

Dear Rising 10th Graders,

Welcome to a new year of discovery, challenge, and meaningful conversation! As we prepare for an exciting year of literature together, I want to introduce your summer reading assignment:

*The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

At first glance, *The Giver* may seem like a simple story about a futuristic society where everything is peaceful, orderly, and safe. But as you read, you'll begin to notice that something is missing—something essential. Are you intrigued? 😊

This novel will serve as the beginning of our yearlong journey through some of the greatest works in Western literature. Together, we'll read ancient epics like *Beowulf*, wrestle with questions of power in *Macbeth* and *The Prince*, explore ideal societies in *Utopia*, journey through *The Canterbury Tales*, and finally descend with Dante through *Inferno*. These texts may be centuries old, but the questions they raise are as alive today as ever.

As you read *The Giver*, I encourage you to keep this year's essential question in mind: "What does it mean to live a good life—morally, spiritually, and socially—and how do different societies define it?" Other questions I would like you to consider as you read this summer: Is it better to live in a world without pain, even if it means giving up love and freedom? What makes life meaningful—and who gets to decide? What responsibilities come with knowledge and truth?

Please come to the first day of class ready to discuss *The Giver* in depth. We will take a test over the book, then spend time unpacking its themes and connecting them to the larger questions we'll explore all year long. You do not have to annotate your book, but you are welcome to do so.

I'm excited to read, learn, and grow with you this year. Get ready for an unforgettable journey. If you have questions about the book, feel free to reach out to me at [cbrumit@chcslongview](mailto:cbrumit@chcslongview).

Enjoy your summer—and your reading!

Love,

Mrs. Brumit