



7145 Babcock Street, S.E.  
Palm Bay, Florida 32909  
Phone (321) 723-0650  
Fax (321) 722-1117  
www.royalpalmcharter.com

## 8th Grade Required Summer Reading Project

Your summer reading project is **due on the first day of school**.

You are to complete the Reading Response Activity for EACH book (*Gathering Blue* and your choice book). After completing the Response Activity, choose one activity to complete for EACH book (*Gathering Blue* and your choice book).

This project will be your first grade in your English Language Arts Class. It is very important that you complete this assignment and turn it in on the day that it is due. **Happy Reading!**

**Required reading by all incoming 8th graders:** *Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry

**Choose one of the following books:**

*The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien

*I Have Lived a Thousand Years* by Livia Bitton-Jackson

*Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson

*I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

### Project #1 – Complete Questions and 1 Project from List

***Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry.**

Rate this story by placing a checkmark next to the statement you agree with most.

One of the best stories I've read

It was an easy read

It was okay

It was comfortable

I would NOT recommend

It was difficult to read

Reading response – Answer all parts of the following with complete sentences for the short story. Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

1. A theme is the message or insight about life or human nature that a writer presents to the reader. One way to discover the theme of a work is to consider what you can learn from the main character. The importance of that event, stated in terms that apply to all human beings, is the theme. Explain the theme you found in this story. Give one example from your story to support the theme you found.

## Project #2 – Complete Questions and 1 Project from List

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Rate this story by placing a checkmark next to the statement you agree with most.

One of the best stories I've read

It was an easy read

It was okay

It was comfortable

I would NOT recommend

It was difficult to read

Reading response – Answer all parts of the following with complete sentences for the short story. Use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

1. A theme is the message or insight about life or human nature that a writer presents to the reader. One way to discover the theme of a work is to consider what you can learn from the main character. The importance of that event, stated in terms that apply to all human beings, is the theme. Explain the theme you found in this story. Give one example from your story to support the theme you found.
  
2. What is the setting of this story? Be specific. For instance, what year do the events take place? Where does most of the action take place? What is the season?
  
3. Identify and briefly explain the conflict in the story. Specify what kind of conflict is taking place (man vs. man, man vs. self, man vs. society, man vs. nature). How is this conflict resolved?

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**Pack a Project:** Find a container that represents something unique about the plot of the book. Fill the container with at least 10 objects that represent something about the character, setting, plot, or conflict of the story. You may not use pictures, drawings, or words (objects only).

On a separate sheet of paper make a list of the objects and describe what they symbolize and why that part of the plot was important.

**3-D Room** – Create a character's room in 3-D. This space should represent any part of the setting. It should include items important or significant to the character's journey through the novel. Label each part of the room and why it is important.

**Movie Poster** – Make a movie poster advertisement for your book. You must create an appealing poster so someone will want to read the novel. Include the title, author, one or more illustrations, and a description of the novel. Your illustrations should depict characters from scenes of the book. Choose actors and actresses to star as your main characters.

**Series of Trading Cards** – Use characters or places in the novel and draw a picture of each character/place on a separate 3 x 5 card. On the back of the cards write important information about the character or place. Include the character's name, age, and purpose in the novel. Relationship to other characters, what happens to the character, what happens in the scene, and why that scene is important? Each trading card must be colorful. Minimum of 8 trading cards.

**Newspaper page or a news report** – create a newspaper page write a script for a news report. Summarize the plot in one of your articles. Cover the weather that was happening in your story with a weather report. Include an editorial from you about the theme of the novel. Include a collection of ads that the main character would be interested in reading. Include a comic strip. Include picture of the character in action with a caption that describes action in the story.

**Cereal Box** – Use a cereal box to tell about your book. Cover your box with paper. Create a new title; place that on the front of the box. Place a short explanation of the book on the back. Add catchy phrases about the book all over the box to get people to want to read the book. Include the author, copyright date, number of pages, publisher, and city of publication.

**Comic Book** – Cover the plot of the story in a comic book form. Include the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. Make a cover for your comic book and an original title.

**Test** – Create a test for this novel that covers plot, theme, symbolism, conflict, setting and characters. 20 multiple choice questions, 5 fill in the blank, 5 short answers, and 10 true and false. – Include the answer key

**Nominate your character for a political office** – nominate one of the main characters for an office in local, state, or national government. Which office should they run for? What are the qualities that would make him/her good to represent that office? Make a campaign plan for that character that highlights those qualities. Include posters and a speech for the character.

**Re-write your novel into a picture book for a child** – Summarize your novel and write make it into a child's picture book. Include illustrations of the characters and setting. Re-title the book with an original title. Your book should contain at least 12 illustrated pages.

“SHAPING TOMORROW ONE STUDENT AT A TIME”