

Julia Landon College Preparatory & Leadership Development School 7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment Packet

In the following pages you will find a discussion guide and graphic organizers to be used with both books you will read for the summer. You will read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and *The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo.

The discussion guide contains questions about the books and requires you to answer the questions using 5-7 sentences each. The discussion guide also provides 2 short response questions (rubric attached). Remember to use F.R.I.E.S.S.(attached) when answering your questions.

Graphic Organizer directions:

Character Trait Chart: This organizer is designed to help you learn about and to help you understand the characters in the book more intimately. In the left-hand column, write the character traits of the one of the characters in the story. In the right-hand column, list how the trait is revealed in the text. (Traits can be revealed by events, actions, words, thoughts, attitudes, and feelings.)

Story Board: This organizer is designed to help you fully comprehend the story using a visual aid. Illustrate the major events in the story using the boxes provided. Get creative, be colorful, and have fun!

Short Response Rubric

2 points The response indicates that the student has a complete understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is accurate, complete, and fulfills all the requirements of the task. Necessary support and/or examples are included, and the information given is clearly text-based.

1 point The response indicates that the student has a partial understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that includes information that is essentially correct and text-based, but the information is too general or too simplistic. Some of the support and/or examples may be incomplete or omitted.

0 points The response indicates that the student does not demonstrate an understanding of the reading concept embodied in the task. The student has provided a response that is inaccurate; the response has an insufficient amount of information to determine the student's understanding of the task; or the student has failed to respond to the task.

Final Task: Think of **one** character that demonstrated leadership abilities and leadership characteristics. In 3-5 paragraphs, explain how this character showed these abilities and characteristics and whether or not this lead to a positive or negative outcome.

F.R.I.E.S.S.

Fact: A statement that can be proven.

Example: Soldiers in the Civil War played baseball

Reason: A statement offered as an explanation or justification of an act.

Example: I didn't do my homework *because I had to go visit my grandmother*.

Incident: Describes an event, a happening, or occurrence. It is an anecdote or brief story.

Example: When you tell about the time you missed the bus or a time you got lost at the fair.

Example: An instance of something.

Example: Britney Spears, Beyonce and Madonna are all examples of singers.

Statistic: A fact that involves numbers to make a point.

Example: Ninety percent of the students support the new lunchroom menu; the ten percent who don't, plan to bring their lunch.

Sensory Details: Details that describe events using the five senses: sight, touch, smell, hearing and taste.

Example: Thoreau never felt lonely when he was at Walden. All around him he *heard* the rustling and bustling of nature. Squirrels *chattered*; blue jays *scolded*. How could he feel lonely when he had for company the friendly stars which *spangle* the midnight sky, the *warm* moon *rising* through the Walden pines to pave a path across the pond?

The Giver Discussion Guide

Author information

Lois Lowry is a multi-award-winning author who has written many popular books. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is the author of the popular Anastasia Krupnik books and was the recipient of the Newbery Medal for *Number the Stars* and for *The Giver*.

Rising 7th graders

Students, these questions have been designed to help you fully comprehend this book. You should respond in complete sentences, incorporating the question in your answer. Your answer should be approximately 5-7 sentences long.

1. In *The Giver*, each family has two parents, a son, and a daughter. The relationships are not biological but are developed through observation and a careful handling of personality. In our own society, the makeup of family is under discussion. How are families defined? Are families the foundations of a society, or are they continually open for new definitions?
2. In Jonas's community, every person and his or her experience are precisely the same. The climate is controlled, and competition has been eliminated in favor of a community in which everyone works only for the common good. What advantages might "Sameness" yield for contemporary communities? Is the loss of diversity worthwhile?
3. Why is the relationship between Jonas and The Giver dangerous, and what does this danger suggest about the nature of love?
4. There are groups in the United States today that actively seek to maintain an identity outside the mainstream culture: the Amish, the Mennonites, Native American tribes, and the Hasidic Jewish community. What benefits do these groups expect from defining themselves as "other"? What are the disadvantages? How does the mainstream culture put pressure on such groups?

Character Trait Chart

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Character: _____

Trait	Revealed by...

Storyboard

Directions: Illustrate the major events in the story

The Other Side of Truth Discussion Guide

Author Information

Beverley Naidoo was born into a white, middle-class family in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1943. She graduated from the University of Witwatersrand in 1963. Her involvement with the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa led to her being imprisoned in solitary confinement for eight weeks at the age of 21. She left for England in 1965 and studied at the University of York with the help of a United Nations Bursary, training to become a teacher. She taught both primary and secondary children in London for 18 years. She obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Southampton in 1991 and worked as Adviser for Cultural Diversity and English in Dorset. She has tutored Creative Writing at Goldsmiths College, University of London, and run workshops for young people and adults in Britain and abroad, including for the British Council. She married another South African exile and returned freely to South Africa for the first time in 1991.

Rising 7th Graders

Students, these questions have been designed to help you fully comprehend this book. You should respond in complete sentences, incorporating the question in your answer. Your answer should be approximately 5-7 sentences long.

Guided Questions:

1. What kind of person is Sade at the start of this novel? How does she change as the story progresses?
2. Do you think Mr. Solaja should have sent his family away long ago? Why or why not? Do you see him as brave or foolish and why?
3. How does Sade treat her younger brother? How would you feel if you were in her place and suddenly in charge of yourself and your sibling?
4. Why doesn't Sade reveal who she is to the social services authority in London? What would you have done?
5. What do you think the title means? What is the other side of truth?
6. What do you predict for this family's future?

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