Study Guide The Giver, by Lois Lowry

Directions: Please answer each question in this study guide with specific, bulleted, text specific answers.

Chapters 1-2

1. Why might the arrival of a jet be a terrifying experience for the entire community?
   - Not a typical occurrence
   - Only cargo planes flew over

2. What do you think might happen to someone who is released from the community?
   - Start their own community (opinion)

3. What was the purpose of the ritual telling of feelings?
   - Connection to the family
   - Share their day together

4. Draw a conclusion. What did you learn about the community from the discussion during the ritual?
   - There are strict rules that other communities do not follow
   - Animals are not present in community

5. What was unique about the way children were born?
   - Birthmothers are used
   - Nurturers raise the babies, not the birthmother

6. What was unique about the way infants are cared for?
   - Raised by nurturers until one
   - Nurturers give names to the babies
Chapters 1, 2 (cont.)

Literary Analysis: The Language of Utopia

Many of the words used by the inhabitants of Jonas’s community seem to be used in an unusual way. Their unique meanings will become clear from their context. Use the chart below to record these special meanings. Add other words and definitions to the list as you read.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
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<td>Birthmother</td>
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<td>Ceremony of Loss</td>
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<td>Ceremony of Twelve</td>
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<td>comfort object</td>
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<td>Elders</td>
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<td>newchild</td>
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<td>Stirrings</td>
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7. Why was it so difficult to get rules changed in the community?
   
   — Committee of Elders vote + it can take a while.

8. On what basis did children receive their life assignments?
   
   Observation + Recommendation of the Elders.

9. What two aspects of life in this community appeal to you?
   
   1) Age does not matter after 12
   2) Assignments are taken seriously

10. Reread the lead. What writing technique does Lois Lowry use to draw you into the novel?
    
    → Suspense, intrigue, mystery
    → Jonas is feeling scared + apprehensive.

11. What is the cliffhanger at the end of chapter two?
    
    — Jonas is nervous about the ceremony of twelves.

Chapter 1 - Title _______ The Mysterious Plane

Chapter 2 - Title _______ Jonas Grows More Apprehensive

Chapters 3-5 →

1. Why were Gabe's eyes of such interest to Jonas?
   
   → Light - same as his.
   → Same birthmother?
   → Most people have dark eyes.

2. How did Lily react to the new word "hippo"?
   
   laughed - strange word

3. Why did she react that way?
   
   Does not know a "hippo"
4. Why did Jonas risk the humiliation of people in the community yelling at him for taking the apple in the recreation area? **The apple changed when he was playing catch with Asher.**

5. Why was Jonas interested in finding out where Roberto went upon release? **He is curious about "release."**

6. What effect did the pills have on Jonas and the other people who took them? **They eliminate the wanting or "the stirrings" feelings.**

7. Why do you think all adults were required to take them?
   - Controls the population.
   - Doesn't cause over-population.

8. What level of respect do you think birthmothers were given in this community AND WHY? **Very little respect.**
   - After 3 births = laborers for the rest of their lives.

9. How do you feel the quality of life for elderly people in Jonas's community was compared to old people in our society today? Who got more respect?
   - Old house, cared for, respected, elders make up the committee.

10. Allusion - In the Bible the angel Gabriel is a divine messenger. What does this choice of a name suggest about the newborn baby Gabriel in the novel? **Gabe = delivers a message?**
Chapter 3 title -

Chapter 4 title - The Mysterious Apple

Chapter 5 title - The Stirrings

Chapters 6-8 – Rites of Passage

1. Under what circumstances was Gabriel allowed a second year of Nurturing? Labeled “uncertain” will spend nights at Jonas’s house.

   Ch. 6

2. Why do you think the community made this exception to the rule? They respect Jonas’s father and his opinion about Gabe.

   Ch. 6

3. What do you think is the difference between the words, RELEASE, and LOSS in the sense of the community? Loss = accidental death, Release = Elsewhere Caleb - 9 yr old dies in river.

   Ch. 6

4. What was the importance of the bikes that were given to the Nines? Bikes symbolic of independence and the ability to move away from the family.

   Ch. 6

5. Why was Jonas skeptical that anyone might be unhappy with life in the community? He is happy- assignments are carefully given.

6. Why had Asher been punished for confusing the words “snack” and “smack”? Language is important to the Community.
7. What does this punishment reveal about the community?
   They are harsh and strict.

8. What set the Ceremony of Twelve apart from all the other age ceremonies?
   The assignment is the final ceremonial act.

9. Why did the community use the words “selection” of Receiver, but “assignment” for all the other jobs?
   Selections - rare, honorable position

10. What was unusual about the appearance of the bearded Elder? (3 details)
    1. Jonas had never seen him before
    2. Pale eyes
    3. Sat - looked different from others

11. Give three reasons why Jonas was chosen to be the next Receiver of Memory?
    1. Intelligence
    2. Wisdom
    3. Courage
    4. Integrity
    5. Capacity to see beyond

12. What life assignment would you like if you lived in Jonas's community?
    Opinion -

13. What is the cliffhanger at the end of chapter 8?
    Jonas is fearful of what will become of him

Chapter 6 title - ________________________________

Chapter 7 title - ________________________________

Chapter 8 title - ________________________________
Chapters 9–11 When have you felt separate or different?

1. How did Jonas feel after receiving his adult Assignment?
   He felt separate + different.

2. Why did he feel this way?
   His training would be alone + apart from others.

3. Why did Asher hesitate in congratulating Jonas?
   He is not sure if Jonas is happy with his assignment/selection.

4. What item in the list of duties and responsibilities frighten Jonas?
   The restriction of medication? #8- You may lie – did other adults lie?

5. Why did it frighten him?

6. Why was the concept of pain beyond Jonas’s understanding?
   He has experienced very little pain.

7. How did he know this was about to change?

8. Describe three ways the Annex is unique?
   * luxurious, spacious, intricate designs
   * lots of books
   * a button to turn off “the speaker”
9. At first, why did Jonas not understand the Receiver's job of transmitting memories of the past? He did not know that the past ever existed. He thought that he meant the Giver would share his own personal memories.

10. Why was giving Jonas the memory of snow so exhausting to the old man? His energy is draining. He looks older than he truly is.

11. What does this show about the community? Climate control is the norm. They are overprotective— with risk there is pleasure.

12. What two lessons did Jonas learn about the sun? The sun can be warm, yet harmful.

13. Why did the Giver seem a little melancholy (sad) at the end of his first day of training? He is getting old? He is sad to have to give pain to Jonas?

Chapter 9 title - 

Chapter 10 title - 

Chapter 11 title - 

Would you rather have honor or power?

Chapter 12-13

"Life here is so orderly, so predictable, so painless. P. 103

"A just society is one in which everyone is the same." Debate??
1. How did Jonas's relationship with his parents and friends change after he received his life Assignment? He cannot talk about his dreams or his assignment so he feels distant.

2. How did the Giver explain the visual that Jonas witnessed? What did this reveal about the community? He sees the color red. The community is the "same" and there is no color or race.

3. Why did the community give up the ability to perceive or understand color? They wanted total equality.

4. Why was it important for the Receiver of Memory to have the "Capacity to See Beyond"? To understand how color, race, diversity can cause the past troubles.

5. Why did Jonas refer to Gabe as his little brother? He lives with his family at night. He is getting closer to him.

6. Could this be true and how? Sure— not probable— but possible.

7. Why did the Giver warn Jonas about having a spouse and children? He will not be able to share the memories with them and that can be difficult and cause distance.

8. Why was the Giver bitter about the Council of Elders? They do not seek his advice too often and he has lots that he could share.
9. What do you think the community gained by removing choices?
   The problems with making the wrong choice.

10. What do you think the community lost by removing choices?
    Diversity and the unpredictability of life.

11. Predict what the Giver will give Jonas to give him his first real impression of pain.

12. Symbolism - A symbol is something that represents an idea or set of ideas.
    The sled reappears a lot. What does the sled symbolize?
    Sled = fun, danger, the past.

    In what way is Lily's comfort object a symbol?
    Lily's elephant symbolizes the brutality of man - the African tusk hunters.
    The following sentence an example of

    "..."  ng toward the horizon in a vehicle that spit
    pebbles from..."

    What is being personified?

    Chapter 12 title -

    Chapter 13 title -

    Song "Memory" - Listen and make three connections
by Musical "Cats". From *Rest of Broadway - American Musical*

Memory by Musical "Cats"
Daylight
See the dew on the sunflower
And a rose that is fading
Roses whither away
Like the sunflower
I yearn to turn my face to the dawn
I am waiting for the day . . .

Midnight
Not a sound from the pavement
Has the moon lost her memory?
She is smiling alone
In the lamplight
The withered leaves collect at my feet
And the wind begins to moan

Memory
All alone in the moonlight
I can smile at the old days
I was beautiful then
I remember the time I knew what happiness was
Let the memory live again

Every streetlamp
Seems to beat a fatalistic warning
Someone mutters
And the streetlamp gutter
And soon it will be morning

Daylight
I must wait for the sunrise
I must think of a new life
And I mustn't give in
When the dawn comes
Tonight will be a memory too
And a new day will begin

Burnt out ends of smoky days
The stale cold smell of morning
The streetlamp dies, another night is over
Another day is dawning

Touch me
It's so easy to leave me...
All alone with the memory
Of my days in the sun
If you touch me
You'll understand what happiness is

Look
A new day has begun
**Color Poem - all imagery**

**Chapter 14-16 - What memory would you give Jonas?**

1. How was Jonas’s second experience with snow unlike the first?
   
   He was hurt in a sledding accident.

2. Why did the Giver offer Jonas this experience?
   
   He wanted to prepare Jonas for future memories.

3. Why did Jonas have to receive and store memories of pain?
   
   There are lessons to be learned from the experiences. He is the only one who knows this lesson.

4. What did this suggest about the community?
   
   They are very sheltered.

5. Why did The Giver apologize to Jonas after sharing the memory of war?
   
   He feels horrible to inflict pain on a child.

6. Why were Jonas and his father worried about Gabriel being so upset at night?
   
   He does not want to have to release him.

7. How did Jonas try to solve this problem?
   
   He brings Gabe into his bedroom and gives him happy memories to soothe him.

8. Why did the Memory of grandparents disturb Jonas?
   
   He does not know what grandparents are and he feels sad about not having the family unit all together.

9. Why couldn’t Jonas’s parents answer their son’s question about love?
   
   They do not understand the emotional relevance or experience of love.
10. **LIST 5 ADVANTAGES TO JONAS'S COMMUNITY OVER YOUR COMMUNITY.**
   1. Little pain - physical.
   2. Decisions are made for you.
   3. People do not suffer hunger.
   4. Everyone is equal.
   5. The old are nurtured.

11. **LIST 5 DISADVANTAGES TO JONAS'S COMMUNITY OVER YOUR COMMUNITY.**
   1. Not being able to decide for yourself.
   2. - Lack of family unit.
   3. - Cannot choose your spouse.
   4. - Cannot name your child.
   5. - Lack of color, diversity.

12. Why do you think Jonas told his first lie to his parents? They would not understand.

13. Mood - the feeling the author creates through carefully selected words and phrases, settings and events.

What is the mood in chapters 14 and 15? Sad, somber, torturous.


Chapter 14 title - 

Chapter 15 title - 

Chapter 16 title - 
Chapters 17-19

Totalitarianism is a type of government where complete control of people is taken to an extreme and the government tries to manage every aspect of a person's life. Is this society run by a totalitarian government? Discuss

1. How did Jonas's range of emotions differ from those of his family and friends? He feels things more deeply.

2. How did Jonas react to the children's war game? He wanted them to stop playing.

3. Why did Jonas feel powerless and alone when Fiona and Asher rode off on their bicycles? He realizes that they do not understand his point of view.

4. What shocked Jonas when he viewed his father “releasing” one of the newborn twins? His father killed the smaller twin.

5. Do you have any sympathy for Rosemary? Do you think she was brave or cowardly? She was brave!

6. What happened to the last Receiver-in-Training? Do you think the Giver should feel guilty? No, he was doing his job.
7. What is a euphemism? Give an example of 2 euphemisms from the novel.

Definition: a kinder way to say a hurtful thing
release = kill
selection = chosen?

Chapter 17 title -

Chapter 18 title -

Chapter 19 title -

Chapter 20

1. Why would Fiona, a trainee in the care of the old, probably accept the practice of releasing the old? She doesn't know true feelings.

2. Why was the Giver now ready to make a plan for change?
   Jonas's reaction to the release.

3. Why would Jonas's exit from the community lead to possible change?
   Memories would return to the community.

4. Why did The Giver decide to stay behind to help the community?
   He did not want the community to be destroyed.

5. Why did Jonas and The Giver choose the December Ceremony as the time to implement the plan?
   So involved with ceremony - it won't be noticed that Jonas is missing.

Chapter 20 title - The Plan
Chapters 21-23

1. What would have happened to Jonas and Gabe if the searchers found them?
   They would be released.

2. How was Jonas able to use memories to keep away from the search planes.
   He gave them memories of cold to avoid heat detection.

3. **** What other ways did Jonas use memories to help him during his journey?
   They keep him warm, happy and nourished.

4. What might have been the source of the music Jonas heard behind him
   A memory?

5. Make a list of questions Lois Lowry left unanswered at the end of the book.
   Opinion
   What happens to Jonas and Gabe?

6. Writer Anais Nin said, "It's not easy to achieve freedom without chaos."

   What do you think she means? N/A
   Can chaos ever be a good thing?
   Would Jonas agree or disagree with this statement?
   Can you have one without the other? Why or why not?