



Lesson Plan Aid for Book Punch® - The Giver

Grade levels 6-9
Lexile Framework for Reading Measure 920L

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Introduction to Book Punch®

Book Punch guides students through the steps of thinking and writing about well-known core literature for grade levels 3 through 9. Students write paragraphs or essays responding to interactive writing prompts. The program tutors students to develop ideas and organize their thinking about books they read.

Each program in the Merit Book Punch collection focuses on one book title. Each contains 6-7 writing prompts, 600 supporting questions and 600 helpful tips to guide students through each step in the writing process. The program for each book title comprises 3 online interactive units as follows:

- Text-to-Self: Based on themes from the book, students write paragraphs about their own experiences.
- Evidence and Inference: Students write paragraphs or essays that connect details with ideas in the book to infer a deeper meaning from what they are reading.
- Reading Check: Students write a paragraph about facts and/or events from the book to ensure that they have read it.

Together, these units develop students' reading comprehension and writing skills in complementary ways.

Printables

Each Book Punch title includes 11 printable worksheets, a lesson plan aid, and the Book Punch® Series Manual with detailed instructions for implementation. The documents can be viewed and printed from My Learning Center. Self-learners and teachers click the course name; tutors and parents click the Programs link and then click the Book Punch title.

All printables can also be viewed and printed from the links provided on the last page of this document.

Text-to-Self

Text-to-Self writing prompts help to enrich students' reading experience. Students write paragraphs that help them relate their own experiences to events that take place in the book. See the topics listed below.

Text-to-Self Topic 1

In Jonas's community, the leaders try to minimize characteristics that make people different: they place a high value on "sameness," in appearance and in thinking. In our world most people are pleased to be different in some way. Write a paragraph about a characteristic that you have, personal or physical, that makes you different.

Text-to-Self Topic 2

In the story, the Giver is Jonas's special teacher. Write a paragraph about a time you were taught by someone you consider to be a special teacher.

Text-to-Self Topic 3

The first memory the Giver transmits to Jonas is of a pleasant outdoor experience. It is the memory of a solo sled ride down a hill on a cold, snowy day. Later, Jonas uses this memory to comfort himself as well as Gabriel. Write a paragraph about a memory of an outdoor experience of your own..

Evidence and Inference - Essay Topics

See the writing prompts below and the accompanying list of questions for each prompt, the answers to which provide supporting evidence for body paragraphs that could be included in an essay. The Thesis Statement Worksheet at the end of this document will help students understand the structure of a thesis. The Evidence and Inference Worksheet pages will help students plan their essays and understand the relationship between the thesis statement, body paragraphs and supporting points.

Evidence and Inference Topic 1

"The Giver" describes a community that many people would consider to be a utopia, or perfect place. Some readers would agree that "The Giver" does indeed represent utopia. Others would argue that it is both imperfect and frightening. Write a multi-paragraph essay to persuade the reader that the community in "The Giver" is IMPERFECT and FRIGHTENING. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a conclusion paragraph that sums up this point of view.

Personal choices>>

1. What is an example of a "personal choice" related to family life? How is it handled in the story?
2. What is another "personal choice" in "The Giver"? How is it handled?

Problem people>>

3. What is one kind of person who is seen as a problem for the community in "The Giver"?
4. What is another kind of person who is seen as a problem for the community in "The Giver"?

Missing from Jonas's community>>

5. What does the community in "The Giver" lack that we enjoy?
6. What else does the community in the book lack that we enjoy?

Evidence and Inference Topic 2

People have always fantasized about a perfect community, a utopia. Some readers may see the world in "The Giver" as an appealing community with many advantages to its members. Others may argue that it is an imperfect and frightening community. Write a multi-paragraph essay that presents the world of "The Giver" as an APPEALING community with many ADVANTAGES to its members. You must write a thesis statement that expresses this opinion, a body of two or three paragraphs to support your statement, and a conclusion paragraph that sums up this point of view.

Problems eliminated>>

1. What is a major problem in our world that seems to have been eliminated in "The Giver"?
2. What is another major problem in our world that seems to have been eliminated in "The Giver"?

Community services>>

3. What basic services does the community provide to everyone?
4. What facilities does the community have to provide services for the people?

Well-behaved community>>

5. What is one way a harmonious community is maintained in the book?
6. How else is a harmonious community maintained in the book?

Reading Check

The Reading Check unit evaluates students' paragraphs using a key point check to determine if the student has read the book. See the Reading Check writing prompt below and the list of questions that accompany it, the answers to which should be included in a satisfactory paragraph.

Reading Check Topic

The community in the story fears freedom of thought, expression, and choice as sources of disorder and differences. Write a paragraph that tells how the community elders maintain order and control. Be specific and include examples from the story.

1. What are people required to do when they have "stirrings"?
2. How is "Sameness" achieved in each child's appearance? How does Lily feel about the restrictions?
3. What private experiences are Jonas and his family required to talk about at breakfast and dinner every day?
4. What sources of beauty and pleasure does the Giver introduce Jonas to? Why were they banished from the community long ago?

Curriculum Integration

See the Book Punch Series Manual. The Reading Comprehension and Vocabulary section and the Beyond the Program section provide detailed instructions for implementing vocabulary, character and pre-writing lessons. The Book Punch Series Manual includes printable worksheets for these lessons.

Vocabulary

See the Vocabulary Exploration worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Thematic words from The Giver that can be explored include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
condemn	To declare to be wrong
exempt	Free from some requirement that others are subject to
integrity	Adherence to a code of conduct
interdependent	Depending on one another
nondescript	Lacking interesting qualities
obsolete	No longer in use
profound	Having great depth of knowledge

Vocabulary particular to the time and setting of The Giver include:

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
anguish	Great pain or trouble
apprehensive	Fearful of what may be coming
aptitude	Ability to learn
benign	Gentle, not threatening
distraught	Very upset because of worry or pain
ecstatic	Showing very great happiness
excruciating	Agonizing
gravitate	To move toward something
lethargic	Lazy or inactive
luminous	Giving or reflecting light
ominous	A sign of evil or trouble to come
relinquish	To give up
remorse	Deep regret for acts that wrong others

The Word Search Puzzle and Crossword Puzzle worksheets contain many of the words above. They can be used to reinforce the vocabulary in the book. These worksheets can be accessed via the Internet. See the last page of this document for Printable Worksheet links.

Character Exploration

See the Character Exploration worksheet and the Compare and Contrast worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here are suggested character exploration prompts for classroom discussion:

Imagine that Jonas is your friend in real life. Write words and phrases that would help you describe him to someone who doesn't know him. (What does Jonas look like? What kind of personality does he have? What does he like to do?)

Compare and contrast Jonas with Lily or another character in the book.

Group Work and Discussion - Pre-writing

See the Brainstorming worksheet in the Book Punch Series Manual. Here is a suggested topic for classroom discussion:

Jonas is chosen by the town elders to be the new Giver, or bearer of memory. Some of the memories that he is asked to recall are painful and difficult. Other memories help Jonas and Gabriel survive their journey at the end of the novel. Write a paragraph about the power of memory in "The Giver."

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the entire book.)

Additional Paragraph and Essay Writing Prompts

See the Independent Follow-up worksheets in the Book Punch Series Manual. Using the context of The Giver, and the appropriate Independent Follow-up worksheet, students may continue the writing process after publishing their paragraphs and essays from Book Punch. Here are two additional topics students can write about:

Paragraph writing topic

In the interest of promoting Sameness, certain sources of beauty and pleasure have been eliminated from the community. Color, for example, was banished long ago because of the powerful feelings it can call forth, which interfere with Sameness. Write a paragraph describing the associations and emotions that the different colors can evoke in you.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through the entire book.)

Essay writing topic

In the story, Jonas's father brings home the baby Gabriel to nurture, violating a rule of the community. Jonas, breaking another rule, grows to love the child, who has a profound effect on his life. Write an essay detailing the ways in which Gabriel changes Jonas's life.

(This topic is recommended for students who have read through Chapter 19).

Name _____

Date _____

Thesis Statement Worksheet

The thesis statement contains two parts: your OPINION and a PLAN, the points that support your opinion. Each of the points in your plan will be the main idea of a body paragraph in your essay.

Sample thesis statement for an essay with 3 body paragraphs.

Bike riding is an ideal mode of transportation (OPINION) because it is reliable, fast, and allows to you to avoid traffic (PLAN).

Exercise 1

Look at the following well-written thesis statements.
Underline the opinion with two lines and the plan with one line.

1. Soccer is a great sport because it is fun, athletic, and social.
2. Oatmeal is the best breakfast because it is tasty and nutritious.
3. The two most important United States presidents were George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Exercise 2

Remember that a thesis statement should always be comprised of two parts: your opinion and a plan.
Draw a line to connect each opinion on the left with its matching plan on the right.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Bananas are the best type of fruit | to travel, bike ride, and swim. |
| 2. My two favorite relatives are | because they are tasty, filling, and stay fresh all day. |
| 3. The most exciting ways to spend my vacation are | my brother and my grandmother. |

Printable Worksheet Links

You must be connected to the Internet to access these links.

[Crossword Puzzle - starter](#)

[Crossword Puzzle - challenge](#)

[Word Search Puzzle](#)

[Evidence and Inference Worksheet](#)

[See the Book Punch® Series Manual for additional printable worksheets.](#)

See the previous page for the Thesis Statement Worksheet.

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