

# The Giver Questions And Answers Chapters 1-23

## The Giver Discussion Questions By Chapter

### Chapter 1

1. What do you think of Jonas's community? What words might you use to describe it? Give reasons for your answers.
2. What rules and punishments are used in Jonas's society? How does Jonas feel about the rules?
3. Why is Jonas so "careful about language"? How important is it to choose "just the right words" in our society? Explain your answer.
4. How would you feel if your family had "telling of feelings" after dinner every night?
5. What do you think happens when someone is released?

### Chapter 2

1. There are two instances of rule breaking in this chapter. Consider each one. Do you feel the punishment was justified? Explain your reasoning.
2. Why were the rules "very hard to change"?
3. What is so important about the "crematory of twelve"?
4. What kind of job do you think Jonas will get? Explain your reasoning.
5. If some older people in your community were to observe you, what job do you think they would give you and why?

### Chapter 3

1. To what extent are people all the same in this society? How are differences treated?
2. Why do you think memories were "true"?
3. Why do you think the author uses four paragraphs in the beginning of this chapter to discuss the subject of pale eyes and ends the chapter with the same subject?
4. What is a "birthmother"? How is this different from the concept of mothering in our world?
5. What does the colorless shade of the tunic and the apple tell you about the people in this book? What do you think happened with the apple?

### Chapter 4

1. In what areas of life do the members of the community have free choice? What areas of their lives are tightly controlled?
2. Do you think the rule against bragging is a good one? Why or why not?
3. What advantages and disadvantages does Jonas see in the way he decides to spend his volunteer hours?
4. What similarities are there between the newchildren and the Old?
5. What do you think about release now?

The Giver questions and answers chapters 1-23 provide a comprehensive understanding of Lois Lowry's novel "The Giver." This thought-provoking tale explores themes of memory, individuality, and the complexities of human emotion within a seemingly utopian society. In this article, we will delve into key questions and answers that cover the plot, characters, and significant themes across all 23 chapters, enhancing your comprehension of this impactful story.

## Overview of "The Giver"

"The Giver" is set in a dystopian future where society has eliminated pain and suffering by enforcing strict conformity. The protagonist, Jonas, is selected to be the new Receiver of Memory, a role that holds the collective memories of humanity, both joyous and painful. As Jonas receives these memories from The Giver, he begins to understand the depth of human experience and the importance of emotions, ultimately leading him to question the society's choices.

## Chapter Summaries and Key Questions

## Chapters 1-5

Summary: In the beginning, we are introduced to Jonas, his family, and the community's structure. The society values sameness, and citizens are assigned roles at the Ceremony of Twelve. Jonas is apprehensive about his upcoming assignment.

Key Questions:

1. What is the significance of the Ceremony of Twelve?
  - The Ceremony of Twelve is crucial as it marks the transition from childhood to adulthood, where citizens are assigned their lifelong professions.
2. How does Jonas feel about the upcoming ceremony?
  - Jonas feels a mix of apprehension and excitement, indicating his awareness of the weight of the decisions that are made during this event.
3. What do we learn about the concept of "Sameness"?
  - Sameness is a societal principle aimed at eliminating differences to prevent conflict and pain, but it also leads to the loss of individuality and depth of experience.

## Chapters 6-10

Summary: Jonas receives the assignment of Receiver of Memory, a prestigious role that isolates him from his peers. He begins his training with The Giver, who introduces him to the concept of memory and emotion.

Key Questions:

1. What qualities make Jonas a suitable candidate for the Receiver of Memory?
  - Jonas displays intelligence, sensitivity, and the ability to think critically about his society's norms, which are essential traits for the Receiver.
2. What does Jonas discover about colors and emotions?
  - Jonas learns about colors and emotions that have been eliminated from society. His first experience with color is profound, symbolizing the richness of human experience that is absent in his community.
3. How does the community react to Jonas's new role?
  - The community views Jonas's assignment with respect but also with a degree of distance, as the role of Receiver is one of solitude and burden.

## Chapters 11-15

Summary: As Jonas begins to receive memories, he experiences joy, pain, and the complexities of human emotions. He learns about love, war, and the beauty

of nature, which starkly contrast with his community's controlled existence.

Key Questions:

1. What are some significant memories that Jonas receives?
  - Jonas receives memories of sledding, sunshine, and love, as well as dark memories of war and suffering, which challenge his understanding of happiness and pain.
2. How does the concept of choice play a role in Jonas's learning?
  - Jonas discovers that the ability to choose is fundamental to human experience. The absence of choice in his society leads to a lack of genuine happiness and fulfillment.
3. What does Jonas learn about the concept of "Release"?
  - Jonas learns that "Release" is a euphemism for euthanasia, which shocks him as it reveals the dark underbelly of the community's quest for sameness and control.

## Chapters 16-20

Summary: As Jonas gains more memories, he becomes increasingly disillusioned with his society. He experiences love through memories of family and deep connections but realizes that his community has sacrificed these feelings for stability.

Key Questions:

1. What impact does Jonas's understanding of love have on him?
  - Jonas's understanding of love creates a longing for true connection, highlighting the emotional void in his community.
2. How does Jonas's relationship with The Giver evolve?
  - Jonas's relationship deepens as he begins to see The Giver as a mentor and friend, sharing in the burden of knowledge and understanding.
3. What revelation does Jonas have about the community's rules?
  - Jonas realizes that the rules of the community are designed to protect its citizens from emotional pain, but this protection comes at the cost of true freedom and individuality.

## Chapters 21-23

Summary: In the climax of the story, Jonas learns about the community's dark practices, including the truth behind "Release." He decides to escape the community to save Gabriel, a child at risk of being released.

Key Questions:

1. What motivates Jonas to escape?

- Jonas is motivated by his love for Gabriel and the desire to save him from a fate of "Release," which he now understands to be a death sentence.

2. What do Jonas's actions symbolize in the context of the story?

- Jonas's escape symbolizes the struggle for individuality and the pursuit of freedom in a controlled society. It represents hope and the possibility of change.

3. What is the significance of the ending?

- The ending is ambiguous, leaving readers to ponder Jonas's fate. It raises questions about the cost of freedom and the power of human emotion, suggesting that true life requires risk and the acceptance of pain.

## Thematic Analysis

The themes of "The Giver" resonate deeply throughout the narrative, reflecting critical social commentary:

- Memory and Identity: The novel emphasizes the importance of memory in shaping identity. Jonas's journey illustrates how experiences—both positive and negative—are integral to understanding oneself and others.

- The Value of Emotion: Lowry posits that emotions, including love and pain, are essential aspects of the human experience. The society's suppression of feelings leads to a shallow existence devoid of true happiness.

- Individuality vs. Conformity: The stark contrast between Jonas's awakening and the community's enforced conformity highlights the struggle between individual choice and societal expectations.

- The Cost of Utopia: The narrative critiques the idea of a perfect society achieved through sacrifice, questioning whether true happiness can exist without freedom and choice.

## Conclusion

"The Giver" is a powerful exploration of the human condition, raising profound questions about memory, emotion, and individuality. Through the questions and answers from chapters 1 to 23, readers gain insight into the complexities of Jonas's journey and the implications of living in a society that prioritizes sameness over the richness of human experience. Understanding these elements can deepen one's appreciation for Lowry's poignant narrative and its relevance in discussions about freedom, choice, and the essence of being human.

# **Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is the significance of the Ceremony of Twelve in 'The Giver'?**

The Ceremony of Twelve is a pivotal event where children are assigned their roles in society, marking their transition into adulthood and the beginning of their contributions to the community.

## **How does Jonas first react to the idea of being the Receiver of Memory?**

Jonas feels apprehensive and uncertain about being chosen as the Receiver of Memory because it comes with a heavy burden of responsibility and isolation from his peers.

## **What are the first memories Jonas receives from The Giver?**

The first memories Jonas receives are of snow, sledding, and the joy of experiencing a cold winter day, contrasting sharply with his controlled, climate-regulated environment.

## **How does Jonas's perception of his community change throughout the novel?**

As Jonas receives more memories, he begins to see the limitations and flaws of his community, realizing the absence of emotions, colors, and the richness of human experience.

## **What does the term 'release' mean in Jonas's community?**

In Jonas's community, 'release' is a euphemism used for euthanasia, where individuals who do not conform or are deemed unfit are sent away, often without the knowledge of the inhabitants.

## **What does Jonas learn about love and relationships during his training with The Giver?**

Jonas learns that love and deep emotional connections are essential aspects of human experience that his community has chosen to suppress in favor of stability and conformity.

## **What is the climax of the story, and what decision**

## does Jonas make?

The climax occurs when Jonas discovers the truth about 'release' and decides to escape the community with Gabriel, aiming to restore emotions and memories to the people.

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