); while the audience isn't surprised, Mufasa is caught off guard when Scar betrays and kills him. These examples both show that [] Mufasa is naïve because he believes in the goodness of the hyenas and his brother, which gets [] him and almost his son killed. In summary, a fatal flaw is part and parcel of many heroes, from Greek Mythology to *Star Wars* and even to real-life heroes like Madame Curie; like them, Mufasa dies heroically, but dies nevertheless.

In conclusion, Mufasa could clearly be added to the pantheon of heroes in literature and film: he keeps his kingdom safe, he sacrifices himself for his son, and he has a tragic weakness like many heroes in literature. Even though he dies long before his time, Mufasa [] lives on as a selfless role model for Simba...and for the countless generations of kids who will continue to watch the film. In short, like a lion-hearted Heracles, Mufasa has become immortal.

To save paper on the copies I didn't double-space; you need to double-space!

Essay #2: What is the message of *The Lion King*?

Full Name
Class

Confronting Demons in *The Lion King*

Hook, using a broad statement.

→ All people have events in their past they are not proud of, that they'd like to forget about. This idea is very present in Walt Disney's *The Lion King*. Overwhelmed by guilt from the death of his father, Simba leaves Pride Rock to find solace in physical escape. In the end, though, he only discovers that the pain—and even people—from his past keep appearing. In

I give a little background to set up my thesis, but the reader doesn't need to know more.

My thesis is clear.

→ *The Lion King*, Disney argues that one can't move on from their past until he confronts it. He does this by differentiating between characters giving good advice and bad advice, and by comparing Simba's happiness at the end with his sadness in the middle.

My reasons why I think that/the ways the author shows that theme.

This topic sentence is clear and mentions the book.

→ One way Disney accomplishes this is by highlighting which characters are giving good advice. Mufasa, for example, constantly prods his son to “take your place in the Circle of

Life,” as well as teaching his son that being a good king means a lot more than “just getting your way all the time” (1:08:10, 8:50). Mufasa is shown to be one of the most reliable and thus trustworthy characters because he is responsible (he keeps the hyenas out of the pride lands),

Notice that I don't need to give 3 examples each of why he's responsible or why he's composed.

composed (doesn't kill the hyenas out of anger when they try to kill Simba and Nala) and magnanimous (sacrifices his own life to save that of his son). Rafiki gives similar advice as well, and succinctly sums up the movie's theme: “The past can hurt, but[...]you can either run

I don't explain 'He lives in you'—I need to fix that

from it, or learn from it” (1:09:15) The reader naturally trusts him because of his older age, his obvious wisdom and knowledge (“He lives in you!”) and the fact that unlike Scar he doesn't gain anything by giving this advice. Thus Disney is saying that their advice is not only the advice that Simba should follow, but the reader as well.

Notice I don't have to keep mentioning the theme 'One can only move on...' (it sounds weird if you mention it every time).

→ On the other hand, the movie brings to light which characters are giving bad advice. For example, after murdering Mufasa and placing the blame squarely on Simba, Scar tells his nephew to “Run away! Run away and never return!” (39:42). The reader knows not to believe Scar not just because he's a murderer, but also because he has a secret, malevolent agenda behind his instructions: to take over the throne. In addition, Disney alludes to Nazi soldiers marching past Hitler when the hyenas march past Scar, driving home the point that Scar is wicked and should not be trusted.

I divided this paragraph into two, since all together the paragraph was too big. I still connect the evidence from both back to my thesis only once.

Similarly, Simba's friend Timon tells Simba after their first meeting that “when the world turns its back on you, you turn your back on the world.” Timon is clearly unreliable as well. For one, he takes credit for Pumba's idea that “maybe [Simba] can be on our own side” after dismissing it as “the stupidest thing I've ever heard!” (42:38). In addition, he arrogantly says he knows that stars are really fireflies stuck in the sky, and chides Pumba for thinking they're actually “balls of gas” (51:30). This shows that even though Scar and Timon tell Simba to run away from his past, because of their unreliability, the reader can presume they're giving bad advice; in short, Simba should follow the opposite.

The various symbols in the movie also convey this message. For example, as Simba is about to be “crowned” king, the frame jumps to a skull of a wildebeest washing away with the rain. The skull symbolizes the pain of the past washing away, not only because it happens as Simba is walking up Pride Rock to finally accept his past and his responsibilities, but also because it’s a direct reminder of his father’s death—skulls are a universal symbol for death—and the wildebeest stampede that precipitated that death. Since this skull only washes away once Simba has faced his guilt, admitted his perceived mistakes and accepted his responsibility, Disney reinforces the notion that one can only move on from the pain of the past when one accepts it. In much the same way, the fire at the end that strips away the last bit of plant life symbolizes the pain that often comes with facing one’s past—it starts only when Simba finally admits his alleged role in Mufasa’s death. At the same time, it’s only after the fire eats up the last bit of life around Pride Rock and the smoke has cleared can the movie flip to the last scene and show the green. Disney is arguing that while confronting the past can be painful and scathing, only from its ashes can one grow again.

You don't have to put all your symbols in 1 paragraph; they can be split into your other paragraphs. For me, it worked better this way.

I briefly mention what the symbol symbolizes (and the context), why I think that, and connect it back to the thesis

Notice that my connection back to the thesis doesn't have to be long at all (in truth, it doesn't have to be long at all (in truth, it doesn't even have to go at the end all the time, especially if your topic sentence clearly supports your thesis).

Finally, the movie makes clear that Simba is happier after he deals with his past. When he’s with Timon and Pumba, for instance, he professes that life is “hakuna matata”—“no worries”—but in reality he’s riddled by guilt underneath (45:16). When Timon and Pumba accidentally make fun of his dad when they’re talking about stars, for example, Simba laughs nervously, then goes off alone. When Nala runs into him and says his mom will be surprised to know he’s alive, Simba responds timidly with “She doesn’t have to know” (56:35). He later snaps at Nala when she prods him to return, showing how his nervousness about his past easily turns to anger. In addition, immediately after Scar is killed and Mufasa lets out a “Remember!” from the sky, Simba lets out a small smile (1:21:50). While it looks like a smile of relief more than happiness—a reminder that the pained past will always be with him—it still confirms he’s slowly—but surely—moving on. The final scene offers an even starker contrast: when all the animals have gathered for the presentation of his new son, Simba is clearly smiling and surrounded by his friends, mother, and “wife.” Even though it’s a stereotypical “happily ever after” ending, this and all the examples above underscore Disney’ belief that denying one’s past allows guilt and pain to always fester underneath; tackling it head-on is the only chance to true fulfillment.

I can acknowledge some of the fallbacks of the author's methods...it shows I'm thinking critically and fairly about the book.

Just don't spend too much space on it, since it's not part of your thesis.

Notice that my connection back to the thesis doesn't have to be long at all (in truth, it doesn't even have to go at the end all the time, especially if your topic sentence clearly supports your thesis).

In conclusion, Disney stresses that only by facing one’s past demons can one truly look to the future, driving home this point primarily with symbolism and by differentiating between good and bad advice. This movie is a perfect wake-up call to those who continue to be stunted because of trauma or guilt from their past; therapists’ offices are full with people who are now just finally dealing with their histories. In a sense, Simba becomes a metaphor for all people who are dealing with past pain, abuse, and guilt—and a pathway for those who want to move on from it.

I combined the restated thesis and topic sentences into one sentence; it just sounded better to me.

Remember to make that connection to the reader/world: why does this matter? Why should the reader care? (I also did something more advanced and made sure it went along with my hook in the introduction, almost like a bookend to my essay.)



Use of English – Literary Essay Edition

Synonyms for “Shows” and/or “Proves”

As in “One way the author *shows* that Asher is energetic is...”; “This *proves* that The Giver is wise because...” “Thus Lowry *shows* that the message is...”

[**Note:** This doesn’t mean that they’re automatically *interchangeable!*]

Shows	Reveals	Communicates	Demonstrates
Highlights	Presents	Makes known	Brings this (or x) to light
Focuses on	Expresses	Makes clear	Emphasizes
Argues	Conveys	Illustrates	Underscores
Stresses	Underscores	Elucidates	Expounds on
Drives home the point			Reminds the reader

Suggested Transitions

For new paragraphs, examples, explanations, and ideas, you’ll need transitions. You’re familiar with most of them from PEE paragraphs.

<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">P</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Point (Topic sentence)</p>	<p style="color: red; margin: 0;">State the main argument of your paragraph: what are you trying to prove?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One reason _____ is _____ is because _____. _____ (character) is _____ (specific personality trait) One way _____ shows this is by/through _____.
<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">E</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Evidence</p>	<p style="color: green; margin: 0;">Provide evidence that proves your point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For example, ... Another example is that... In addition, ... Another time, ... Furthermore, ... Moreover,also... ..., as well. Similarly, ... Likewise, ... On the other hand, ... [for differences]
<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">E</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Explanation</p>	<p style="color: blue; margin: 0;">Explain—for someone who hasn’t read the book—how your evidence proves your point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This shows/proves that _____ (point) because _____. Because _____, this shows/ proves that _____ (point). Since _____, (therefore) it’s clear/obvious that _____ (point). If _____, then _____ (point).
<h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">L</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Link</p>	<p style="color: purple; margin: 0;">Now that you’ve proven your point, how does your proven point connect to the thesis?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In summary*, (don’t use if you’re using that for your real conclusion) In short, In conclusion, (don’t use if you’re using that for your real conclusion)

Proper Quoting

1) **Skip over parts of the quote you don't need with brackets:**

- “He had waited a long time for this special December. ~~Now that it was almost upon him, he wasn't frightened, but he was... eager, he decided. He was eager for it to come. And he was excited, certainly. All of the Elevens were excited about the event that would be coming soon.~~ But there was a little shudder of nervousness when he thought about it, about what might happen. Apprehensive Jonas thought. That's what I am.” (p. 4)

➔ “He had waited a long time for this special December [...] But there was a little shudder of nervousness when he thought about it, about what might happen. Apprehensive Jonas thought. That's what I am” (p. 4).

2) **Explain parts that need more clarity with explanations and brackets:**

- Timon is clearly unreliable as well. For one, he takes credit for Pumbaa's idea that “maybe [Simba] can be on our own side” after dismissing it as “the stupidest thing I've ever heard” (42:38).
- Hermione is the best character because she's smart. For example, when they're assigned an essay on werewolves, Ron pleads with her, “Can we copy off of you? There's no way we'll pass without you!” (p. 117).

[Notice that I 1) *give context* to the quote **before** saying the quote; and 2) I don't say “*This quote was said at a party...*” because I don't need to say where they were, what time of day, who the teacher was; I only write the details that are important.]

3) **Your quote needs a page number...and the period goes AFTER the parentheses:**

- Even though The Giver says, “Stop being annoying, Jonas!” (p. 125), Jonas doesn't stop being annoying.
- Farmer John even refers to Wilbur as “a heck of a pig!” (p. 123) and “the best big I've ever had!” (p. 189).
- On page 56, Jonas screams, “I hate you, Lily!”

4) **If you're quoting a character speaking—not the narrator—you need to use nested/double quotes:**

- Charlotte is the only character who has this enthusiastic benevolence: “Charlotte grinned. ‘I'll build a web for you!’ she exclaimed gleefully” (p. 93).

5) **Use colons and the end of a sentence before a quote; a comma if it follows a word like “says”:**

- In the book, Lily makes clear her murderous intentions: “Are you sure you want to go to sleep, Jonas? You may never wake up” (p. 102).
- On page 93, The Giver says, “I'm going to release you myself, Jonas!”

Common Errors

Past vs. Present

When talking about the events in the timeline of the novel, use the present tense:

- In the beginning of the book, Jonas yells at his sister. Later in the book, Lily kidnaps Gabe.

Formality

Don't use "your" or give your opinion: "~~I think~~"; say "one" or "the reader." In a literary essay, you would rarely need to use "we."

- Disney shows *the reader* that it is only by confronting *one's* past that...

Etc.

Don't use "etc." in your essays! It says to the reader that you're too lazy to actually prove your argument.

Use of English Review

Directions: Fix the common errors below.

- In one scene, Chief Elder yelled at the audience. **(2)**
- The Giver gave good advices. **(2)**
- The community practiced sameness. **(2)**
- The book was written by Louis Lowry. **(2)**
- Throughout the book, Giver passed on memories. **(2)**
- I think that Mother is a strong character. **(1-3, depending on POV)**
- Jonas ran away with Gabe at the end of the book. **(2)**
- "I don't like him." (p. 18) **(1)**
- You will really like "The Giver". **(2)**
- Another example, the Giver tells Jonas that he's annoying. **(2-5)**
- For example Lily tried to kill Jonas three times. **(2)**
- In another scene, Jonas "slam[s] his fist on Asher's door and yell[s] "Get out here!" (p. 2) **(4)**

Essay Outline

Essay Title: _____

Basic Title (your topic or thesis): Mufasa Is a Hero | The Message of *The Lion King*

Creative: Lion-Hearted: Mufasa in Disney's *The Lion King* | Confronting Demons in Disney's *The Lion King*

Introduction

Hook + Transition: _____

Background (in 1-3 sentences, what does the reader need to know?):

3-point Thesis Statement: _____

What makes a hero? Is it sacrifice, risking one's life to save another's? Or is it simply making the world a better place on a daily basis with a smile and small acts of kindness? These questions are regularly posed in Walt Disney's *The Lion King*. In the film, Simba's father, Mufasa, is king of the Pridelands, but is constantly faced with the murderous intentions of his brother and the hyenas while raising his headstrong son. Through it all, he shows his heroism in both big and small ways. **Mufasa is a hero in the film because he saves Simba's life multiple times, he consistently protects the kingdom, and—like many heroes—he has a fatal flaw that leads to his downfall.**

All people have events in their past they are not proud of, that they'd like to forget about. This idea is very present in Walt Disney's *The Lion King*. Overwhelmed by guilt from the death of his father, Simba leaves Pride Rock to find comfort in physical escape. In the end, though, he only discovers that the pain from his past keeps appearing. **In *The Lion King*, Disney argues that one needs to face their past by highlighting characters giving strong advice, characters giving bad advice, and that Simba is much happier in the end.**

1st Supporting Point (Topic Sentence): One reason / way (*circle one*) _____
_____ is because / by (*circle one*)

1. Evidence/Quote: For example, _____

Explanation (or explain after both examples): This shows that (*add point here*) _____
_____ because _____

2. Evidence/Quote: _____

Explanation: _____

Link to Thesis (now that you've proven your point, explain how your point proves your thesis):
In summary, _____

2nd Supporting Point (Topic Sentence): _____

1. Evidence/Quote: _____

Explanation (or explain after both examples): _____

2. Evidence/Quote: _____

Explanation: _____

Link to Thesis: _____

3rd Supporting Point (Topic Sentence): _____

1. Evidence/Quote: _____

Explanation (or explain after both examples): _____

2. Evidence/Quote: _____

Explanation: _____

Link to Thesis: _____

Restate Thesis (in different words): _____

Restate Points/Reasons (in different words): _____

Catchy Ending/Link to the Whole World: _____

In conclusion, Mufasa could clearly be added to the pantheon of heroes in literature and film: he keeps his kingdom safe, he sacrifices himself for his son, and he has a tragic weakness like many heroes in literature. Even though he dies long before his time, Mufasa lives on as a selfless role model for Simba...and for the countless generations of kids who will continue to watch the film. In short, like a lion-hearted Heracles, Mufasa has become immortal.

In conclusion, Disney stresses that only by facing one's past demons can one truly look to the future, driving home this point primarily by differentiating between good and bad advice, and stressing Simba's happiness in the end. This movie is a perfect wake-up call to those who continue to be held back because of trauma or guilt from their past. In a sense, Simba becomes a symbol for all people who are dealing with past pain and guilt—and a pathway for those who want to move on from it.

Literary Essay Rubric

	5	4	3	2	0
Introduction: Hook Does it engage the reader?		The hook sentence is very strong and: <input type="checkbox"/> creative <input type="checkbox"/> immediately catches the reader's attention	The hook sentence is good and attempts to catch the reader's attention.	The hook sentence is not very engaging.	There is no hook sentence.
Introduction: Background Does it give a <i>brief</i> background of <i>The Giver</i> as it relates to your topic? Does it mention the author & title of the book, if not said in the hook?	The background information is: <input type="checkbox"/> highly relevant to the topic <input type="checkbox"/> well-written <input type="checkbox"/> is about 1-2 sentences	The background information is: <input type="checkbox"/> relevant to the essay topic <input type="checkbox"/> fairly well-written <input type="checkbox"/> is about 1-2 sentences	The background information: <input type="checkbox"/> is fairly relevant to the topic <input type="checkbox"/> may be either too short or too long	The background information is completely off-topic.	There is no background information.
Introduction: 3-point Thesis Statement Does it answer the question and say exactly what the essay will be about? Does it have 3 <i>distinct</i> points?	The thesis statement: <input type="checkbox"/> answers the question <input type="checkbox"/> clearly articulates a claim <input type="checkbox"/> clearly supports the claim with three specific reasons.	The thesis statement: <input type="checkbox"/> answers the question <input type="checkbox"/> states a claim <input type="checkbox"/> supports claim with three specific reasons	The thesis statement: <input type="checkbox"/> answers the question <input type="checkbox"/> is a little unclear <input type="checkbox"/> at least two reasons are outlined	The thesis statement: is unclear and may not answer the question <input type="checkbox"/> Reasons are not clearly outlined	No thesis statement is included in the introductory paragraph
Body Paragraph 1 Does it have a clear topic sentence that's <i>distinct</i> from the other topic sentences? Is it supported by appropriate evidence from the book? Is the evidence clearly explained & connected to thesis? (-1 point for no page number)	Paragraph has: <input type="checkbox"/> a clear topic sentence that supports the thesis <input type="checkbox"/> two clear, strong pieces of evidence that support the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> at least one strong, appropriate quote <input type="checkbox"/> strong, clear explanations for quotes/evidence <input type="checkbox"/> a clear link back to thesis	Paragraph mostly has: <input type="checkbox"/> a clear topic sentence that supports the thesis <input type="checkbox"/> two clear pieces of evidence that support the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> at least one appropriate quote <input type="checkbox"/> explanation of the quote and/or evidence <input type="checkbox"/> a link back to thesis	Body paragraph may: <input type="checkbox"/> not have a topic sentence that clearly supports the thesis <input type="checkbox"/> add irrelevant examples or not explain them <input type="checkbox"/> not have two examples <input type="checkbox"/> have a quote but without explanation or a weak quote <input type="checkbox"/> have a weak or missing link back to thesis	The topic sentence is unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Ideas loosely/weakly respond to prompt. There are missing arguments, examples and/or explanations <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks appropriate quotation and/or has weak explanations <input type="checkbox"/> Missing link back to thesis	Missing topic sentence or topic sentence is very unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph contains inaccurate information <input type="checkbox"/> No quotations are used <input type="checkbox"/> Does not show comprehension of the book <input type="checkbox"/> 0 if missing
Body Paragraph 2 Does it have a clear topic sentence that's <i>distinct</i> from the other topic sentences? Is it supported by appropriate evidence from the book? Is the evidence clearly explained & connected to thesis? (-1 point for no page number)	Paragraph has: <input type="checkbox"/> a clear topic sentence that supports thesis <input type="checkbox"/> two clear, strong pieces of evidence that support the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> at least one strong, appropriate quote <input type="checkbox"/> strong, clear explanations for quotes/evidence <input type="checkbox"/> a clear link back to thesis	Paragraph mostly has: <input type="checkbox"/> a clear topic sentence that supports thesis <input type="checkbox"/> two clear pieces of evidence that support the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> at least one appropriate quote <input type="checkbox"/> explanation of the quote and/or evidence <input type="checkbox"/> a link back to thesis	Body paragraph may: <input type="checkbox"/> not have topic sentence that clearly supports thesis <input type="checkbox"/> add irrelevant examples or not explain them <input type="checkbox"/> not have two examples <input type="checkbox"/> have a quote but without explanation. <input type="checkbox"/> have a weak or missing link back to thesis	The topic sentence is unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Ideas loosely/weakly respond to prompt. There are missing arguments, examples and/or explanations. <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks appropriate quotation and/or has weak explanations <input type="checkbox"/> Missing link back to thesis	Missing topic sentence or topic sentence is very unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph contains inaccurate information <input type="checkbox"/> No quotations are used <input type="checkbox"/> Does not show comprehension of the book <input type="checkbox"/> 0 if missing
	15	12	9	6	3
	12	9	6	3	0

<p>Body Paragraph 3</p> <p>Does it have a clear topic sentence that's <i>distinct</i> from the other topic sentences? Is it supported by appropriate evidence from the book? Is the evidence clearly explained & connected to thesis?</p> <p>(-1 point for no page number)</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Paragraph has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a clear topic sentence that supports thesis <input type="checkbox"/> two clear, strong pieces of evidence that support the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> at least one strong, appropriate quote <input type="checkbox"/> strong, clear explanations for quotes/evidence <input type="checkbox"/> a clear link back to thesis 	<p>12</p> <p>Paragraph <i>mostly</i> has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a clear topic sentence that supports thesis <input type="checkbox"/> two clear pieces of evidence that support the topic sentence <input type="checkbox"/> at least one appropriate quote <input type="checkbox"/> explanation of the quote and/or evidence <input type="checkbox"/> a link back to thesis 	<p>9</p> <p>Body paragraph may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> not have topic sentence that clearly supports thesis <input type="checkbox"/> add irrelevant examples or not explain them <input type="checkbox"/> not have two examples <input type="checkbox"/> have a quote but without explanation. <input type="checkbox"/> have a weak or missing link back to thesis 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The topic sentence is unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Ideas loosely/weakly respond to prompt. There are missing arguments, examples and/or explanations. <input type="checkbox"/> Lacks appropriate quotation and/or has weak explanations <input type="checkbox"/> Missing link back to thesis 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Missing topic sentence or topic sentence is very unclear <input type="checkbox"/> Paragraph contains inaccurate information <input type="checkbox"/> No quotations are used <input type="checkbox"/> Does not show comprehension of the book <input type="checkbox"/> 0 if missing 	
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Does it restate the thesis & points in different words? Does it have a catchy ending? Does it connect to the larger world?</p>	<p>10</p> <p>The concluding paragraph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Restates thesis in different words <input type="checkbox"/> Restates points in different words <input type="checkbox"/> Has a very catchy ending <input type="checkbox"/> Makes a connection outside the text 	<p>8</p> <p>The concluding paragraph <i>for the most part</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Restates thesis in different words <input type="checkbox"/> Restates points in different words <input type="checkbox"/> Has a catchy ending 	<p>6</p> <p>The concluding paragraph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Restates thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Restates points <input type="checkbox"/> Has an ending that attempts to be catchy 	<p>4</p> <p>The concluding paragraph may not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Restate thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Restate points <input type="checkbox"/> Have an ending 	<p>2</p> <p>The concluding paragraph is disorganized and doesn't:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Restate thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Restate points <input type="checkbox"/> Have an ending 	
<p>Transitions</p> <p>Does it integrate quotes & transitions properly?</p>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Each new example, paragraph, or idea has appropriate transition as needed <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes are introduced smoothly and clearly 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Each new example, paragraph, or idea has appropriate transition as needed, with one or two exceptions <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes are introduced, but not always smoothly 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some transitions are used between paragraphs, examples, and ideas, but still missing many <input type="checkbox"/> Most quotes are lacking transitions 	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Few transitions are used between paragraphs, examples, and ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes are not introduced 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No transitions are used between paragraphs, examples, and ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes are used without any attempt at integration 	
<p>Language Conventions & Fluency</p> <p>Does it show that you've checked it for spelling & grammatical errors? Does the essay flow, or is the reader distracted by the errors?</p>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Few, if any, spelling, grammatical, and/or punctuation mistakes (including proper verb tense) <input type="checkbox"/> Language flows clearly 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Some spelling, grammatical, and/or punctuation mistakes (including proper verb tense), but do not impede understanding or flow 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The writing has several errors in grammar, spelling, or punctuation that distract the reader and may hurt the flow but do not impede understanding 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> There are many errors and they often impede understanding. 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The large number of errors regularly impedes understanding 	
<p>Vocabulary & Sentence Structures</p> <p>Is your language clear? Do you use vocabulary appropriate for your grade level?</p>	<p>10</p> <p>The author uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a wide range of appropriate and sophisticated vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> a variety of sentence structures 	<p>8</p> <p>The author uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> relevant and specific vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> some varied sentence structures 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary is good, but not varied <input type="checkbox"/> Little to no variety in sentence structure 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary is basic <input type="checkbox"/> No variety in sentence structure 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vocabulary is weak <input type="checkbox"/> No variety in sentence structure 	
Essay Total (out of 100):						

Thesis Creator

Step 1: What are you trying to prove in your essay? (**The Giver is the worst character in the book.** | **Jonas' community is a metaphor for the corruption of modern-day society.** | **The message of The Giver is that 8-year-olds shouldn't be trusted.**) _____

Step 2: What makes you say that? You know this because/by/through...

↓ ↓ ↓

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Step 3:

Can you prove this point with at least two examples from the book?
[Yes] [No]

Can you prove this point with at least two examples from the book?
[Yes] [No]

Can you prove this point with at least two examples from the book?
[Yes] [No]

(If you can't, then you need to choose a new point)

Step 4: After reading the examples below, combine your thesis & reasons to make a 3-point thesis.

3-Point Thesis: _____

Examples

One-sentence theses:

- **Jonas' community is a metaphor for the corruption of modern-day society** because of the hypocrisy of Father, the relegation of pain to two people, and the murder of those not following Sameness.
- **The Giver is the worst character in the book** because he purposely gives Jonas bad memories, he complains all the time about his suffering, and he always talks trash about Jonas' father.

Two-sentence thesis:

- **The message of The Giver is that 8-year-olds shouldn't be trusted.** The author shows this through Lily's domination of all conversations, her murderous intentions with Gabe, and her secret control over the Chief Elder.