

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/GRADE 9 ENGLISH/WEEK 5 HOMEWORK**NAME (FIRST AND LAST):** _____**Read the following selections from James Dashner's *The Maze Runner* and answer the questions from page 5 to 6.****SELECTION ONE**

Ben's throat, louder than the sounds of the closing Door. He fell to his knees, only to be jerked back to his feet by the Keeper in front, a thick guy with black hair and a snarl on his face.

"Noooooooooooo!" Ben screamed, spit flying from his mouth as he thrashed about, tearing at the collar with his hands. But the combined strength of the Keepers was way too much, forcing the condemned boy closer and closer to the edge of the Glade, just as the right wall was almost there. "Noooo!" he screamed again, and then again.

He tried to plant his feet at the threshold, but it only lasted for a split second; the pole sent him into the Maze with a lurch. Soon he was fully four feet outside the Glade, jerking his body from side to side as he tried to escape his collar. The walls of the Door were only seconds from sealing shut.

With one last violent effort, Ben was finally able to twist his neck in the circle of leather so that his whole body turned to face the Gladers. Thomas couldn't believe he was still looking upon a human being—the madness in Ben's eyes, the phlegm flying from his mouth, the pale skin stretched taut across his veins and bones. He looked as alien as anything Thomas could imagine.

"Hold!" Alby shouted.

Ben screamed then, without pause, a sound so piercing that Thomas covered his ears. It was a bestial, lunatic cry, surely ripping the boy's vocal cords to shreds. At the last second, the front Keeper somehow loosened the larger pole from the piece attached to Ben and yanked it back into the Glade, leaving the boy to his Banishment. Ben's final screams were cut off when the walls closed with a terrible boom.

Thomas squeezed his eyes shut and was surprised to feel tears trickling down his cheeks.

SELECTION TWO

This made Thomas even more curious, though he was just fine going back to the subject of Runners. “Okay, I’m listening.”

“Like I said, best of the best.”

“So what do you do? Test everybody to see how fast they are?”

Newt gave Thomas a disgusted look, then groaned. “Show me some smarts, Greenie, Tommy, whatever ya like. How fast you can bloody run is only part of it. A very small part, actually.”

This piqued Thomas’s interest. “What do you mean?”

“When I say best of the best, I mean at everything. To survive the buggin’ Maze, you gotta be smart, quick, strong. Gotta be a decision maker, know the right amount of risk to take. Can’t be reckless, can’t be timid, either.” Newt straightened his legs and leaned back on his hands. “It’s bloody awful out there, ya know? I don’t miss it.”

“I thought the Grievors only came out at night.” Destiny or not, Thomas didn’t want to run into one of those things.

“Yeah, usually.”

“Then why is it so terrible out there?” What *else* didn’t he know about?

Newt sighed. “Pressure. Stress. Maze pattern different every day, tryin’ to picture things in your mind, tryin’ to get us out of here. Worryin’ about the bloody Maps. Worst part, you’re always scared you might not make it back. A normal maze’d be hard enough—but when it *changes* every night, couple of mental mistakes and you’re spendin’ the night with vicious beasts. No room or time for dummies or brats.”

Thomas frowned, not quite understanding the drive inside him, urging him on. Especially after last night. But he still felt it. Felt it all over.

“Why all the interest?” Newt asked.

Thomas hesitated, thinking, scared to say it out loud again. “I want to be a Runner.”

SELECTION THREE

CHAPTER 16

Thomas spent the morning with the Keeper of the Gardens, “working his butt off,” as Newt would’ve said. Zart was the tall, black-haired kid who’d stood at the front of the pole during Ben’s Banishment, and who for some odd reason smelled like sour milk. He didn’t say much, but showed Thomas the ropes until he could start working on his own. Weeding, pruning an apricot tree, planting squash and zucchini seeds, picking veggies. He didn’t love it, and mostly ignored the other boys working alongside him, but he didn’t hate it nearly as much as what he’d done for Winston at the Blood House.

Thomas and Zart were weeding a long row of young corn when Thomas decided it was a good time to start asking questions. This Keeper seemed a lot more approachable.

“So, Zart,” he said.

The Keeper glanced up at him, then resumed his work. The kid had droopy eyes and a long face—for some reason he looked as bored as humanly possible. “Yeah, Greenie, what you want?”

“How many Keepers total are there?” Thomas asked, trying to act casual. “And what are the job options?”

“Well, you got the Builders, the Sloppers, Baggers, Cooks, Map-makers, Med-jacks, Track-Hoes, Blood Housers. The Runners, of course. I don’t know, a few more, maybe. Pretty much keep to myself and my own stuff.”

Most of the words were self-explanatory, but Thomas wondered about a couple of them. “What’s a Sloppler?” He knew that was what Chuck did, but

SELECTION THREE (cont'd)

the boy never wanted to talk about it. Refused to talk about it.

“That’s what the shanks do that can’t do nothin’ else. Clean toilets, clean the showers, clean the kitchen, clean up the Blood House after a slaughter, everything. Spend one day with them suckers—that’ll cure any thoughts of goin’ that direction, I can tell ya that.”

Thomas felt a pang of guilt over Chuck—felt sorry for him. The kid tried so hard to be everyone’s friend, but no one seemed to like him or even pay attention to him. Yeah, he was a little excitable and talked too much, but Thomas was glad enough to have him around.

“What about the Track-hoes?” Thomas asked as he yanked out a huge weed, clumps of dirt swaying on the roots.

Zart cleared his throat and kept on working as he answered. “They’re the ones take care of all the heavy stuff for the Gardens. Trenching and whatnot. During off times they do other stuff round the Glade. Actually, a lot of Gladers have more than one job. Anyone tell you that?”

Thomas ignored the question and moved on, determined to get as many answers as possible. “What about the Baggers? I know they take care of dead people, but it can’t happen *that* often, can it?”

“Those are the creepy fellas. They act as guards and poh-lice, too. Everyone just likes to call ’em Baggers. Have fun that day, brother.” He snickered, the first time Thomas had heard him do so—there was something very likable about it.

Thomas had more questions. Lots more. Chuck and everyone else around the Glade never wanted to give him the answers to anything. And here was Zart, who seemed perfectly willing. But suddenly Thomas didn’t feel like talking anymore. For some reason the girl had popped into his head again, out of the blue, and then thoughts of Ben, and the dead Griever, which should have been a good thing but everyone acted as if it were anything

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

- a) What is happening, as presented in this selection?

- b) Do you feel that the decision to banish Ben is too cruel, or do you think that is necessary? Support your reasoning with evidence from the selection or from other parts of the novel.

- c) What purpose does this event – the banishment – serve in the novel? What message might the author be conveying to his readers?

Selection 2

Complete the following sentences with plausible explanations. (Imagine you are describing a Runner to someone who has not read the novel or seen the movie, but has heard about Runners and is curious about what they do.)

- a) A Runner must be a decision maker because _____
_____.
- b) A Runner must know the right amount of risk to take because _____
_____.
- c) A Runner should not be reckless because _____
_____.
- d) A Runner should not be timid because _____
_____.

Selection 3

Do you think that the Gladers have successfully created for themselves a civilized environment? Support your reasoning with evidence from the selection or from the novel as a whole.

GRAMMAR**DIRECT OBJECTS**

- The direct object tells who or what receives the action of the verb.
The direct object is a noun or pronoun that follows an action verb.

DOExample: The Middle East exports **oil**.**A. Underline the verb in each sentence. Then write DO above each direct object.**

1. Every Canadian should have an understanding of federal politics.
2. Do not spend time at the mall every Saturday.
3. Tam, did you keep those stamps for your collection?
4. Olivia Poole invented the Jolly Jumper in 1959.
5. Write the answer in your notebooks.
6. Who explored the Arctic in the nineteenth century?
7. Who made this delicious ravioli?
8. Did you find an error in that Internet site?

B. Write three sentences about events or characters in *The Maze Runner*, based on your reading so far. The sentences should contain direct objects. Underline the direct object in each sentence.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

INDIRECT OBJECTS

- The indirect object is the noun or pronoun that tells to whom or for whom an action is done. In order to have an indirect object, a sentence must have a direct object.
- The indirect object is usually placed between the action verb and the direct object.

IO

DO

Example: Who gave **you** that interesting **book**?

A. Underline the verb in each sentence. Then write DO above each direct object and IO above each indirect object.

1. The artist showed the collectors a few of her paintings.
2. The driving instructor taught them the rules of the road.
3. Joel brought us some new CDs.
4. This fascinating story will give every listener a thrill.
5. Have you sent your uncle an e-mail?
6. They made us some cookies to take on the train.
7. The scientist gave the national Research Council the good news.
8. The doctor gave the child a thorough examination.

B. Write two sentences about events or characters in *The Maze Runner*, based on your reading so far. The sentences should contain indirect objects. Underline the indirect object in each sentence.

1. _____

2. _____

THE END