

## Summer Reading – Pioneer Valley Christian Academy 2017

**Entering Grade/Course:** Grade 8 / English and Literature

**Books/Authors:** *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, and *Son*, all by Lois Lowry. All three books are required.

**Required to purchase:** No, but it is strongly recommended. Students will need to have the books available during the first two weeks of school.

**Requirements:** See below

**Evaluation:** See below

**Late enrollees:** Students who have admissions meetings after Friday, August 11, 2017, need to read *Gathering Blue*. They do NOT have to read *Messenger* or *Son*.

### Summer Reading Assessment for *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger* and *Son*

Read *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, and *Son*, all by Lois Lowry. **Read with the understanding that you will be writing an essay the first week of school focusing on the theme of “the power of one”. You will examine the ways in which the protagonist in each novel made a significant difference in his or her community or society. You will take into consideration the motivations that spurred them on to risk their own lives to change or drastically improve their communities or even rescue another person.**

*Lois Lowry wrote these books as companions to her earlier novel, The Giver, which we have read in class in seventh grade. In an interview she said that both worlds could exist at the same time. Each community has its own culture, its own focus, and its own underlying motivation for why things are done. Each is different, yet there are similarities as well. As you read, look for the themes that tie the novels together.*

*You will be expected to take an active part in class discussion of the plots, the characters, and the themes.*

**Evaluation:** The essay will count as a major grade in English as well as in Literature.