

# Progress Report: Desmond

Term 1, 2026

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## About This Report

This report tracks progress in three skills that build toward strong analytical writing:

**Evidence** Supporting claims with specific details from the text

**Reasoning** Explaining why something matters, not just what happens

**Analysis** Explaining what the author's choices do, not just naming them

**Scale:** 1.0 (Beginning) → 2.0 (Developing) → 3.0 (Proficient) → 4.0 (Advanced) → 5.0 (Exemplary)

## This Term's Curriculum

### The Giver

by Lois Lowry

A dystopian novel exploring themes of conformity, memory, and individual choice. Students analyzed how Lowry uses narrative voice, structure, and literary devices to create meaning.

Weeks	Focus	Details
1–4	<b>Evidence Writing</b>	TVODE sentence construction: identifying devices, using quotes, explaining effects
5–6	<b>Thesis Development</b>	Building arguments with cause-effect reasoning and textual support
7–8	<b>Essay Writing</b>	Full analytical essay combining evidence, reasoning, and structure

## Evidence (TVODE)

Weeks 1–4: Learning to support claims with textual evidence

Week	Focus	Score	What They Did
1	Literary Devices	3.4	Analyzed literary devices in character and setting descriptions, making 7 distinct insights about meaning creation.
1	Literary Devices	4.5	Improved analysis significantly but needs to name specific literary devices being used.
2	Exposition	3.7	Examined exposition and rising action elements, identifying specific textual details with strong evidence.
3	Narrative Structure	3.4	Analyzed narrative structure and climax moments, focusing on reader response with specific quotes.
4	Narrative Voice	3.6	Studied narrative voice and falling action using precise quotes like 'dots of cold' and 'whirling torrent of crystals'.

**Week 1 Rewrite:** Improved from 3.4 → 4.5 — shows strong response to feedback

## Reasoning (Thesis)

Weeks 5–6: Developing argument and thesis skills

Week	Focus	Score	What They Did
5	Thesis Development	3.9	Developed thesis arguments about Jonas as victim versus hero using direct textual evidence.
6	Organising Knowledge	3.5	Organized knowledge about Jonas's transformation, identifying multiple themes including conformity versus individuality.

## Analysis (Essay)

Week 8: Complete essay demonstrating all skills

Completed full essay analyzing how literary devices create meaning, with clear structure and strong evidence.

ARGUMENT

**4.2**

EVIDENCE

**4.2**

STRUCTURE

**4.7**

## Summary

TERM AVERAGE

**3.8**

FINAL ESSAY

**4.3**

IMPROVEMENT

**+13%**

### Skills Comparison: Weekly Practice vs Essay Performance

Skill	Weekly Avg	Essay Score	Change
Evidence (TVODE)	<b>3.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>+0.4</b>
Reasoning (Thesis)	<b>3.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>+0.5</b>
Structure	not trained	<b>4.7</b>	— natural strength

## Developmental Profile

What Desmond's scores tell us about their writing development

### CURRENT STAGE

#### Stage 3: Explaining How

Shows how something creates an effect

**Growth Note:** The final essay shows Desmond is beginning to explore why authors make specific choices, which is exciting progress toward deeper analysis.

#### What This Means

Desmond is at the 'Explaining How' stage, which means he can show how literary techniques create specific effects for readers. This is sophisticated thinking that goes beyond just naming what's in the text to actually explaining the connections between author choices and reader experience.

#### Next Step

Ask 'why did the author choose this?' when analyzing quotes to explore author purpose.

## Next Focus

Practice naming specific literary devices when analyzing how authors create effects.

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