

***The Giver* Comprehension Questions**

Directions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences while reading the novel.

Ch. 1-2

1. Who is the protagonist of the Giver?
2. What is important about the month of December?
3. What is the name of the protagonist's best friend?
4. What three people does the protagonist live with?
5. What is the name of the baby that the father brought home?
6. Why is it very hard for a rule to be changed in this community?
7. Who is the most important Elder?
8. What ceremony is the last in this community?
9. What happens at this ceremony?
10. What does it mean to be released?

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h. 3-4

1. What physical feature of Jonas is different from everyone else in the community?
2. Why did Lily's mom say she should not want to be a birthmother?
3. What happens to the apple that Jonas and Asher play catch with?
4. What is the name of the boy who will be assigned to the rehabilitation center?
5. Why can't Jonas congratulate the boy on his accomplishments?
6. In chapter 4, where did Jonas meet up with Asher?
7. What is the name of the girl that Jonas likes who also is with Asher?
8. What is the name of the woman who tells Jonas about the celebration?
9. What is the "celebration" for that is discussed in chapter 4?
10. To what room do people go to after this celebration?

Ch. 5-6

1. What does the family have to do in order for Gabriel to be allowed a second year of Nurturing?
2. What do you think is the difference between **release** and **loss** based on the way the community used these words?
3. Nines are given bicycles. What does this signify for them?
4. Why had Asher been punished for confusing the words “snack” and “smack”?
5. What sets the Ceremony of Twelve apart from all other age ceremonies?
6. What is unusual about the appearance of the bearded Elder? What is significant about this characteristic?
7. Name four qualifications that Jonas has for being the next Receiver of Memory.
8. What does Asher’s hesitation in congratulating Jonas indicate?
9. Which item in the list of duties and responsibilities frightens Jonas? Why?
10. Why is the concept of pain beyond Jonas’s comprehension?

Ch. 7-8

1. Why is the transmittal of the memory of snow so exhausting to the old man? What does this reveal about the community?
2. What two lessons does Jonas learn about the sun?
3. Why does the Giver appear a little sad at the end of the first day of training?
4. How does Jonas’s relationship with his parents and friends change after receiving his Life Assignment?
5. How does The Giver explain the visual phenomena that Jonas witnesses? What does this reveal about the community?
6. Why is it important for the community to have a person who can “see beyond”?
7. Why is The Giver bitter about the Council of Elders?
8. According to The Giver, why does Jonas have to receive and store memories of pain?
9. What two things are being compared?
10. What is the effect of this comparison?

Ch. 9-10

1. Tell how the Assignment of Receiver differs from other Assignments.
2. Describe how Jonas's friends treat him differently after the Assignments are announced. Why do you think they do this?
3. How does Lily plan to apply her knowledge of new children through her volunteer hours?
4. Explain what happened to the previous Receiver-in-Training.
5. What honors in our society are similar to the honor Jonas receives?
6. Assess the instructions Jonas receives for his Assignment. How would you react if you received these instructions?
7. Describe how Jonas will spend his time as Receiver-in-Training.
8. Discuss how being told he may lie alters Jonas's perception of adults.
9. What memories does the Receiver possess?
10. How does the Receiver transmit a memory to Jonas?

Ch. 11-12

1. What happens to the Giver's memory of an event after he transmits it to Jonas?
2. What does the Giver tell Jonas happened to "snow and the rest of it?"
3. Who says the following, "Honor, I have great honor...But you will find that that is not the same as power."
4. Why does the giver start with only pleasing memories?
5. What does Jonas dream about at the beginning of chapter 12?
6. Who asks Jonas, "Did you know that they use a discipline wand on the Old, the same as for small children?"
7. What special "seeing-beyond" skill does the Giver realize Jonas has in chapter 12?
8. Who says the following; "Our people made the choice. . .We gained control of many things. But we had to let go of others."
9. What is the quote in question #8 talking about?
10. What memory is Jonas receiving at the end of chapter 12?

Ch. 13-14

1. In the beginning of chapter 13 Jonas wants to replace Sameness with?
2. What does The Giver tell Jonas it would not be if Sameness was replaced?
3. What memory does Jonas receive that makes him see the color red as blood?
4. What does Jonas try to do with this memory when he goes home?
5. What happened to the memories that the last Receiver learned after she was released?
6. What memory does the Giver give Jonas for him to first feel physical pain in chapter 14?
7. “Why do you and I have to hold these memories? This quote shows that Jonas is beginning to?
8. When is the last time that the Giver advised the Committee of Elders?
9. Why is the nurturing center preparing for a release in chapter 14?
10. What does Jonas do to help Gabriel sleep?

Ch. 15-20

1. Why does The Giver apologize to Jonas after sharing the memory of war?
2. Why are Jonas and his father worried about Gabriel’s fretfulness at night?
3. How does Jonas try to solve this problem?
4. How does Jonas react to the children’s war game?
5. Why does Jonas feel powerless and alone when Fiona and Asher ride off on their bicycles?
6. Why does the community refer to the former Receiver-in-training as a failure? How does this failure affect the rules that apply to Jonas?
7. What shocked Jonas when he viewed his father “releasing” one of the newborn twins?
8. What does the reader understand about this statement that Jonas does not?
9. What was the euphemism for death in Jonas’s community?
10. Name two euphemisms for death in our society.

Ch. 20-23

1. Why is The Giver now ready to make a plan for change?
2. Why would Jonas's departure from the community lead to possible change?
3. Why does The Giver decide to stay behind to help the community?
4. Why do Jonas and The Giver choose the December Ceremony as the time to implement their plan?
5. What would happen to Jonas and Gabe if the searchers found them?
6. In what way is Jonas handicapped by his early departure?
7. How is Jonas able to use memories to avoid the search planes?
8. What might be the source of the music that Jonas thinks he hears behind him?
9. Why do you think the author ends the story as Jonas is traveling toward his destination?
10. List two questions that the author leaves unanswered at the end of the book.