



THE GIVER: POST-READING RESPONSE PROMPTS

Student answers and evidence will vary

After you finish reading *The Giver*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

Describe Rosemary. Explain who she is, what happens to her, and why she is important to the story.

- A. Rosemary was the Giver's daughter and the last person chosen to be the Receiver. When Rosemary experienced the extreme pain of some of the memories she received, she requested to be Released. When she was Released, all of the memories that she had received went to the rest of the Community, who had a very difficult time dealing with them. The Giver himself was also heartbroken over Rosemary's release. She is important to the story because the Giver learned from his experience training her and makes sure not to make the same mistakes with Jonas.

What is the climax of the story? What events lead to this point in the story?

- B. The climax of the story is when Jonas has to leave the Community in the middle of the night with Gabe because he learns that Gabe will be Released the next day. Since Jonas learns that Release is actually death, he can't let that happen to Gabe, because he has grown to care about him.

Has this story made you think about rules in a society in a new or different way? Why or why not?

- C. (Student answers will vary but should include text evidence and logical reasons and support.)

What do Jonas and the Giver decide to do near the end of the story? Why do they think this is a good idea?

- D. Jonas and the Giver decide that Jonas will sneak out of the Community. The Giver will stay behind, pretending that Jonas was lost in the river. The Giver will also be there to help the Community process the memories and emotions they will experience once Jonas leaves. They believe that this is the right choice because they feel that the rest of the members of the Community need to experience the memories and feel emotions again. That way they can get back the collective wisdom that they lost when they gave all past memories to the Receiver.

How does Jonas's attitude toward the Community change over the course of the story? Describe how he feels about the Community in the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

- E. In the beginning of the story, Jonas trusts the Community and the way things have always been done. He respects the rules and the rituals, although he does start to have some questions and reservations about them. Once Jonas starts his training with the Giver, he starts to question the Community's rules and rituals more and wishes he could share some of the memories and deep emotions with his friends and family. For example, when he asks his mother if she loves him, and she scolds him for imprecise language, Jonas is disappointed that his friends and family can't truly experience love. In the end, Jonas is angry and distrustful of the Community. He plans to leave so that all of the members of the Community can receive the memories, which he hopes will help them change for the better.



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After you finish reading *The Giver*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

Why does the Giver stay behind? Do you think he makes the right choice? Explain your thinking with reasons and evidence from the text.

- F. The Giver stays behind so that the Community members will have someone to help them process the memories and emotions they will experience when Jonas leaves. The Giver remembers how hard it was for the people when they experienced pain for the first time after Rosemary was Released, and he knows they will need help dealing with those feelings again.
(Student opinions should be supported with relevant arguments and story details.)

What will happen to the members of the Community when Jonas leaves? How do you think they will react? Do you think there will be any lasting change in the Community as a result? Explain your thinking with reasons and evidence from the text.

- G. (Student answers will vary but should include references to the fact that the Community members will experience the memories that Jonas had received from the Giver.)

Describe the Community. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of living in this kind of society. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

- H. The Community where Jonas lives is very structured and has lots of strict rules and rituals. People have very little freedom or choice because the Community leaders choose their jobs and their families. Individuality is discouraged and punished, and everyone is expected to act for the good of the Community as a whole. Some advantages of this kind of society are that everyone's basic needs are met, and there is very little discrimination, because everyone is treated the same. Some disadvantages are that people don't get to make their own choices, people who display differences can be punished, and people don't feel true joy or love.

What clues does the author give about where Jonas and Gabe go at the end of the story? Do you think it's a real place? Explain your thinking with reasons and evidence from the text.

- I. At the top of a hill, Jonas finds a sled that he thinks has been waiting for him. He and Gabe slide down the snowy hill to a place with lights and music. It seems like it might be a village or town at Christmas time.
(Student opinions should be supported with logical evidence and reasons.)

Some themes of *The Giver* are individuality and interdependence, the importance of memory and emotions, the role of freedom and choice, and the relationship between pain and joy. Based on these themes, what is one message you think the author was trying to communicate with readers? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

- J. (Student answers will vary but should include text evidence and logical reasons.)