

# Unit Overview: Parent Guide

## The Giver, Grade 7

### What is the goal of this unit?

Your child will read dystopian literature and related nonfiction texts to understand how individual perspectives are shaped by knowledge and memory and to determine whether perfection is worth the sacrifice.

### What topics and skills is your seventh grader learning in this unit?

- Dystopian literature
- Theme development
- Character development
- Contrasting point of view
- Comparing and contrasting theme
- Argument writing
- Informational writing

### What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay in response to the question: *How does Jonas' unique point of view reveal a theme of The Giver?*
- **Extension Task:** Your child will extend her learning by reading another dystopian novel of choice and writing an essay comparing and contrasting a theme of her choice novel with a theme of *The Giver*.

### Your child will read these texts and watch these videos:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
<i>The Giver</i>	Lois Lowry	Main text of the unit
<i>The Hunger Games</i> (DVD)	Gary Ross	Read aloud
<i>Maze Runner</i>	James Dashner	Independent reading text
<i>The Hunger Games</i>	Suzanne Collins	Independent reading text
<i>Unwind</i>	Neal Shusterman	Independent reading text
<i>Divergent</i>	Veronica Roth	Independent reading text

<i>Uglies</i>	Scott Westerfield	Independent reading text
<i>Feed</i>	M.T. Anderson	Independent reading text
Harrison Bergeron	Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.	Student text
<i>The Hunger Games</i> (Chapters 1 and 2)	Suzanne Collins	Student text
Preamble	Constitution of the United States	Student text
The Human Abstract	William Blake	Student text
"Imagine" (lyrics)	John Lennon	Student text
"Imagine" (video)	John Lennon	Read aloud

### Ideas for discussing dystopias, knowledge, and memory

- What are the characteristics of a dystopia?
- What are ways in which elements of dystopias are present in today's society?
- What are the characteristics of a utopia?
- What are ways in which elements of utopias are present in today's society?
- What can we learn from reading about dystopian societies?
- What communities do you belong to? What are some of the values these communities share?
- How do rituals and traditions contribute to a community's collective memory?
- What rituals and traditions are part of your community? What stories do these rituals and traditions tell?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
Delirium	Lauren Oliver
Pirate Cinema	Cory Doctorow
Elite (Book 2 of Hunter series)	Mercedes Lackey
Shade's Children	Garth Nix

## What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading. Before bedtime is a great time to read!
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss what you're reading. Ask questions like:
  - Tell me about what you read today.
  - What did you like about it?
  - What didn't you like about it?
  - What did you learn?
  - What questions do you have about what you read?
  - What didn't you understand about what you read?
  - What do you want to learn more about after reading?
  - How does what you've read connect to other things you've read?