

The Giver

UCHS Summer Assignment 2017

Please answer the following in complete sentences. Your responses will be collected for a grade in your Religion class, and will also be extremely helpful in opening discussions in August

Reading Comprehension Questions (Chronological)

1. In the first two chapters, what do you learn about the following things in the “community?”:
 - a. The importance of the month of December.
 - b. Responsibilities at different ages.
 - c. Job/profession assignment.
 - d. Family interaction.
 - e. Feelings.
2. “No one mentioned such things; it was not a rule, but was considered rude to call attention to things that were unsettling or different about individuals.” What does this quote from chapter 3 tell you about individuality in the community?
3. By the end of chapter 4, what do you know the meaning of “release” is? Why is this alarming? Use two quotes from EARLIER chapters to defend your answer.
4. What do you believe the “stirrings” represent? Why is it frightening that as a society the stirrings are suppressed with pharmaceuticals? How does this relate to “birthmother” being a very unimportant job?
5. Cite three details about the ceremonies of ages (ones through twelves) which are alarming to you.
6. In the rules Jonas is given about his training to become the Receiver, what rule bothers him the most and why? How does this rule completely change the way Jonas looks at society?
7. Is civilization maintained by truth-telling, or by lies? Defend your answer with two examples of your own.
8. When the Giver tells Jonas that he may find “wisdom” even sooner than he did, what do you believe he is saying? What context clues lead you to this conclusion?
9. How does the experience of pain make Jonas feel alone? How is Jonas’ training incredibly isolating?
10. In what specific circumstances has the Giver’s advice been solicited from the Council? How does the Giver know how to advise the Council in these situations?
11. Under what circumstances does Jonas learn what “release” means? Use a quote to show his reaction to this discovery.
12. What does the Giver tell Jonas about Rosemary which elucidates her importance to him?
13. Describe the Giver and Jonas’ plan, and also why it does not happen the way they had hoped.
14. Find two quotes which show the trials Jonas must face while escaping.
15. In your perspective, why does Lowry end the novel with a cliffhanger? What is your own belief of what happens to Jonas and Gabe?

Critical Thinking Questions (Thematic)

16. Describe families in the community in the following ways:
 - a. How are families “compiled?”
 - b. How are families seen as a societal “police?”
 - c. Why is “communication” within families inherently fake?

- b. How are families seen as a societal “police?”
 - c. Why is “communication” within families inherently fake?
 - d. How does the community view love within families?
 - e. What seems to be the purpose of family units?
17. This book contains many ideas related to individualism and collectivism (as psychology defines these terms). Define these terms as psychology would in the *simplest* way you can, then answer the following:
- a. Do you believe the community is more individualistic or collectivistic? Defend your assertion with a quote.
 - b. How is Jonas’ decision to leave the Community individualistic?
 - c. How is Jonas’ decision to leave the Community collectivistic?
 - d. Do you think our current society encourages its young to be more individualistic or collectivistic and why?
 - e. Do you believe true leadership is more individualistic or collectivistic and why?
18. The community focuses on “precision of language.”
- a. Give two examples of what the community believes “precision of language” means.
 - b. How can language used precisely or imprecisely be used to manipulate large groups of people?
 - c. Define “euphemism.” How are the words “nurturer” and “release” euphemisms in this society?
 - d. Why is the focus on “precision of language” highly ironic given the structure of the community?
19. Manipulation is a theme that recurs throughout this novel, answer the following exploring this topic:
- a. What specific tactics does this society use to manipulate its citizens?
 - b. Most societies attempt to manipulate their citizenry in some ways. What manipulation tactics can you see in societies throughout the world? Try to come up with three.
 - c. The Community forces people to “share feelings” and “report dreams” daily. How is this a form of control and manipulation?
20. Lowry relies on the third person limited viewpoint in this novel, if you don’t know what that is, look it up, then answer the following.
- a. Why do you think this point-of-view is more effective than first person?
 - b. Define “rhetorical question.” Give two example of Jonas asking himself rhetorical questions.
 - c. How does Lowry use rhetorical questions to explore Jonas’ developing morals?
21. Lowry is obviously exploring the concept of conformity with the themes in this novel. Answer the following questions exploring “sameness.”
- a. How is “Sameness” desirable in the Community?
 - b. How is “Sameness” safe? Devise seven reasons.
 - c. How does the conformity of life in the Community make life simpler for its citizens?
 - d. Under what circumstances do you think people could be convinced to adopt this much conformity as normal in their lives (what do you think could “cause” the Community’s formation)?
 - e. What is positive about social conformity in our lives?
22. Lowry explores the concept of “duty” in this novel in interesting ways:
- a. How does Jonas accept and fulfill his duty to the Community?
 - b. How does Jonas come to understand that he has duties which break the Community’s rules?
 - c. How does the concept of duty intertwine with the concept of leadership?
23. We often focus on leadership’s physical qualities instead of its intellectual and emotional ones:

- c. How does the concept of duty intertwine with the concept of leadership?
23. We often focus on leadership's physical qualities instead of its intellectual and emotional ones:
- a. How does Jonas exhibit emotional and intellectual leadership?
 - b. How does Jonas influence the Giver to show leadership?
 - c. Jonas makes a decision for the greater good of his world at large. How does he exhibit leadership in his decision and in his
24. And finally, Lowry plays with the concept of "choice" in this novel:
- a. How is the Community set up to completely eliminate choice?
 - b. Do you believe that some people would enjoy living in a "choice-less" society and why or why not?
 - c. What are the perils of having the right to choose one's own path in life?
 - d. Do you believe that everyone deserves the right to make all their own choices and why or why not?
25. Write what you believe the three most important messages are from *The Giver*.