

English 8
Summer Reading Assignment 2022

Choose one of the options below and complete it over the summer.

- A. -Read *Parvanna's Journey* by Deborah Ellis (part of *The Breadwinner* series).
-Answer all of the Short Answer and Open-Response Questions in complete sentences.
-Return this packet with your completed answers on the second day of school.**

Short Answer Section

Directions: Answer all of the following questions in at least two complete sentences. Include your answers on another sheet of paper.

1. What is the significance of the title? Why did the author choose this title?
2. Describe the setting (time and place) of the novel. How is it significant to the events that took place?
3. Why is Leila convinced that she cannot be hurt by landmines? Is she correct? Does it work?
4. Why do you think that Asif has such a bad attitude and is so unkind all of the time, especially towards Parvanna?
5. What do you think Parvanna means when she says: "it's been a long journey, but it's not over yet?" (Ellis 193).

Open-Response Section

Directions: Answer the following question in at least three paragraphs (at least 5 sentences per paragraph with an introductory sentence, supporting detail sentences, and a concluding sentence). Include support for your opinions. Write your answers on another sheet of paper.

1. Select one of the following thematic topics from the novel: tragedy, sacrifice, or courage. Explain what this thematic topic means (state a possible theme). Explain how this theme is demonstrated and developed throughout the novel using at least three textual details (examples).

B. -Read *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry. (Part of *The Giver* Series)

-Answer all of the Short Answer and Open-Response Questions in complete sentences.

-Return this packet with your completed answers on the second day of school.

Short Answer Section

Directions: Answer all of the following questions in complete sentences. Include your answers on another sheet of paper.

1. Describe Kira's society's death ritual as seen in Chapter 1.
2. Who wanted Kira's land and why did they want it?
3. Kira was considered an outcast? Why was she given this particular title?
4. What is Thomas' job in the Council?
5. Who is Annabella? Include at least 1 detail from the novel and lets you know she is old.
6. Why was Vandara feared throughout the village?
7. Why is the novel titled *Gathering Blue*? In your response, suggest an alternate title for this book. Also include at least one reason why you believe your "alternate title" would be a good fit for this book.

Open-Response Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions in at least 1 paragraph (5 sentences).

1. Discuss what gave Katrina, Kira's mother, the courage to stand up to the people of the village and spare Kira's life, when the custom in Kira's society was to destroy babies born with birth defects. Do you think Katrina was aware of her daughter's gift? Katrina never created the color blue. Do you think she knew her daughter would someday find the secret of creating blue?
2. What do Kira, Jo, and Thomas have in common? Explain the following statement: "They were forcing the children to describe the future they wanted, not the one that could be." (p. 212)
3. Kira has always been told that beasts killed her father. When Kira tells Jamison that Annabella says there are no beasts, he replies, "She's very old. It's dangerous for her to speak in that way." (p. 128) Do you think Annabella knows the truth about Kira's father? Discuss whether Jamison is responsible for Annabella's death.
4. At the end of the novel, Matt brings Christopher, Kira's blind father, to meet her. How does meeting her father change Kira's understanding of what she should do in her community and what she should do for her future?
5. What is the importance of *color* in this novel? What might the color *blue* mean? In other words, explain how the color blue might be symbolic or represent something else. (Symbolism is when a person, place, or thing represents something else. For instance, the cross is symbolic of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and is used to represent Christians all around the world.)