English 8 Summer Homework

Choose one of the titles below, read it in its entirety, and write an essay answering the following questions.

Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

1. Describe the major and minor characters of the story. Describe the characters using any specific, significant information regarding their appearance, personality, background, motivation, relationships, and any changes that they undergo.

2. Describe the setting (when and where) of the story. What function does the setting play in the story? Does it make the story seem more realistic, teach the reader about different ways of life, affect the mood of the story, or affect the conflict of the story?

3. Provide a brief description of the plot. What is significant about the exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution? Does the author use writing techniques such as foreshadowing, flashback, etc.?

4. Describe the major conflicts of the story. Analyze the type of conflicts in the story such as good vs evil, freedom vs order, stability vs change, hero/heroine vs hubris (character flaw), innocence vs wisdom, male vs female, parent vs child, group struggles for dominance, power, and value (races, rich vs poor, classes), natural disasters, fate, destiny, etc.

5. Discuss any major themes of the story. What moral, main idea, or lesson is the author trying to communicate through the story?

You must use at least 5-10 quotes from the text in your response, formatted with quotation marks and page numbers in parentheses.

Please be sure to use specific details and examples from the text to support your response.