

**THE MAZE RUNNER
UNIT READING
GUIDE**

**MS. CIRAS =
LANGUAGE ARTS**

NAME:

PRE READING

1. What is a dystopian society?

2. How do societies come to be?

3. What would you do if your memory was wiped? You couldn't remember any specifics about your life?

CHAPTERS 1-3 QUESTIONS

1. Who is our narrator?

2. What happened to him? Where is he?

3. How is he feeling throughout this ordeal?

4. What do you think klunk means? What about shank? Slopper? Shuck? Keeper? Greenbean?

5. Why does he think of them as captors? What does that imply about his situation?

6. What are your first impressions of this new place our narrator has found himself in?

7. What is a beetle blade? Are they strange?

8. Who or what do you think “they” could be as discussed on page 14?

9. Describe Chuck.

10. What do you think the Grievors are like? Why?

11. Name at least two more ideas from the novel (such as Grievors) that are new to you and make predictions as to what they could mean.

CHAPTERS 4-7

1. Draw The Glade on a separate piece of paper.

2. What is so unusual about the doors in the Glade.

3. What could a maze symbolize?

4. How is Thomas holding himself together throughout these three chapters? How does he feel emotionally and physically?

5. Describe Gally's physical appearance as compared to his character traits.

6. What happens to Thomas on page 34? What does he realize?

7. Where does Newt take Thomas?

8. Draw a Griever on a separate piece of paper.

9. Add to your illustrations of the Glade.

10. What unusual event occurs at the end of Chapter 7?

CHAPTERS 8-11

1. Describe Chuck and Thomas' relationship.

2. Why does suspicion fall on Thomas when things start going strangely? Do you think he had something to do with the change?

3. Why does what is in the Box disturb everyone?

4. What do you think "Everything is going to change." means? Why do you think she is the last "one" ever?

5. Why do you think WICKED is written on the beetle blades? What could that represent?

6. Who attacks Thomas? Why?

7. Do you agree with Newt when he says "That's one of the reasons we run this place all nice and busylike. You get lazy, you get sad. Start givin' up. Plain and simple (Dashner, 77)."? Why or why not?

CHAPTERS 12-16

1. What is the news Minho brings back to the Glade? Why do you think this could be important?

2. Why do you think Minho is so hostile to Thomas?

3. How do the leaders keep the Glade running?

4. Discuss the justice system in the Glade. Does it seem fair? Why or why not? How could it be improved?

5. What details help you visualize what is happening during the banishment?

6. What are some other ways you think Ben could have been dealt with?

7. Why do you think Thomas is drawn to the job of being a Runner? Argue both for and against being a runner.

8. Why is order so important? Choose at least three situations that have happened so far in the novel and discuss how maintaining order helped or did not help.

9. How did Frypan differ from what you imagined him to be? Why?

10. Chuck brings up a good point at the end of chapter 15. Who or what killed the Griever? Why?

11. Why does the author use dialects when the characters are speaking such as “They act as police, too (Dashner, 105).”? What is the point of it?

12. Why is Newt 'buggin'? What do you think could have happened? List at least two different possibilities.

13. Why are the rules important? Do you think there should be exceptions to the rules?

14. Do you think Thomas is a huge idiot? Why or why not?

CHAPTERS 17-21

1. Are you surprised by Minho's negative reaction on page 117? Why or why not?

2. Do you think Thomas could be a real hero? Why or why not?

3. How does Thomas take care of Alby after Minho ditches him?

4. Describe the Grievors further and add to/revise your drawing from before. How is it different now?

5. Are the Grievors animal or machine? Provide evidence from the chapter to support your claims.

6. What is Minho's plan to get them to safety? Do you think it will work? (page 136).

7. What is the Cliff? What could this mean for the residents of the Glade?

CHAPTERS 22-25

1. How do you think Thomas will respond to his new-found "fame" in the Glade? Provide one reason why you think Thomas will respond in that way.

2. Which explanation of the Changing makes more sense, the explanation provided by Newt, or the thought suggested by Thomas? Explain your choice. (pg. 149)

3. Why do you think Newt has called a Gathering to talk about Thomas? What do you think the Keepers need to discuss? Be specific.

4. What does Frypan suggest should be done with Thomas? How do others respond?

5. What are Gally's thoughts about Thomas and why he was sent to the Glade? Explain why you agree or disagree with Gally's thoughts.

6. Do you think that the other Keepers will agree to the recommendation made by Minho at the end of chapter 24? Why or why not?

7. How do the Keepers actually react?

8. Gally makes some ominous threats to Thomas. What evidence is there to support Gally's feelings?

CHAPTERS 26-29

1. How do the Keepers feel about Gally? Why?

2. What is Thomas' sentence? Does this seem fair? What would you sentence him with?

3. Alby wants to see Thomas. Make three predictions of what will happen in this encounter.

4. Were your predictions accurate? How did they differ from what actually happened?

5. Who or what do you think controls the Maze? Why?

6. Do you think it is significant that Thomas remembers the Glade?

7. How is Thomas different from the others in the Glade? Note differences from the novel so far.

8. How does he know the girl's name?

9. What do you think the girl speaking to Thomas in his head means at the end of the chapter when she says "*It was you and me, Tom. We did this to them. To us.*"? How might that affect the rest of the book? Explain your answer.

CHAPTERS 30-34

1. Discuss Thomas' and Chuck's conversation. How does it make you feel? Why?

2. How does Thomas react to Alby?

3. What explanation can you determine for how perfect the Glade is, as discussed on page 199?

4. What does Minho teach Thomas to do so they don't lose their way in the Maze? Why does Thomas find this so difficult?

5. What does Thomas suggest regarding the Grievors and where they go? Do you think what Thomas suggests is a good idea? Explain your answer.

6. What do you think the words stamped into the stone of the walls might suggest about the world outside the maze? What might it suggest about why the boys are in the Glade?

7. What does Thomas notice that is rather shocking? Provide a possible explanation for what has

occurred.

8. How does Minho react to the major change in the Gladers' environment? How do you think you would react if you were in Minho's situation? Support your answer with at least two reasons.

9. What do Thomas and Minho witness at the end of Chapter 34? Explain how that might be important to the Gladers.

CHAPTERS 35-39

1. What do Thomas and Minho learn by throwing rocks? What implications could this have for their future?

2. What is the importance of keeping maps of all maze everyday? What ways can you think to use the maps to the Glader's advantages?

3. What new terrible development has occurred? What could this mean for the Gladers?

4. On page 236, Teresa wrote down that "WICKED is good." Do you think this is true? Why or why not?

5. Describe Teresa. Discuss her interactions with Thomas versus the other boys.

6. What is The Ending?

7. Do you think Alby is justified in locking Teresa up? What would you have done in his situation?

8. Do you agree with Thomas' theory on page 243?

9. How does his theory change the way the Gladers have approached their existence so far?

10. Why does Alby want to hand over the reins of leadership to the other Keepers? What does that say about his character?

11. Describe Thomas' encounter with Gally.

CHAPTERS 40-44

1. Relate the terms variables and trials to what you know about the Glade habitat so far.

2. Why is Thomas so adamant that Teresa be let free from the slammer?

3. What is Thomas' plan to decode the maps?

4. Why do Thomas and Minho enter the Maze again? Does this seem like a solid plan? What holes do you see?

5. Why can Thomas and Teresa communicate telepathically? Why do you think this is possible for them and not the other inhabitants of the Glade?

CHAPTERS 45–48

1. What do you think the code means? Do you think it is a coincidence that it is six real words?

2. Why does Thomas decide he needs to be stung by a Griever? What does he hope this will accomplish?

3. There is a thin line between bravery and stupidity. Does Thomas cross it? Explain.

4. Describe what Thomas goes through during the Change.

5. Was there a better solution to this beside Thomas getting stung?

6. What does Thomas mean when he says “Enough to know that sometimes knowing sucked (Dashner 299).”?

7. What do you think Thomas and Teresa could be responsible for?

8. Predict Thomas' solution to escape.

CHAPTERS 49-52

1. What are three things that Thomas found out about the boys, their lives, and/or the creators? Feel free to use bullet points to make sure you provide three things. (pg. 303)

2. Imagine you were one of the boys listening to what Thomas says toward the end of chapter 49. How would you respond? Why would you respond in that way?

3. If Thomas is correct about what he suggests at the end of chapter 50, what does it show about the Creators? Explain your answer.

4. Who confesses to burning the Maps? What explanation does that character provide for deciding to burn the Maps? (pg. 312)

5. What plan does Thomas suggest to get around the Grievors as they escape? Why does he think it will work?

6. Are you surprised by how Newt reacts to all this news from Thomas?

7. What do you think Thomas and Teresa's relationship was before coming to the Glade? Do you think they knew each other at all? Explain.

CHAPTERS 53-56 AND TIMELINE

1. What do the Gladers decide to do? Do they all agree?

2. Do you think the Creators will interfere in the plan the Gladers have made? Why or why not?

3. Why does Newt's pep talk on page 327 have such an uplifting effect?

4. Describe the visual you have created from the fight scene in chapter 55.

5. Why does Alby sacrifice himself? What does this say about his character?

6. Why does Thomas make Teresa and Chuck go first into the Griever Hole?

CHAPTERS 57-60

1. Why is it significant that Chuck figures it out in the end and not Thomas or Teresa?

2. After going down the slide, where do they Gladers end up? Describe their new surroundings.

3. Who does the WICKED woman reveal? Why is this shocking?

4. Why would the Creators want to control Gally? How do you think they do it?

5. Discuss Chuck's actions in chapter 59. Was this Gally's fault?

6. Who are the people that burst into the Creator's lair?

7. What happens to the woman with the Flare? What does this tell you about how society deals with those infected?

CHAPTERS 61-EPILOGUE

1. What is the purpose of the Gladers? Why fight WICKED?

2. Thomas thinks that the Gladers who stayed behind are probably dead. What do you think?

3. In the Epilogue, why did they find it important to collect kids who 'never gave up'?

4. What do you think Stage 2 will bring?

5. Who is Group B?
