



ROCK SPRINGS
— CHRISTIAN ACADEMY —

Summer Reading 2026 — Rising 7th Graders

It is said that reading is the key to learning, which is why most schools have summer reading programs. Reader's Digest states, "Studies have shown that a regular reading habit not only sharpens vocabulary and improves IQ but also reduces the brain's rate of decline in old age and expands 'EQ'—emotional intelligence and well-being." While Dr. Seuss says, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." It is safe to say that reading is a fundamental part of every trade or profession.

Students will be reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Attached are the instructions for the "paper bag book report." The rubric is also included so that you are aware of how I will grade this project. Your child will take an AR test within the first week of school on the book he or she read, which will also be a grade. In essence, there will be two grades from summer reading.

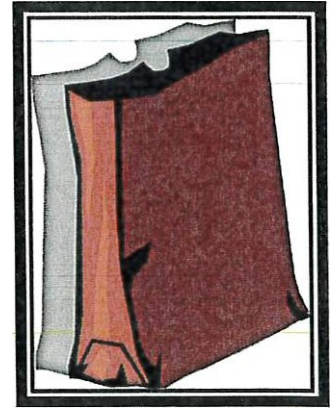
I am looking forward to the 2026-27 school year and helping your child learn to love reading and exploring new worlds.

"Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. "- Proverbs 16:24

Patrice shivers

Paper Bag Book Report

You will be completing a paper bag book report as an assessment for this novel/story.



On the Outside....

For this book report, you must consider each of the following: setting, plot, main character, and theme.

There are four panels on a paper bag. You will be expected to dedicate one panel of your brown paper bag to each of these four elements.

1. For the setting, you must include the time and place (if there is more than one time/place include those too). You must also create a small illustration to add to this panel that illustrates one of the main settings in the novel.
 2. You must summarize the plot in a few sentences — keep it short and sweet. Many times, this is more difficult than writing a lengthy description.
 3. Tell about the main character on the third panel. Do not focus on physical and the obvious. Tell how this character changed throughout the story. What happened to him/her to cause this change etc.? You can include the obvious information (family background, physical traits, etc.). However, don't include ONLY this information. List the other major/minor characters in the story by name on this panel.
 4. The final panel must be about the theme of the book. What is the theme(s) and what are your feelings about the message in this novel?
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- The information for each panel must be neatly written/typed on a small piece of paper and glued/taped to the bag. You won't need any more than a paragraph or so for each panel.
 - Drawings/visuals are welcome, but optional
- Be sure to include the title of the novel, author and your name clearly on the outside of the bag.

On the Inside... You must include 10 items in your bag that have some significance to the story. Be imaginative... Think outside of the box. You can use toys, modeling clay, or anything else that may represent something important from the story. Make sure each item that you pick is unique and include a one sentence descriptor attached to the item about its significance.



You will be expected to share your book report with the class (inside and out) and will be marked on: the inclusion of the setting, plot, major character, theme, and conventions (for the outside of the bag), your ten items inside the bag and your overall speaking/listening skills during the presentation. Have fun and do your

Paper Bag Book Report Rubric

Category	4 — Excellent	3 - Good	2 — Fair	1 - Inadequate
Setting	Includes ALL settings and times that were important to the book, as well as an appropriate illustration	Includes most of settings and times that were important to the book, as well as an appropriate illustration	Includes either some settings and times that were important to the book or an appropriate illustration	Includes incorrect or incomplete settings/times and/or an incomplete illustration
Plot	Includes ALL key events to story, without retelling the entire book; includes only the most necessary information	Includes most key events to story, without retelling the entire book; includes only the most necessary information	Includes some key events to story, but excludes other important events	Includes an inadequate explanation of the plot, excluding many of the key events
Main Character	Includes ALL important information about the main character (including how s/he changed throughout the story, as well as the more obvious character traits) ALSO, name ALL other major and minor characters that were discussed in the story	Includes most important information about the main character (including how s/he changed throughout the story, as well as the more obvious character traits) ALSO, names most/all other major and minor characters that were discussed in the story	Includes some important information about the main character, but excludes other Information ALSO, names some other major and minor characters that were discussed in the story	Includes little important information about the main character OR chooses a minor character rather than the main character May or may not include other major and minor characters that were discussed in the story
Theme	Includes a complete description of the theme(s) of the book AND a wellexplained personal opinion concerning the theme(s)	Includes a good description of the theme(s) of the book AND a wellexplained personal opinion concerning the theme(s)	Includes some information about the theme(s) of the book, but omits the personal opinion about the theme(s)	Includes incomplete/ inaccurate information about the theme(s) and may or may not include an opinion about the theme(s)

Conventions	All spelling and punctuation is correct; the title, author, and name are included	Most spelling and punctuation is correct; the title, author, and name are included	There are many errors with conventions; title, author, and name are included	There are multiple errors with conventions; key information missing
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On the Inside: Students will receive one mark for each unique item that they have included inside the paper bags for a total of ten marks (Be sure to label each with a sentence strip)

Total: