

***Messenger* by Lois Lowry**

English Language Arts, 8th Grade

WHAT'S THE STORY?

Set after the events of *The Giver* and *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger* is set in a dystopian society known simply as “The Village.” Matty, a young man in the village, lives in the community of The Village with a blind man known as Seer. What was once a welcoming community where outsiders were greeted with open arms has suddenly begun to change. People are becoming less friendly, often taking the form of selfishness. Upon hearing the decision to close borders to The Village, the Seer tasks Matty to travel through The Forest to find his lost daughter, Kira.

CONNECTIONS TO CURRICULUM

The following are some, but not all, of the connections to curriculum for this novel.

- **Unit 2: Journey**
 - Essential Question: How do people’s journey affect their understanding of people and the world around them?
- **Unit 4: Change**
 - Essential Question: How can we adapt to change in order to better understand and impact the world around us?

KEY STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- RL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts
- RI.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
- RL.8.9 Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths, traditional stories, or religious works such as the Bible, including how the new material is rendered.
- RL.8.12 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- RI.8.12 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
- W.8.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.

