

**OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 ENGLISH/WEEK 3 HOMEWORK****NAME (FIRST AND LAST):** \_\_\_\_\_**Read the following selections from James Dashner's *The Maze Runner* and answer the questions from page 7 to 8.****SELECTION 1**

THE MAZE RUNNER (THE MAZE RUNNER, BOOK 1)

people bustling about their business.

And yet he didn't know where he came from, or how he'd gotten inside the dark lift, or who his parents were. He didn't even know his last name. Images of people flashed across his mind, but there was no recognition, their faces replaced with haunted smears of color. He couldn't think of one person he knew, or recall a single conversation.

The room continued its ascent, swaying; Thomas grew immune to the ceaseless rattling of the chains that pulled him upward. A long time passed. Minutes stretched into hours, although it was impossible to know for sure because every second seemed an eternity. No. He was smarter than that. Trusting his instincts, he knew he'd been moving for roughly *half* an hour.

Strangely enough, he felt his fear whisked away like a swarm of gnats caught in the wind, replaced by an intense curiosity. He wanted to know where he was and what was happening.

With a groan and then a clonk, the rising room halted; the sudden change jolted Thomas from his huddled position and threw him across the hard floor. As he scrambled to his feet, he felt the room sway less and less until it finally stilled. Everything fell silent.

A minute passed. Two. He looked in every direction but saw only darkness; he felt along the walls again, searching for a way out. But there was nothing, only the cool metal. He groaned in frustration; his echo amplified through the air, like the haunted moan of death. It faded, and silence returned. He screamed, called for help, pounded on the walls with his fists.

Nothing.

Thomas backed into the corner once again, folded his arms and shivered, and the fear returned. He felt a worrying shudder in his chest, as if his heart wanted to escape, to flee his body.

## SELECTION 2

THE MAZE RUNNER (THE MAZE RUNNER, BOOK 1)

### CHAPTER 2

The helping hands didn't stop swarming around him until Thomas stood up straight and had the dust brushed from his shirt and pants. Still dazzled by the light, he staggered a bit. He was consumed with curiosity but still felt too ill to look closely at his surroundings. His new companions said nothing as he swiveled his head around, trying to take it all in.

As he rotated in a slow circle, the other kids snickered and stared; some reached out and poked him with a finger. There had to be at least fifty of them, their clothes smudged and sweaty as if they'd been hard at work, all shapes and sizes and races, their hair of varying lengths. Thomas suddenly felt dizzy, his eyes flickering between the boys and the bizarre place in which he'd found himself.

They stood in a vast courtyard several times the size of a football field, surrounded by four enormous walls made of gray stone and covered in spots with thick ivy. The walls had to be hundreds of feet high and formed a perfect square around them, each side split in the exact middle by an opening as tall as the walls themselves that, from what Thomas could see, led to passages and long corridors beyond.

"Look at the Greenbean," a scratchy voice said; Thomas couldn't see who it came from. "Gonna break his shuck neck checkin' out the new digs." Several boys laughed.

"Shut your hole, Gally," a deeper voice responded.

Thomas focused back in on the dozens of strangers around him. He knew he must look out of it—he felt like he'd been drugged. A tall kid with blond

## SELECTION 3

THE MAZE RUNNER (THE MAZE RUNNER, BOOK 1)

to it. A multicolored flag hung limply at the top of the pole, no wind to reveal its pattern.

Shaken, Thomas stared at the boy's back until he turned and took a seat. Thomas quickly looked away.

Suddenly the leader of the group—perhaps he was seventeen—took a step forward. He wore normal clothes: black T-shirt, jeans, tennis shoes, a digital watch. For some reason the clothing here surprised Thomas; it seemed like everyone should be wearing something more menacing—like prison garb. The dark-skinned boy had short-cropped hair, his face clean shaven. But other than the permanent scowl, there was nothing scary about him at all.

"It's a long story, shank," the boy said. "Piece by piece, you'll learn—I'll be takin' you on the Tour tomorrow. Till then ... just don't break anything." He held a hand out. "Name's Alby." He waited, clearly wanting to shake hands.

Thomas refused. Some instinct took over his actions and without saying anything he turned away from Alby and walked to a nearby tree, where he plopped down to sit with his back against the rough bark. Panic swelled inside him once again, almost too much to bear. But he took a deep breath and forced himself to try to accept the situation. *Just go with it*, he thought. *You won't figure out anything if you give in to fear.*

"Then tell me," Thomas called out, struggling to keep his voice even. "Tell me the long story."

Alby glanced at the friends closest to him, rolling his eyes, and Thomas studied the crowd again. His original estimate had been close—there were probably fifty to sixty of them, ranging from boys in their midteens to young adults like Alby, who seemed to be one of the oldest. At that moment, Thomas realized with a sickening lurch that he had no idea how

## SELECTION 4

THE MAZE RUNNER (THE MAZE RUNNER, BOOK 1)

Night's comin', Runners'll be back soon. The Box came late today, ain't got time for the Tour. Tomorrow morning, right after the wake-up." He turned toward Newt. "Get him a bed, get him to sleep."

"Good that," Newt said.

Alby's eyes returned to Thomas, narrowing. "A few weeks, you'll be happy, shank. You'll be happy and helpin'. None of us knew jack on First Day, you neither. New life begins tomorrow."

Alby turned and pushed his way through the crowd, then headed for the slanted wooden building in the corner. Most of the kids wandered away then, each one giving Thomas a lingering look before they walked off.

Thomas folded his arms, closed his eyes, took a deep breath. Emptiness ate away at his insides, quickly replaced by a sadness that hurt his heart. It was all too much—where was he? What was this place? Was it some kind of prison? If so, why had he been sent here, and for how long? The language was odd, and none of the boys seemed to care whether he lived or died. Tears threatened again to fill his eyes, but he refused to let them come.

"What did I do?" he whispered, not really meaning for anyone to hear him. "What did I do—why'd they send me here?"

Newt clapped him on the shoulder. "Greenie, what you're feelin', we've all felt it. We've all had First Day, come out of that dark box. Things are bad, they are, and they'll get much worse for ya soon, that's the truth. But down the road a piece, you'll be fightin' true and good. I can tell you're not a bloody sissy."

"Is this a prison?" Thomas asked; he dug in the darkness of his thoughts, trying to find a crack to his past.

"Done asked four questions, haven't ya?" Newt replied. "No good answers for ya, not yet, anyway. Best be quiet now, accept the change—

## SELECTION 5

THE MAZE RUNNER (THE MAZE RUNNER, BOOK 1)

worse to think that even if he *did* get answers, he wouldn't know if he'd be getting the truth. "Why are you guys so secretive?"

"That's just the way it is. Things are really weird around here, and most of us don't know everything. *Half* of everything."

It bothered Thomas that Chuck didn't seem to care about what he'd just said. That he seemed indifferent to having his life taken away from him. What was wrong with these people? Thomas got to his feet and started walking toward the eastern opening. "Well, no one said I couldn't look around." He needed to learn something or he was going to lose his mind.

"Whoa, wait!" Chuck cried, running to catch up. "Be careful, those puppies are about to close." He already sounded out of breath.

"Close?" Thomas repeated. "What are you talking about?"

"The Doors, you shank."

"Doors? I don't see any doors." Thomas knew Chuck wasn't just making stuff up—he knew he was missing something obvious. He grew uneasy and realized he'd slowed his pace, not so eager to reach the walls anymore.

"What do you call those big openings?" Chuck pointed up at the enormously tall gaps in the walls. They were only thirty feet away now.

"I'd call them *big openings*," Thomas said, trying to counter his discomfort with sarcasm and disappointed that it wasn't working.

"Well, they're *doors*. And they close up every night."

Thomas stopped, thinking Chuck had to have said something wrong. He looked up, looked side to side, examined the massive slabs of stone as the uneasy feeling blossomed into outright dread. "What do you mean, they *close*?"

"Just see for yourself in a minute. The Runners'll be back soon; then those big walls are going to *move* until the gaps are closed."

"You're jacked in the head," Thomas muttered. He couldn't see how the

**Refer back to the selections in the previous pages to help you answer the questions below. Feel free to use evidence/examples from other parts of the novel. Try to fill up all the lines provided. Try to sound as coherent and analytical as you can. Structure your responses whenever possible, beginning with a point (topic sentence), followed by a discussion of evidence/examples/details that support your point, and then ending with a clincher sentence.**

### **Selection 1**

How does Dashner's writing depict Thomas's vulnerability?

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### **Selection 2**

Describe the new environment in which Thomas finds himself. How would you feel if you were in Thomas's position? Briefly describe your thoughts and feelings and explain your reactions.

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**Selection 3**

a) Why is Thomas surprised by the clothing in the Glade?

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b) What do the italics represent in this selection? How do the italicized words enhance the story?

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**Selection 4**

Are Alby and Newt hostile or friendly towards Thomas? Explain your answer.

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**Selection 5**

a) What about the people in the Glade bothers Thomas?

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b) Based on your reading of *The Maze Runner* (or viewing of the movie in class) so far, why do you think the people in the Glade (with the exception of Thomas) are indifferent to their entrapped state?

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## GRAMMAR

### INVERTED SENTENCES

- When the subject of a sentence comes before the verb, the sentence is in **natural order**.  
EXAMPLE: Karleen went to the store.
- When the verb or part of the verb comes before the subject, the sentence is in **inverted order**.  
EXAMPLES: Here are the keys. Down came the snow.
- Many questions are in inverted order.  
EXAMPLE: Where is the library?
- Sometimes the subject of a sentence is not expressed, as in a command or request. The understood subject is you.  
EXAMPLE: Call about the bus schedule.

**A. Write I to identify the sentences that are in inverted order and N to identify those in natural order.**

- \_\_\_ 1. I will never forget my first airplane trip.
- \_\_\_ 2. There are bookcases on all sides of the room.
- \_\_\_ 3. Here are some insights from my experience in the youth movement.
- \_\_\_ 4. I am studying with Miguel and Felicia for a math test.
- \_\_\_ 5. Who shut the windows?
- \_\_\_ 6. He wrote an e-mail to his cousin.
- \_\_\_ 7. Down blew the tree.
- \_\_\_ 8. Where is the manager?

**B. Rewrite each sentence in inverted order. Underline the subject and circle the verb.**

1. The calculators are here. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The car swerved around the curve. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The skunk scurried under the porch. \_\_\_\_\_

## SUBJECTS AND PREDICATES

- Every sentence has two main parts, a **complete subject** and a **complete predicate**.
- The complete subject includes all the words that tell who or what the sentence is about.  
EXAMPLES: **My brother**/likes to go with us. **Six geese**/honked loudly.
- The complete predicate includes all the words that state the action or condition of the subject.  
EXAMPLES: My brother/**likes to go with us**. Six geese/**honked loudly**.

**A. Draw a line between the complete subject and the complete predicate in each sentence.**

1. Bees fly.
2. Trains whistle.
3. A talented artist drew this cartoon.
4. The wind blew furiously.
5. Wood Buffalo is a large national park.
6. We surely have enjoyed the holiday.
7. These cookies are made with rice.
8. This letter came to the post office box.
9. They rent a cabin in the Rockies every summer.
10. Jamila is reading about the pioneer days in the West.

**B. Write a sentence by adding a complete predicate to each complete subject.**

1. All of the students \_\_\_\_\_
2. Elephants \_\_\_\_\_
3. The top of the mountain \_\_\_\_\_
4. The TV programs tonight \_\_\_\_\_
5. Each of the girls \_\_\_\_\_

**THE END**