



# THE GIVER: NOVEL DISCUSSION GUIDE #4

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 18 – 20

### Comprehension

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- Who was Rosemary?
- According to the Giver, what was Rosemary like before she requested release?
- What caused Rosemary to change? Give some specific examples that the Giver mentions to Jonas.
- How are Rosemary and Jonas alike? How are they different?
- How does Jonas learn what release really means? How does he react when he learns the truth?
- What do Jonas and the Giver decide to do in Chapter 20? Why do they decide this, and why do they think it will work?
- How does the Giver feel about the plan that he and Jonas have made?
- What memory does Jonas want the Giver to keep? Why does Jonas want him to keep it?

### Analysis

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- How does the Giver feel about release, specifically the release of newchildren? What words or phrases from the text help you know how he feels?
- As Jonas watches the release of the twin, a memory comes back to him. What memory is it? What are the parallels between the memory and the release of the newchild? Why do you think this memory comes back to Jonas at this point?
- Does Jonas's father truly understand what he's doing when he releases the twin? Do other adults in the community understand what release really is? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
- How and why has Jonas's opinion of the community changed in the year he's been training with the Giver? What evidence from the text shows you how he feels now?

### Personal Connection

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- ★ The community uses the word "release" as a euphemism—a mild or pleasant way of saying something unpleasant. Some common euphemisms in English include "passed away," "let go," "put to sleep," "restroom," and many more. Why do you think people use euphemisms? Do you think euphemisms are a good thing? Why or why not?



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## Chapters 21 – 23

### Comprehension

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- Why does Jonas suddenly abandon the plan he had made with the Giver?
- How does Jonas use the memories for his and Gabriel's survival on their journey?
- How does Jonas know that the community has given up trying to find him and Gabriel?
- How does the landscape change as Jonas and Gabriel get farther away from the community?
- In Chapter 22, Jonas thinks about starvation in two different ways. What are these different types of starvation?
- In Chapter 23, Jonas has moments when he wants to give up. What keeps him going?
- Why does Jonas suddenly become happy as he approaches the summit of the hill?
- What does Jonas experience as he and Gabriel arrive Elsewhere?

### Analysis

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- How does the author build a sense of suspense throughout Chapter 21? How is this technique effective?
- What does Jonas's decision to flee tell you about his character? Do you think he would have made the same choice at the beginning of the story? Why or why not?
- How has the mood and tone of the story changed by the end of Chapter 21? What are some specific parts of the story that set this new tone?
- How does the author show in Chapter 22 that Jonas is conflicted over his choice to leave the community?
- Based on the way the book ends, what is one message the author wants readers to take away from the story? What evidence from the text supports this message?

### Personal Connection

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- ★ In your opinion, is this a happy ending to the story? Why or why not?