

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Worldview Shaping in 8th Grade Literature

Literature gives us a window to the world, and good literature raises big questions about our lives. As we examine the five biblical worldview themes to answer the questions below (and many more), we will find that a biblical worldview is crucial to a proper understanding of the issues raised by the literature that students read. The answers to these questions not only make students more confident in the Bible but also enable them to be more discerning about their world.

MATURITY: How do I become who I should be?

God is concerned not only with what I do but also with who I am. Our culture often speaks of being authentic—just being myself. But the Bible speaks about Holy Spirit helping the Christian mature into a Christlike person.

- Am I focused on doing right or on being right?
- Does being authentic excuse doing wrong?
- How can doing right become part of who I really am?

WISDOM: What is the best course of action?

Wisdom is the ability to live in God's world in a way that pleases Him in all things. Many people choose a path that brings temporary instead of lasting success because they do not conform their lives to the way God made His world to work. Christians can learn wisdom from literature if they read it in light of God's Word.

- How do I live a life that pleases God?
- What character flaws do I need to correct in order to become wise?
- How can I use technology wisely?

GENEROSITY: What does it mean to be generous?

Generous people imitate God in giving more of something desirable than what others expect. Generosity can be corrupted if it is shown for the sake of earning praise.



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A Christian finds motivation to be generous in God's great generosity of providing salvation.

- Am I generous or stingy?
- What should I think of someone who is generous but has other character flaws?
- How can I become more generous?

FREEDOM: What does it mean to be free?

Freedom is the ability to do whatever God expects me to do. True freedom comes under threat when doing what God requires is restricted and when freedom is redefined to mean that everyone can do whatever they want.

- Am I free if I am enslaved to my own desires?
- Why do revolutions rarely bring true freedom?
- How should a Christian respond when wrongly deprived of freedom?

NATURE: How do I take time to reflect on the world God made?

God created a world that is beautiful as well as functional. The beauty of the earth can be corrupted by unwise use or can be given false origins. Christians should carefully observe God's creation to grow in their appreciation of the Creator, to discern illustrations of biblical morality, and to learn how to best manage God's creation.

- How can poetry enhance my appreciation of creation?
- How can accounts of natural disasters affect the way I relate to creation?
- How can reflecting on God's design in creation help me worship God?

