

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 1

- incorrect use of capitals
- run on sentences
- incorrect use of words
- retelling

The book The Great Adventure is a watered down version of Homers "The Iliad and the Odyssey". This book is about the great Odysseus who all heroes are based on. Odysseus shows many qualities in this story. Odysseus is a great Greek hero who lived about 3000 years ago. Odysseus is intelligent, a leader, strong and loved by women.

Odysseus is intelligent and tricky. Even though he is good at a lot of things, he has his faults too. Athena, god of wisdom is his mentor. She helps him through out the book with him getting back to his love Penelope. During the Trojan war he comes up with a plan. The Trojan horse he hid a group of elite men that after troy had fell asleep they would kill every one. He can also build his own boat.on the island of calypso he has to build a boat to escape the island. He had to escape because he had to get back to penelope.

Odysseus is a leader because he always tries to save his men from death. Like on the island of cercie when his men were turned in to pigs he went to save them. He will sacrifice some me to save most of his crew. Like when charbdis was sucking in water he had to lose 6 men to keep 12 alive. He is also the leader of the Trojan horse mission.he is asked to take over the army at the end of the Trojan war. He was a very good leader.

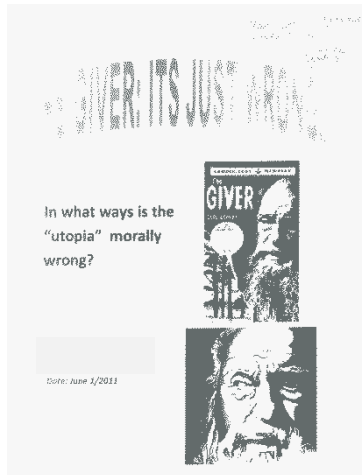
Odysseus is strong in this story he wins the games. He wins all of the games at the Olympics during Helens search for a prince he is very athletic. when He is being sucked in by chardbis and he jumps and grabs the fig tree and holds on for along time waiting for his raft to float out. When he was in the war he had fought many times and survived this proves he is strong. Even a the en of his journey he fights off the suitors he kills them all.

Odysseus is the main charter in this story he has survived many many hard ships and this is why odyssey has these qualities. His intelligents ,strength and leadership.

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 2

- paragraphs (unclear explanations)
- immature writing



The Giver Essay

BY: _____

This essay is about the book *The Giver* and how morally wrong the place they live in is. *The Giver* is about a boy named Jonas who lives in a world of sameness and tries to get away from it. This "utopia" is a morally wrong place to live. They have dumb rules about dumb things. They can no longer see color. They do not have sensitive feelings. This so called "utopia" that they live in is a cruel and strict place to live in. It is morally wrong by today's standards, and by any standard, weird.

Their utopia is morally wrong. They have rules about what you can do and when. They are assigned a job when they turn twelve. Once a child turns twelve they have a ceremony of twelve's and then you are assigned a job. You are not allowed to lie or ask questions unless you are a receiver, which is a future giver, or giver, which is a memory transferor. The rules about stuff like this are getting rid of rights. Since there are these rules in place, they have to break the rules just to talk to their parents. For example, when Jonas had a stirring, which is a dream about nudity and other inappropriate things, Jonas had to lie to his parents about having them. These rules cause people to break rules.

The "utopia" is very strict. You are not allowed to have a bike unless you are eleven years old and get one at the ceremony. When you leave your bike it must be properly in a stand. When Asher left his bike lying on the ground and not in the stand, Jonas was disgusted. They are expecting kids with bikes to properly stand up there bikes every time they leave their bike just because they have a rule. If they were not so strict then it would be easier to do stuff like leave your bike. They also have rules like stirrings. If you have a stirring you must take pills to stop them from happening. Anything wrong that happens in this "utopia" is an abomination.

In this "utopia" people get released, which is when they get killed, for lots of reasons. For example, twins are not allowed. If two twins are born it's a bad thing. When the twins are born the lightest one will be killed. In the book Jonas wants to watch his dad do a release of the twins. When he watched it he seen his dad put a needle into the lightest ones forehead. The baby started to move in pain then went completely still and Jonas then realized that a release was when someone was killed. The "utopia" has cruel rules for twins. Releases also happen to old people when they get to be a certain age. This also proves how morally wrong this place is because they kill old people. The right to live is an important right to have because there should not be a rule that says a person can be killed for different reasons.

In this essay I have proven that this "utopia" they live in is morally wrong. Jonas' "utopia" has too many rules, they are strict to an extreme amount and night life is ignored. They are very cruel and immoral because they release twins, elderly and people who do wrong. The right to life ensures the right everyone has to live and if there is reasons to release people then that right is eliminated.

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 2

- spelling errors – several
- punctuation/capitalization
- homonyms error/word errors
- not a strong thesis in paragraph 1
- last paragraph does not link
- supports opinion with vague examples
- incorrect use of standard English
- endings on words missing
- run-on sentences

Eva Olsson described Nazi bullies in her experience. She has seen tragic things. Eva is a Nazi death camp survivor, having lived through four separate camps, as a Jewish person in WWII. Eva shows us how inhuman mankind can be. It is important to her and us not to let history repeat itself by not hating no matter what. Stopping bullying means being educated, standing up and doing something and acting against hate right away before it goes to the extreme, starting by not allowing hate.

Terrible things happened during WWII it is important for us to know these events so we do not let it happen ever again. She says to stop this from happening ever again, we need to know how brutal the Nazis were to the Jewish community. Eva showed us pictures of a mountain of dead bodies from the camps. She showed us these pictures to give us a better idea of what it looked like. Though these pictures were hard to look at, they showed that humans could be truly evil to each other. I believe by telling these stories Eva will educate people to prevent these horrible things from happening ever again.

It is important to stop hate before it goes too far. Eva tells us the Nazis took her family everyone but her sister. Eva's mother, father and her two brothers were killed by the Nazis. She still refuses to hate them even though they killed her family. The last time she saw her father was on the train with her brothers when they were praying. The last time she saw her mother was in the section line. Eva said she is more disturbed by the bystanders who let it happen because they had the power to change the situation. Citizens in Europe just turned their backs. People watching bullying and doing nothing are just as bad or even worse than the perpetrators. For example if I was being bullied by a gang and people were just watching I would be more angry at the people who just stood there.

Mrs. Olsson refuses to hate the Nazis even though they killed her family, and even after her own suffering. It is important not to hate so we don't become abusers or go to the extremes. Instead of hating we have to forgive each other and tolerate each other.

Ending hate means standing up against it, forgiving and being educated so that evil things never happen again. Mrs. Olsson showed us about the Holocaust she writes books about her experiences. Eva has written three books about her life and what she has been through to help end the hate.

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 3

- good catchy introduction sets tone
- confusing format
- great supporting sentences and details
- adequate variety of resources

“Hate is a Killer”

Eva Olsson went through a lot in her life, she went to four concentration camps and is lucky to still be alive. “Hate is a killer” said Eva. The Nazi’s murdered six million people because of hate. It is important to stand up against intolerance so that all people are treated equally. We as people can fight hate by learning from history, standing up for what is right and accepting others for who they are.

It is important to talk about the history of hate so people understand it better. The word hate comes from fear. Eva Olsson told us that she speaks for the people that were killed. She speaks for the voices that are dead and silence. The Nazi’s and Hitler despised Jewish people because they looked different and had a different religion. There were millions of people that loathed the jews, because of there ignorance.. Learning from the past enables us to stand up to the injustices that we witness.

To combat hate we must stand up against bullying. Do not be a by stander who does not say anything at all. The Nazi’s were “bullies” and that was something Eva Olsson said herself. People are still saying today that bullying should stop. In Eva’s time they did not stand up to the Nazi’s because everyone was scared of them. These reasons are the same to why bullying continues today. We must learn from people like Eva and stand up and be tolerant.

If you do not accept people for who they are than hatred can form. We make fun of others because they have a different appearance. We each come from different cultures, religions and races. We should accept people for who they are rich, or poor. Everyone is unique in their own way. The word hate is very powerful, it can change a life forever. Eva’s message was we must create a world of tolerance and acceptance if we want bullying to stop.

It is important to stand up to intolerance because if you do not it can kill you. It can kill or hurt someone else’s feelings because hate is a powerful word. Eva Olsson states the word hate is a swear and a killer. Eva went through a lot in her life such as pain, starvation, and depression. She is lucky to be alive from what she went through. These people can fight hate by learning from the history, stand up for what is right and accept others for who they are.

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 3

- has a thesis but not a strong conclusion
- inconsistent use of capitalization and punctuation
- variety of sentence lengths
- some variety of sentence openers
- paragraphing is consistent
- appropriate connecting words
- titles of books – italics
- basic thesis
- supports for thesis does not bring clarity to the main idea
- sense of conclusion

The Giver

In the novel, *The Giver*, many things are different than they are in the real world. Almost everything they do is unimaginable. The rules, rituals, and procedures are very controlled.

The Giver is a book about an unreal society. In this society, the rules and restrictions are always followed, and rarely broken. If a citizen was to break an important law, they might be given another chance, or they could be released. Many of the rules can be as simple as not to be rude, or not to brag. This “Perfect” world is controlled by enormous amounts of rules that nobody will have to deal with jealousy, hate, or any fighting. Being healthy is not an issue either, because they have to eat properly, and they can not act like pigs. After eating, or dirtying dishes, they do not have to clean. A cleaning group goes around and picks everything up. Kids, eleven and under, also help out around the town. In order for them to take place in the twelve ceremony, they must do a specific amount of volunteer hours.

The community does not only have a lot of rules, it is also isolated. No one enters the area unless born there, and the only time someone will leave is when they get released. Within the society, there is no animals, and no person inside the town has seen an animal in real life. Even though no animals have been seen, there is still a wonderful waterfall that is close enough that the children, or adults can bike there. Despite all the rules, the people in the community seem to enjoy life.

The settings in this novel make the story unbelievable. There is no where in the world that could be that perfect. Maybe one day, in the distant future, things will be ran like that. But for now, life is going to be filled with difficulties, hatred, fights, and more imperfect things. That just gives life it's adventure.

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 3

- supports opinion from text
- good paragraph structure
- clear organization
- superficial understandings

Today, twelve year olds aren't as mature as they are portrayed in *The Giver*. The book speaks of a Utopia where children gradually learn responsibilities. The children are given their chosen career and start training for it at the age of twelve. In my opinion, this idea is a great advantage about Utopia. Therefore, I think that knowing your career this early is beneficial because you can research, properly prepare yourself, and talk to someone for your job.

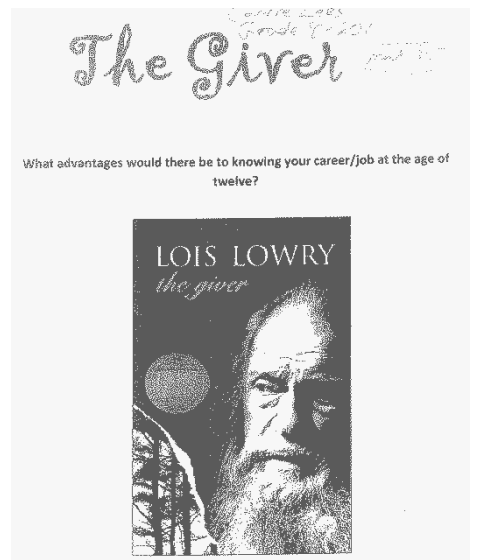
Researching what your career is about, years in advance, would help you out abundantly in the future. "Jonas," The Giver told him, "I know that you read your training instructions very carefully..." (Lowry, Pg. 146). Jonas was given training instructions to read over so he knew what the career as a Receiver was about. Thus, knowing your career at the age of twelve gives you the opportunity to research the expectations and requirements of that career.

Properly preparing yourself for your future profession ensures that you will be able to perform your tasks efficiently. The Giver helps Jonas prepare to be the Receiver by gradually giving him memories. Jonas started with small, pleasant memories, but The Giver gradually started to give Jonas memories about pain to prepare him for more. Jonas then knew what to expect since he had been properly prepared. Hence, knowing your future career at age twelve would properly prepare you to do your job efficiently.

Since Jonas knew his career at twelve, he was able to talk to The Giver which would be very beneficial for performing the career correctly. For example, The Giver explained everything to Jonas so he would know exactly what to do. The Giver answered any questions that Jonas had and went over guidelines when there was

something he didn't understand. If you knew your future career at age twelve you would be able to talk to a professional, like The Giver. Therefore, another advantage of knowing your career this early is that you could talk to an expert about it.

To summarize, knowing your job at the age of twelve is beneficial. By stating three main reasons, I have proven that there are advantages to knowing your career at the age of twelve. In conclusion, the advantages are that you can research your job, properly prepare yourself for it, and talk to an expert in your profession so you will know what to expect.



GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 3

- difficult to determine the thesis statement from introduction
- lots of re-telling
- good sentence variety

Three thousand years ago the illustrious Homer wrote "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey". For thousands of years these stories have been passed down as epic poems and still today are being studied. Out of these poems Peggy Albion-Meek wrote a summarized version called The Great Adventurer. The characters in these stories are legendary. Today's vision of a hero is based on the heroic Odysseus. Odysseus had many good qualities. He was charismatic, intelligent, and a Greek nationalist.

A lot of women fall for Odysseus' charm. Circe, daughter of the sun, is one of the women who fall in love with this beautiful man. She forces him to stay on her island for a year hoping he would forget his wife and decide to stay with her forever, and offers him immortality. Calypso too tries to keep him upon her island. To do this she hides all evidence of wood so he was unable to build a boat and escape. Luckiest of all women is his wife, Penelope, who wins the warriors heart. Penelope loves Odysseus so much that she waited eighteen years for him. None of the suitors who come for her are good enough compared to Odysseus. Odysseus and Penelope have a child, Telemachus.

This mighty warrior was also looked upon by his men with respect. Every fighter valued his great leadership. They showed this when they came to him to devise a plan to finally defeat the Trojans. Odysseus makes the Trojan horse with which they use to defeat the enemy. Once the plan worked he was chosen by the others to be leader. The Greek warriors trust Odysseus and follow his word.

Intelligence is Odysseus' most obvious character trait. He shows his intelligence throughout his journeys. He shows it when they build the wooden horse filled with his

men to spy on the Trojans and defeat them. Later, Odysseus again uses his brains to defeat the Cyclopes, Polyphemus, when he trapped the Greek army in a cave. Odysseus stabs the monster in his eye to blind him, and then tied his men to the bottom of the giant's sheep so that when these sheep were let out the next day everyone could escape. Another way he shows he is intelligent is when he built a boat with almost nothing. When he at last returns home, he uses his brain to defeat the suitors who had taken over his house.

Odysseus' best aspect is that he is a Greek nationalist. He puts his country before himself or anyone else. Odysseus shows he loved his country when he united all the kingdoms by making an oath to protect Helen. As said in The Great Adventurer: "A solemn pact between all the kingdoms of Greece was made at that time. We swore before gods and men that we would aid Menelaus in defending Sparta and protecting Helen". When Helen needed to be saved Odysseus remembers the pact he made to all the kingdoms and left his family to find her. Odysseus was offered to be "king of kings", but turned the offer down to keep peace within the country. Later in Troy when they were in battle, Odysseus was chosen to be supreme commander. In order to lift the spirits of his soldiers Odysseus told the story of Hercules.

In The Great Adventurer, written by Peggy Albion-Meek, Odysseus shows that he is charismatic, intelligent, and that he is a Greek nationalist. Odysseus influences the image of today's modern hero and for that he will always be remembered.

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 4

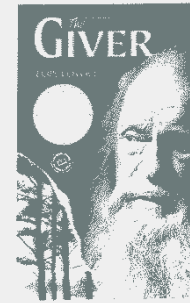
- strong thesis, well supported, clear
- very strong paragraphs and sentence structure
- provides support for opinions
- reflective ending

The Giver Essay

The Giver is a novel about a “perfect” community where rules are set and followed, nobody disobeys and nothing ever seems to go wrong in the eyes of the community members. Many things are morally wrong in the utopia. The people in the community have no true feelings and they haven’t experience any emotions like happiness, pain or sorrow. Only the Giver and the Receiver can experienced these kinds of feelings. Jonas is singled out to become the Receiver when he becomes a Twelve, which means he is training to become the next Giver. The Giver transfers memories to Jonas so Jonas can experience the true emotions and feelings around him from the past to the present. Now Jonas understands that the way citizens are put to death isn’t so friendly. They have no freedom of choice. Age determines accessibility, and his community may not be as perfect as it seems.

People in The Giver are “released” meaning they are killed due to old age, unfitting standards and even if they present absurd behaviours. Some people and all children don’t truly understand what being “released” means. Some examples of being released are when elders are released for living a “happy” and “full” life even when they could continue living and die naturally in their sleep. Another way to be released is not fitting into their standards. Gabe was being prepared for release because he didn’t learn anything as quickly as the other newborns and didn’t fit into the community’s standards. Not only are unfitting standards and age a factor in choosing who to release, but bad behaviours can also lead them to release the person. An example of this is when a pilot-in-training went over the community when it is a clearly stated rule that pilots can’t fly over the community. The people in the community wouldn’t know how tragic being

in what ways in the utopia presented in The Giver, morally wrong?



released is. Jonas asks, “What happens when they make the actual release?” Larissa answered, “I don’t think anybody knows, except the committee.” Certain citizens keep the release a secret from the rest of society as well. Releasing a person for behaviour is bad because they should be disciplined and not released. When the pilot went into the wrong direction the announcer explained, “Needless to say, he will be released.” It is also awful to release a person because they are a little bit “slow” and don’t fit the standards. The committee finally decided Gabe would have to be released, only because he was “slower” than the others. “But he isn’t growing as fast as he should, and he doesn’t sleep soundly. We have him in the extra care section for supplementary nurturing, the committee’s beginning to talk about releasing him,” father said about Gabe. Jonas’s father had no problem talking about Gabe’s release when he knows that Gabe would be killed. People who don’t understand what release is about think of it as a joyous celebration. “But you should have seen his look, pure happiness, I’d call it,” Larissa said about Roberto’s release. These people in the community force death in secretive ways that some citizens don’t see.

People’s access to privileges in the community is determined by their age until they are twelve years old. Some examples of accessibilities due to age is getting your bike as a Nine, getting your job as a Twelve and getting new clothes as an Eleven. Children are not allowed to ride a bike until they are a Nine. “The children all received bicycles at nine; they were not allowed to ride bicycles before then.” You can’t even choose when to start work. You have to start as a Twelve and they really don’t know which kind of job they are going to get. “There was no way, really, to know in advance.” Kids in the community don’t even have a choice of looks, style or clothing. They get new clothes as Elevens. “Girls get new

undergarments and boys get longer trousers with a calculator pocket." They don't get a choice of hair either. "I don't like hair ribbons. I'm glad I only have to wear them one more year," Lily said irritably. The people of this society base a lot of their privileges and responsibilities on age because they feel children need to be disciplined and learn different things at different ages.

Not only does age make a difference in this society, but the people in this community are assigned to everything as well. An example of being assigned to something in the community is your family. Families in The Giver are very structured and specific. "Two children-one male, one female-to each family unit. It was written clearly in the rules." "You don't even get to choose of which child you receive or what name it gets." "He remembered his mother taking the new child, his sister, into her arms, while the document was read to the assembled family unit. New child 23, Lily." The parents can't even have their own children because there are assigned birthmothers to do the job. They prevent parents from making their own babies by each person taking pills to prevent "stirrings" which are dreams that crave baby-making. An example of what the pills do is when you fix a pet and it's no longer capable of making babies. Since the parents have no choice, the family structure becomes very structured and demanding.

Jonas feels the emotion and pain of the real world outside his demanding society. Jonas realizes that his community may not be a celebration, because it's filled with hidden emotion that only the Giver and himself can understand. Jonas knows how release works. He has the freedom he wants. Age no longer matters. He has learned the ways of the Giver.

GRADE EIGHT

PERSUASIVE – LEVEL 4

- sophisticated use of punctuation, capitalization
- multiple resources cited as evidence
- respectful
- varied sentence structure and lengths used for effect
- demonstrates a large vocabulary, effective use of tone
- strong tone and voice

Marianne Williamson once said, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us." In today's society, all over the world, children are afraid to stand out and be different. A sorrowful video labelled "For Angela" expresses the effect on children caused by bullying. Although bullying is a major issue, many people choose to do nothing about it. As Dr. Eva Olsson would say, "By-standers are as guilty as the perpetrators." Eva Olsson, a Jewish woman, has survived many tragedies, including the Holocaust. Due to her experiences, Eva now travels across the world to different schools, re-telling her past and the power of hate. Standing up to hate is the only way to ensure that terrible events in history do not repeat, and that humans will not be afraid to be themselves and feel accepted. People need to be aware that bullying affects everyone, not just individuals.

Events in history send powerful messages; some good, some bad. It is important for everyone to learn from mistakes made in the past, thus insuring that they are not repeated. For instance, Adolf Hitler made the terrible decision to perpetuate hate, which changed history and continues to affect people today. He was willing to murder millions of innocent people because he believed that they were an inferior race. Knowing how it feels to be one of those millions, Ms. Olsson never wants a child to suffer as she did. She believes that "hate is a killer." It is the hate Hitler felt that caused the Holocaust. Eva encourages students to learn from the past, and apply that knowledge to the present.

People are too concerned about pleasing others and fitting in, rather than being themselves. Marianne Williamson addresses this in her poem, "Our Deepest Fear," when she states, "We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually who are you not to be?" It seems easier for us to fit in than to oppose others – even when it is the

right thing to do. In a video titled, "For Angela," there is a First Nation family consisting of a daughter and mother. After being bullied with racist comments, the daughter decides to cut off her long braids. This decision greatly disheartened her mother, who made an appointment with the principal. Although the First Nation's girl did not feel accepted, she had the right to be. No one should feel worthless, or should be made fun of based on differences. Another example of the power of acceptance over hate was in Nova Scotia where a teenage boy was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. To take a stand, every year many schools participate in Anti-Bullying Day, or "Pink Shirt Day," proving that it is 'ok' to be different and to be you. During one of her presentations, Eva Olsson made a powerful statement, "We as people can make a difference, but only together." Although bullies may feel that what they say or do is just a joke and does not affect anyone, they are wrong. We all have an effect, negative or positive. Our actions can victimize or they can work as a force to stop bullies.

Bullying affects everyone. The result of getting picked on can cause many problems like failing classes, being unable to trust others, or even more serious situations such as suicidal thoughts. Not only does bullying affect the individual, but the people around them as well. In the extreme case of suicide, family members and friends would have to deal with grief for many months, or even years. Intolerance on a personal level has a greater impact than most people imagine. It can alter a life forever. On a national level it alters history. Though Eva Olsson's experience was tragic, she has been able to forgive the Nazi Party. "I have forgiven them for what they did to me, but I cannot speak for everyone." Eva says. However it takes a lot of courage to say what she did, for many it is too late. If we internalize hatred instead of forgiveness we become like the Nazis, operating from hate. No one should ever feel like they do not deserve life because everyone is special and unique.

Through the presentation of Dr. Eva Olsson and many quotes and videos, children and adults learn the importance of standing up against hate. In order to prevent terrible events from happening again, humans must learn from mistakes. Everyone should always feel accepted, and should never try to be anyone but themselves. Bullying has a negative effect on everyone, not just the individual. It is important for everyone to stand up, because together, people can make a difference.