



THE GIVER: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #2

Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

Chapters 6 – 8

Comprehension

- What are some of the new items that children are given in the December Ceremonies? What do the different items represent in terms of the children's roles in society?
- Describe the relationship between Jonas and Lily. Give examples from the text to support your answer.
- Describe the purposes of the Ceremony of Loss and the Murmur of Replacement Ceremony.
- Based on what you've read so far, why is Release not the same as Loss in the community?
- How does Jonas feel about the level of control the Committee of Elders has over the lives and choices of the community's citizens? Give specific evidence from the text that shows how Jonas feels.
- In Chapter 7, the entire community is laughing at Asher's past mistakes and experiences with the discipline wand. Why are they laughing? How does Asher feel about this? What does this tell you about Asher and about the community as a whole?
- In this community, much of the first twelve years of a child's life is about learning interdependence, fitting in, and establishing sameness. How is the Ceremony of Twelve different?

Analysis

- At the beginning of Chapter 6, we find out that Lily doesn't like her hair ribbons. Yet everyone in the community is given the same clothes, the same bikes, and the same haircuts, regardless of their preferences. Why is everyone given the same things? What does this tell you about the community?
- Compare and contrast the way the community treats newchildren with the way our society treats babies. Why are some things the same but others different?
- Reread the section in Chapter 8 where the Chief Elder describes the qualities that a Receiver of Memory must have. What can you infer about the role of Receiver from the qualities required?

Personal Connection

- ★ How would you feel about living in a community like Jonas's where everyone is given the same clothes, the same bikes, and the same haircuts? What might be the advantages and disadvantages of this type of community?



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Chapters 9 – 11

Comprehension

- Summarize how the rules for Jonas as the Receiver of Memory are different from the rules for the rest of the community? How does Jonas feel about these new and different rules?
- Use context clues from the text to explain the importance of truth in Jonas's world.
- At the beginning of Chapter 10, what does Jonas notice about the Annex that is unusual? Also, what is out of the ordinary about Jonas's interaction with the Attendant at the Annex?
- How is the Receiver's verbal description of sledding different from the memory he transmits to Jonas?
- What new information do you now have about the setting of the story after Jonas's first visit with the Receiver?
- Why does the Receiver transmit the memory of sunburn to Jonas?

Analysis

- At the end of Chapter 9, how does Jonas's "thought that he had never had before" impact his feelings about the community? Why does it affect him this way? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
- In Chapter 10, we learn that Jonas "had never known that other books existed." What does the lack of books tell you about the purpose of books in the community?
- In Jonas's first conversation with the Receiver, he tells the Receiver, "I thought there was only us. I thought there was only now." Why had Jonas held those beliefs? Use clues from the text to support your answer.
- Why does the Receiver differentiate between power and honor? What is the difference?

Personal Connection

- ★ The first memories that the Giver transmits to Jonas are simple moments like sledding down a hill and the feeling of sunshine. What are some small moments from your own life that you would want to share with someone else? Describe the sensations and emotions involved in the memory.