



# THE GIVER: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #3

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 12 – 14

### Comprehension

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- How does Jonas respond when he learns about colors?
- Why does Jonas think it isn't fair that nothing has color?
- Give two examples of how Jonas tries to impact other characters with the new knowledge he has gained from the memories.
- Why do the Elders rarely ask the Giver for advice? And how does the Giver feel about this?
- What happened ten years ago when the previous Receiver failed?
- Describe two instances in which the Committee of Elders asked for the Giver's advice in the past. What did they ask, and what was the Giver's advice?
- What happens when Jonas soothes Gabriel during the night, and why is Jonas frightened by it?

### Analysis

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- "We gained control of many things. But we had to let go of others." What does this quote mean in the context of the story?
- What clues does the author give to show how the Giver feels about having the burden of the memories fall on one person? Find specific parts of the text to support your answer.
- Describe the memory of pain that the Giver transmits to Jonas in Chapter 14. Why does the Giver give Jonas painful memories? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- Why does Jonas's realization that his family and friends have never known pain make him feel lonely? What does this imply about the role of the Receiver of Memory and about the Giver himself?

### Personal Connection

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- ★ "We really have to protect people from wrong choices." Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why?



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## Chapters 15 – 17

### Comprehension

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- At the end of Chapter 15, the Giver asks forgiveness for transmitting a memory to Jonas. What is the memory, and why does he ask for forgiveness?
- Why does Jonas want his childhood again at the beginning of Chapter 16?
- In Chapter 16, the Giver transmits his favorite memory to Jonas. Describe this memory, the new words or concepts that Jonas learns from it, and how Jonas feels about the memory.
- Why does Jonas throw his pill away at the end of Chapter 16? What might this mean for Jonas's personal growth?
- Why does Jonas feel differently now about the game of good guys and bad guys that Asher and the other children are playing?
- Jonas is now aware that memories shape personal experience and the ability to understand. What is one situation in which Jonas realizes that the people in his community don't actually understand what they're feeling?

### Analysis

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- Give some specific examples of words and phrases in Chapter 15 that set the tone and have the strongest emotional impact. What effect does this language have on the reader?
- After receiving the Giver's favorite memory, Jonas admits that "it was a *dangerous* way to live" and feels that "there was *risk* involved." What does he mean by this? What danger or risk do you think he's talking about?
- How do Jonas's parents respond when Jonas asks if they love him? How does Jonas probably feel about their response? Use specific parts of the text in your answer.
- Explain how the author shows that Jonas has changed in Chapter 17. Give specific quotes from the text to support your answer.

### Personal Connection

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- ★ The Giver shared his favorite memory with Jonas. What is one of your favorite memories? Describe the memory in as much detail as you can, including your thoughts, emotions, and sensations.