

6th Grade Summer Reading Assignment
Mrs. Rose

***The Giver* or *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* Character Study**

Parents: *The Giver* is a novel that some parents and students have found bothersome. The community described is set in a sort of post-apocalyptic world and their methods of keeping order, peace and harmony limit individual freedom and many would argue, violate the sanctity of life. For this reason, we have added another option: *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

*We apologize for changing the assignment mid-summer. The following assignment is for those who begin their summer reading after July 10. If you have already read *The Giver* and answered the questions, then you do not need to worry about writing this essay this summer. However, each student will be writing a character study essay over a character from one of these two books during the first couple of weeks of school. Again, we apologize for the change and for the possibility of extra work.*

Students: For this summer's reading, you may choose between either *The Giver* or *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. As you read, pay close attention to the characters in the book you choose. Think in terms of what the characters look like, how they think, speak and act, how other characters think about and act towards them, etc. You may want to jot down some notes about the characters after each time you read.

Next, you will select one character and write an essay about him or her. Your essay is to:

1. Have a proper heading (see below)
2. Have a title
3. Be double spaced, with 1 inch margins
4. Be between 250-300 words (or one full page double spaced).

Remember to have a thesis sentence (the sentence that tells your main idea) and to organize your thoughts into paragraphs. For example, your paper might be organized as follows:

- Paragraph 1: Introduction & Thesis sentence
- Paragraph 2: How the character looks (description of the character)
- Paragraph 3: How the character speaks and acts
- Paragraph 4: Conclusion—What kind of person is this character?

Your organization doesn't have to be just like this. You might want to focus on what other characters think of your character. You also might want to have five short paragraphs or just three long ones. You decide what works best for you.

Essays will be due during the first full week of school.

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Sample heading (but yours should be double spaced):

Student's Name  
Teacher's Name  
Class Name  
Date

Title