

LOIS LOWRY AMERICAN AUTHOR

1937-Present

Lois Lowry grew up the daughter of a Military Dentist, which meant that she traveled to many places during her childhood. She moved around the US, living in Tokyo for her Junior High School Years. Lois went on to go to College at Brown University. At 19 she married a Navel officer, and continued to travel around the US. She eventually settled Maine, where she went to the graduate school at the University of Southern Maine, where she started writing novels. Other works of hers include *Number the Stars*, about a Jewish Danish Girl in Denmark in WWII, She has also written three follow up books to the *Giver*.

CHARACTERS:

JONAS

LILY

JONAS' FATHER

JONAS' MOTHER

FIONA

ASHER

GABRIEL

LARISSA

THE GIVER

THE CHIEF ELDER

Chapters 1 & 2

- 1) Who do you think are the most important characters?
- 2) What is Jonas' family like?
- 3) How would you describe the society in which Jonas lives?
- 4) What seem to be the values of the society in the *giver?*
- 5) What has stood out to you so far?

Chapters 3 & 4

- 1) Did you notice any new characters?
- 2) Why would a birthmother not be considered a good job in this society?
- 3) What is a "release"?
- 4) So far, what are the tasks of entering this society?
- 5) "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 do you make of this quote?

Chapters 5 & 6

- 1) Would you consider describing your dreams a normal activity?
- 2) Describe the relationship between Jonas and his family. What stands out to you?
- 3) In chapter 6, there is the ceremony. What does this entail?
- 4) What does a "release" mean in this society?

Chapters 7 & 9

- 1) How was Asher punished as a child?
- 2) The forming of rituals and habits seem important in the society. What do these say about the society?
- 3) Is this a cohesive world? Does everyone get along?
- 4) What do you think a reciever of memory does? Why would Jonas be given this task?

Chapters 10 & 11

- 1) In these chapters we finally meet the "Giver". What do you make of him?
- 2) Why did the society get rid of snow?
- 3) Why is Jonas given the instructions "you may lie"?

Chapters 12 & 13

- 1) What really seems to be the tasks of the giver and the receiver? What is their role?
- 2) Has there been any noticable changes in the writing?
- 3) Why does Jonas feel more isolated in these chapters?
- 4) Jonas starts to grapple with the losses the society has put in place. Do you agree with the societies actions?

Chapters 14 & 16

- 1) What is the value of preserving bad memories, according to the Giver?
- 2) Do you agree with the giver's opinions on Jonas' society?
- 3) Jonas starts to trust his society less. Why is that so?

Chapters 17 & 18

- 1) Should the task of carrying memories be shared? What do you think?
- 2) How has Gabriel played a part in this story, without speaking?
- 3) Is the act of saving others from pain valuable?
- 4) What is the significance of the river?

Chapters 19 & 20

- 1) Can you note any ethical problems in this society?
- 2) Does Jonas' society encourage free will? Does the Giver?
- 3) Has there been any changes to the writing since Jonas has been understanding more?
- 4) Have your opinions been changing since the story has been going on?

Chapters 21 & 23

1) "He heard people singing. Behind him, across vast distances of space and time, from the place he had left, he thought he heard music too. But perhaps it was only an echo"

What is happening in the passage above?

- 2) What is the purpose of Jonas' plan?
- 3) What questions have been raised since you have read this book?
- 4) What do you make of the ending?

Final Thoughts:

- 1) What roles have gender played in this story?
- 2) Is Jonas a reliable narrator?
- 3) What are the themes of this story?
- 4) How does the writing style effect your understanding of the book?
- 5) Is love truly as dangerous as the society makes it to be?
- 6) What are the benefits of the society? What are the faults?
- 7) What does the baby Gabriel symbolize?
- 8) Have you made any connections between the names and the characters? (Jonas, Gabriel, Fiona)
- 9) What visual symbols have you picked up on? (Red hair, snow, the apple)
- 10) What is the purpose of ending the story like this?