

## The Giver Notebook Reflection Questions

Answer each question in complete sentences. Label each set of questions according to their chapters. Start a new page for a new set of questions.

### Chapter 1-2

1. **Create a three-column chart in your notebook. It should take up an entire notebook page. Add what you have learned about life in Jonas' community so far, and continue to add as you read the rest of the novel.**

Rules	Rituals	Daily Life

2. Where is the story set? From what point of view is the story told, and how do you think this point of view will affect the story?
3. Why was Jonas frightened when an unidentified aircraft flew over the community? What does his fear of the aircraft indicate about the society in which he lives?
4. Why do you think precision of language is so important in Jonas' community?
5. Describe Jonas' family unit. Be sure to describe each family member's personality and role in the community.
6. How are family units organized in this society? How is this similar to or different from the society in which you live?
7. Discuss the significance of the Ceremony of Twelve for Jonas' community. Why is Jonas uneasy about this ceremony? What do you think about the concept of the Ceremony of Twelve?
8. In this society, severe wrongdoing or multiple infractions can result in "release." The Old and some newchildren are released, as well. What do you think the concept of "release" means in Jonas' community?
9. Make a prediction: What will happen to the newchild facing possible release?

### Chapters 3-5

1. **On one page in your notebook, create an aerial-view map** of what you believe Jonas' community could look like. Some locations to place on the map may include: Jonas' dwelling, the House of the Old, the Recreation Center, the river, the school, the Nurturing Center, the Childbirth Center, the Rehabilitation Center, the Central Plaza, the Auditorium, and Food Distribution.
2. What is Jonas' reaction to Lily's comment about his unique eyes? Do you think the community's preference to ignore people's differences is justifiable? Why or why not?
3. Why does Jonas' mother scold Lily for wishing to be a Birthmother? What do you think of Jonas' mother's assessment of this Assignment?
4. Why did Jonas remove an apple from the recreation area? What do you think he saw?
5. In Jonas' community, the Speaker makes announcements on a regular basis. What does this practice reveal about the society?
6. Discuss the irony of Larissa implying that Edna's life had little meaning, considering Edna was a Birthmother and gave birth to three children.
7. How is the release of the Old different from the release of a newchild or functioning member of society? Why do you think children are not allowed to attend celebrations of release in the House of the Old?
8. Discuss the society's rules about nakedness and Stirrings. Why do you think these rules exist?
9. How does the author present the details of this society to the reader? Is her method effective? Why or why not?
10. **Make a prediction:** What Assignment will Jonas receive at the Ceremony of Twelve?

## Chapters 6-8

1. **On one page of your notebook**, make a list of all of the Assignments you think would be necessary in Jonas' community. Then, rewrite your list in order of importance, with the most important Assignment at the top and the least important at the bottom. Explain your reasoning for the most and least important Assignments.
2. Why is the annual ceremony significant for every age group?
3. Why was Gabriel granted a temporary reprieve from release? What do you think is unfair about the community's choice to release babies who do not develop as quickly as desired?
4. Why do you think children are not allowed to ride or receive a bicycle until age nine? Why do you suppose bicycles are the official mode of transportation in the community?
5. Why is Caleb's Naming more significant than the naming of the other newchildren?
6. Why is the Chief Elder's speech about Asher enjoyable for all? Do you think Asher is assigned well? Why or why not?
7. How does the reader know that the committee chooses Assignments very carefully?
8. How does the author build momentum in the story as readers await Jonas' Assignment?
9. What is Jonas' Assignment, and why is it significant? Why is Jonas uneasy about his Assignment?
10. **Make a prediction:** How will Jonas fare during his training?

## Chapters 9-10

1. **On one page of your notebook**, make a Venn Diagram. Write Jonas' name at the top of the right circle, and write Rosemary's name at the top of the left circle. As you read, compare and contrast Jonas with Rosemary.
2. How does Jonas feel his Assignment has already changed the way people act toward him? What does he find out about the last Receiver-in-training, who was chosen ten years prior to his selection?
3. Why does Jonas feel his rules as Receiver of Memory are strange? Why do you think each rule is necessary?
4. Discuss the connection between truth-telling and precision of language in Jonas' community. How does the last rule in Jonas' instructions affect his perception of the world around him?
5. What unnerves Jonas upon arriving for his first day of training?
6. What do the many books in the Receiver's dwelling indicate about the Receiver of Memory's role?
7. Why does the Receiver initially have trouble explaining exactly what his responsibilities are? Why does Jonas have difficulty understanding what the Receiver is telling him?
8. What will Jonas be "receiving" during his training? Discuss the value of history in shaping the future.
9. **Make a prediction:** What else will Jonas learn during his first day of training?

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### Chapters 11-13

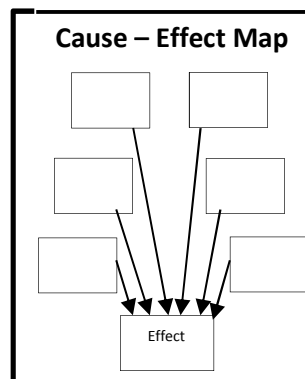
1. How does the “receiving” process work between Jonas and The Giver?
2. Why do you think The Giver firmly corrects Jonas’ statement that he (The Giver) has “so much power”? (p. 84)
3. What is the purpose of Climate Control? Why does Jonas seem conflicted about Climate Control and Sameness?
4. How does The Giver determine that Jonas sees color? Why does The Giver think that Jonas will gain wisdom very quickly?
5. Why do the memories Jonas receives make him feel conflicted?
6. How does Jonas try to impart his new awareness and experience to those close to him? Do you think this is a good idea? Why or why not?
7. What difficulties will Jonas face if he decides to have a spouse and children?
8. How was the community reminded that they need a Receiver?
9. Why do you think The Giver believes that knowledge without memories is meaningless?
10. Why does Jonas ask to receive painful memories?
11. **Make a prediction:** What type of pain will The Giver impart to Jonas?

### Chapters 14-16

1. What realization makes Jonas feel very lonely?
2. What examples does The Giver use to demonstrate to Jonas how memories bring wisdom, which in turn allows him to advise the Committee of Elders?
3. What is the real reason the Receiver is so vital to the community? Why do you think this angers Jonas so much?
4. How has Gabriel’s presence in the household affected each member of the family? For what reason might Gabriel still be released?
5. What might the Committee of Elders think about Jonas transmitting memories to Gabriel?
6. What painful memory does The Giver share with Jonas on a day when his suffering greatly? How does The Giver feel once this memory is imparted?
7. Why do you think the community eliminated things like colors, pets, birthdays, etc? Why do you think they changed the concept of family?
8. How does the community care for elderly citizens? What do you think of their methods?
9. **Make a prediction:** How will Jonas affect change in his society?
10. **Use one page in your notebook** to artistically illustrate Jonas’ idea that release involves someone crossing the bridge to Elsewhere. You may reference the description on page 114. Your illustration should take up the entire page and use full-color.

### Chapters 17-19

1. Use one entire page of your notebook to create a Cause-Effect Map that lists six reasons why Jonas feels increasingly isolated from the community as he trains with The Giver.
2. Why does Jonas find it difficult to play with his friends on the unscheduled holiday? How do Asher and Fiona respond to Jonas’ reluctance to play?



3. How are Jonas' feelings changing as he gains more memories, and why?
4. Summarize the process of releasing a twin as Jonas' father explains it to him.
5. What does Jonas learn about Rosemary? What would happen to the community if something happened to Jonas?
6. Why is Jonas, a child, able to view a private release? What is release, and why do you think the author chose to reveal the truth about it in this way?
7. Why do you think Jonas' father is untroubled by performing releases? Why do you think it affects Jonas the way it does?
8. Is *The Giver* implying that Rosemary was brave or cowardly? Explain your answer.
9. **Make a prediction:** How will Jonas' knowledge about release affect his relationship with his father?

### Chapters 20-23

1. How does The Giver explain to Jonas why citizens like Jonas' father are able to perform tasks like release without sorrow or regret?
2. Do you agree or disagree that memories should be shared? Explain.
3. How does Jonas' viewing of the twin's release advance the plot? What do Jonas and The Giver plan to do, and why is their plan risky?
4. What does The Giver reveal to Jonas about Rosemary? Were you surprised by this information? Why or why not?
5. What changes the plan Jonas and The Giver made? Do you think Jonas is wise or foolish to leave the community early?
6. Compare and contrast Jonas' old plan with his new plan. How do you think The Giver reacted after hearing of Jonas' escape?
7. What methods does Jonas use to avoid being discovered as he travels? What difficulties does he face once he leaves his community?
8. Why is Jonas able to clearly remember the snow and the sled? Why is it significant that the sled appears when and where it does?
9. Create two journal entries. The first journal is from The Giver's point of view and details what happened in the community after Jonas left. The second journal is from Jonas' point of view and details what he and Gabriel experience after the novel ends.

### Post-Reading

1. **Character Growth** – Use one page in your notebook to create flow-chart with five boxes. Use the boxes to describe the five key events that caused Jonas' growth/development throughout the novel. Make sure the events are written in the order they occurred in the novel.
2. **Conflict** – Use one page in your notebook to create a Conflict/Resolution chart for each of the four main types of conflict (person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs. society, person vs. self). Identify one example for each of the four conflicts that Jonas experiences. Describe the conflict and explain how it is resolved.
3. **Motif & Theme** – Use one page in your notebook to explore the motifs and theme of *The Giver*. Use our notes on motif and theme to identify the motifs of *The Giver*, and create a Theme Statement from *The Giver*. Answer the following questions:
  - a. How do the character's actions and decisions reflect the theme?
  - b. How does the novel's plot reflect the theme?
  - c. How does the setting reflect the theme? (Consider the setting of Jonas' community contrasted with the setting of the final scene.)