

Comprehension and Discussion Questions

Chapters One, Two and Three

Answer the following questions in complete sentence form. Give examples from the story to support your response.

Chapter One

1. Jonas recalled an incident that had frightened him and the other members of his community. From where did the explanation of the incident come?

2. The citizens were ordered to leave their bicycles where they were. What might be some of the reasons to prefer the use of bicycles instead of cars in the community?

3. In this chapter we were introduced to the community's concept of being released. From what we know so far, when were community members released? What might it mean to be released?

4. Jonas was apprehensive about the Ceremony of Twelve. Guess what might occur at that ceremony. Describe a time when you were apprehensive.

5. Think about life in this community as described in this chapter. List all the things that seem unusual as compared with your own community.

Vocabulary

Chapters Thirteen, Fourteen and Fifteen

A **synonym** is a word having a meaning similar to that of another word. An **antonym** is a word having a meaning opposite to that of another word.

Choose the word or phrase in each set that is **most unlike** the first word in meaning. Circle each antonym.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. alien: | strange | common | ordinary | familiar |
| 2. assuage: | ease | worsen | aid | lesson |
| 3. contorted: | natural | twisted | bent | light |
| 4. hueless: | black | colourful | opaque | luminous |
| 5. imploring: | selling | grabbing | entreating | refusing |
| 6. instantaneous: | prolonged | immediate | quick | future |
| 7. irrational: | insane | angry | calculated | sedate |
| 8. massive: | tiny | huge | wide | short |
| 9. mutilated: | damaged | strangled | healed | unaltered |
| 10. ominous: | dangerous | promising | horrible | scary |
| 11. placidly: | calmly | simply | quickly | ferociously |
| 12. predictable: | expected | unexpected | usual | ordinary |
| 13. sinuous: | winding | long | exhausting | straight |
| 14. sparse: | rare | thin | fat | plentiful |
| 15. vast: | large | open | contained | grand |

Choose six vocabulary words from the above activity. Write a synonym for each.

Spotlight Literary Skill

Fact and Opinion

A fact is a statement that can be proven. An opinion may be defined as a personal belief.

Examples:

Fact: Ice-cream is made from cream and sugar.

Opinion: Chocolate ice-cream is the most delicious.

Read each statement below. Decide if it is a fact or an opinion and place an "F" or an "O" in the space provided.

- ___ 1. *The Giver* was winner of the 1994 Newbery Award.
- ___ 2. *The Giver* is an excellent novel for middle years readers.
- ___ 3. Jonas was selected to be the new Receiver.
- ___ 4. The committee made a mistake when it chose Jonas to be the new Receiver.
- ___ 5. Children in Jonas's community received a bicycle at age nine.
- ___ 6. The community was better off without snow.
- ___ 7. The elderly in Jonas's community were better off than the elderly in our community.
- ___ 8. Jonas was right to take Gabriel with him.
- ___ 9. Twelves were assigned adult roles in the community; the roles were chosen by a committee.
- ___ 10. Asher was well suited to be Recreation Director.
- ___ 11. Fiona was assigned Caretaker of the Old.
- ___ 12. Caretaker of the Old was an important assignment.
- ___ 13. The Chief Elder skipped over Jonas when handing out assignments.
- ___ 14. Matches had to be monitored for three years before the couple could apply for children.
- ___ 15. Matching of Spouses is the best way to ensure successful marriages.



— Cooperative-Learning Activity —

The Old

In Jonas's community, all of the elderly citizens lived together. They were fed, bathed and cared for by younger citizens. In our society, many options are available for the elderly. Brainstorm all the possible options for the elderly in our society, both healthy and infirm. Include such issues as lifestyle, living arrangements, health care and recreation.

| Options for the Healthy Elderly | Options for the Infirm Elderly |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | |

Each member of the group should vote on the following:

If you were healthy, which option would you prefer? Explain.

If you were infirm, which option would you prefer? Explain.

Compare your results with those of the other cooperative-learning groups.

— More Post-Reading Activities —

1. Dystopian literature describes an imaginary place of complete misery and wretchedness. Would you classify *The Giver* as utopian or dystopian literature? Select a point of view and write a paragraph explaining that view.
2. Make a chart that enumerates the pros and cons of life in the community in *The Giver*.
3. Advanced students might like to read one or more classic works of utopian and dystopian literature. A few suggestions are *Looking Backward*, by Edward Bellamy; *Lost Horizon*, by James Hilton; *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury; *Animal Farm* and *1984*, by George Orwell; and *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley.
4. Compare and contrast euthanasia and release.
5. The children in *The Giver* all did volunteer work. Make a poster that depicts ways in which you and your classmates might volunteer your time and effort to help others.
6. Think about what it would be like if a committee decided every person's career. Would most people like or dislike the idea? Chart the good and bad aspects of this procedure.
7. Read another novel by Lois Lowry. Two suggestions are *A Summer to Die* and *Number the Stars*, which was also a Newbery Award winner.
8. Write a paragraph describing what you would have liked most about living in Jonas's community.
9. Write a paragraph describing what you would have liked least about living in Jonas's community.
10. If possible, visit a home for the elderly. Find out what kind of care they receive.
11. Euphemism is the substitution of an agreeable or inoffensive expression for one that may offend or suggest something offensive. The term release is an example of euphemism. Make a chart of euphemisms. For each term, tell the offensive or disagreeable expression or term being replaced.

