

## **Reading Activities**

### **Vocabulary for Chapter One**

Utopia:

Distraught:

Apprehensive:

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Describe the evening ritual.
2. What does Lily mean when she says the visitors acted like animals?
3. What is Jonas' father occupation?
4. What is a family unit?

### **Chapter One Summary**

Jonas was frightened because he felt that something terrible was about to happen. He grew restless about the ceremony of twelve, which will determine his work. He described his feelings during the evening ritual. Lily his sister, talked about visitors who did not comply with the community's rules. His father talks about releasing a small child, because he was not growing as expected.

### **Discussion Question**

1. Compare and contrast Asher's behavior for being late with students at Isaac Middle School.
2. Do you think that the government should limit the size of families in the community?

## Chapter Two

### **Vocabulary**

Ceremony

Ritual

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What do families have to do acquire a child?
2. When are children allowed to ride their bikes?
3. How do communities change rules?
4. Who is the Receiver in the community?
5. How do the elders decide on the assignments for the twelve-year olds?

### **Chapter two Summary**

Jonas and his parents are talking about the December ceremonies. They remembered receiving Lily. Jonas' father recalled receiving his assignment at twelve to reassure Jonas about the changes. His mother foresaw how Jonas and Lily would change. Jonas would not be able to play with his friends, s often. He would prepare for the future. Lily would surrender her comfort toy, an stuffed elephant.

### **Discussion Question**

1. How would you feel if you were an age at which you were not able to play anymore?
  - 2.
2. Would you allow someone else to select your occupation/ profession?
3. How do people in the United States choose their occupation or profession?

## **Chapter Three**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Chastise
2. Petulant
3. Bewilder

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What do Jonas and Gabriel have in common?
2. Why does Lily like to be a birthmother?
3. What game are Asher and Jonas playing? Why does Jonas play?
4. Why does Jonas take the apple home?

### **Chapter three Summary**

Jonas' father brought Gabriel, a baby boy who was being considered for release, to the family unit. Lily pointed out how Gabriel and Jonas were similar. They both had strange eyes. She believed that they had the same birthmother. Lily expressed her desire to become a birthmother, but her mother rejected her idea because that profession carries little honor.

Jonas perceived how things could change. He remembered playing catch with Asher and for a split second seeing the change in the apple.

### **Discussion Question**

1. What is the role of the speaker in Jonas' community?
2. How would you feel if your transgressions and violations of the rules were announced publicly? What are the benefits of announcing rule violations publicly?
3. In your opinion, why does the mother oppose Lily's ideas of being a birthmother?

## **Chapter Four**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Dwelling

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Who is Fiona?
2. What happens if someone does not finish his or her volunteer hours before the Ceremony of Twelve?
3. Describe the release ceremony.

### **Chapter Four Summary**

Jonas looked for his friends Fiona and Asher at the House of the Old. He realized that he had done his volunteer work at different places, leaving him with no idea of what his assignment will be. He helped a woman named Larissa to wash her body. The community had a rule against watching people naked, except for the newborns and the old. Larissa talked about Roberto and Edna releases. She admired Roberto's life, but she thought that Edna's life was not very interesting because she was not very intelligent. She was only a birthmother.

### **Discussion**

1. Why do only committee members know about what happened after people are released?
2. Why do you think that people are released?
3. What is your idea of the House of the Old?

## **Chapter Five**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Confide
2. Damp

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Describe Jonas' dream.
2. What is the treatment for the stirrings?
3. Who takes the pill for the stirrings and for how long?

### **Chapter Five Summary**

Every morning Jonas' family shared their dreams. Lily talked about being caught by the security guards riding her bicycle. The mother related her dream in which she was chastised for something that she did not understand. They rationalized it by relating to the mother's failing to punish an individual who had broken major laws for a second time. Jonas verbalized his dream of how he wanted to bathe Fiona and her refusal to permit him to do it. Jonas' mother explained that all people develop sexual desire, which they need to control by taking pills.

### **Discussion**

1. Why do you think that wanting is treated in Jonas society?
3. Give reasons why adolescents should control their sexuality.
2. Why do you think that Lily and her mother dream about being punished by the security guards?

## **Chapter Six**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Fidget
2. Dangle
3. Interdependence
4. Emblem

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. When are the newborn named and given to a family unit?
2. What happens to people who are released from the community?
3. Who is responsible for the children?
4. Why was Caleb lost?
5. Describe the ceremonies of the nines.
6. How do citizens find their matching spouses?

### **Chapter Six Summary**

The family went to the Ceremonies. Fiona received a new brother named Bruno. The nines were awarded their bicycles and the ten's received a hair. Asher tells Jonas about a boy who desired to be an engineer but was given the assignment as a sanitation worker. He threw himself in the river. Jonas believed that their assignments would be appropriate for the type of person that they are. The elders spent a lot of time studying the elevens.

### **Discussion**

1. Name some advantages and disadvantages of being assigned a matching spouse.
2. Why do you think that children are left without names for a year?

## **Chapter Seven**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Recollection

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What is the order in which the elevens are seated?
2. How are the children punished?
3. Why was Asher punished?
4. What was Jonas reaction when he was not called to receive his assignment?

### **Chapter Seven Summary**

Jonas was seated waiting for his assignment. He heard Asher' as an assistant director of recreation and Fiona's assignments as a caretaker for the old. The chief elder skipped him. He saw the worried look of his group leader. He felt embarrassed and wanted to disappear. He did not want to look at his parents.

### **Discussion**

1. Do you think that twelve-year olds should be treated as adults?
2. Infer what is going to happen to Jonas.

## **Chapter Eight**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Kinship
2. Benign
3. Astonishment

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Describe the current Receiver of Memories.
2. Why was Jonas proud?
3. What are some of the requirements for the assignment of Receiver of Memories?

### **Chapter Eight Summary**

The Elders returned and apologized to Jonas and his family, because of the anxiety that they went through. The chief elder selected Jonas as the next Receiver of memories. She explained that Jonas has the qualifications to be trained for the job, which is the most honored job in the community. It required intelligence, integrity, courage, wisdom, and the capacity to see beyond. At first, Jonas felt insecure because his training would separate him from his friends. He saw the crow change for a second time and it made him feel more confident.

### **Discussion**

1. Describe the role of pain and difficulties in our lives.
2. Would you accept a job in which you have to endure pain?



## **Chapter Nine**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Exempt
2. Accustom
3. Restriction

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What indicates the highest degree of disgrace?
2. List five of the instructions that Jonas was given.

### **Chapter Nine Summary**

Jonas perceived a change in how Asher, Lily and his parents treated him. He read the list of instructions for the Receiver of Memory and found several surprises. For example, the last trainee Rosemary asked to be released, and became a person whose name was never to be mentioned. Another surprise, he could ask rude questions to anyone in the population. He is not allowed to discuss his training and he is not permitted to tell about his dreams. Finally, he will not be able to take pain medication for injuries during his training.

### **Discussion**

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of not being able to take pain medication.
2. Imagine that you are the only one that is able to be rude and lie in your community. Will that be an advantage or a disadvantage for you?

## **Chapter Ten**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Conspicuous
2. Exhilarating

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why were the doors locked at the Receiver of Memory?
2. Describe the old Receiver of Memory.
3. How did the Receiver obtain wisdom?
4. What is the simile that the old receiver uses to describe his job? What does it mean?

### **Chapter ten Summary**

Jonas went to the first day of training. He found the furniture in the old receiver office more stylish and luxurious than in the furniture in regular house. The Old Receiver described his job as going down hill in deep snow on a sled. Jonas did not have concepts such as: snow, runners or a sled. The Old Receiver transmitted memory of those things by placing his hands on Jonas' back.

### **Discussion**

1. What kind of community will maintain its houses open at all times?
2. Jonas does not understand when the Old Receiver told him that he was going to know “the memories of the whole world.” What is the importance of the memories in your opinion?

## **Chapter Eleven**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Startling
2. Frigid
3. Eager
4. Obsolete

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Describe Jonas' experience with snow.
2. What is climate control? Why does the community use it?
4. What is the sameness?
3. List the memories that Jonas acquired the first day.

### **Chapter Eleven Summary**

Jonas experienced for the first time being in the snow on a sled in the first memory transmission. The second memory is the sunshine and the last one is sunburn. He had a lot of questions for example why they did not have snow? The Giver explain that snow disappear as part of climate control. Jonas became the Receiver and the old man became the Giver.

### **Discussion**

1. Why is only one person given the honor of experiencing snow, sunshine, sunburn and other forms of climate change?
2. How would you feel if you were not allowed to experience the beauty of snow, sunshine or the mountains?
3. Explain if you agree with changing the climate to favor sameness.

## **Chapter Twelve**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Fretful
2. Fleeting
3. Relinquish

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. What was Jonas' dream about?
2. What rules of the old house does Fiona need to learn?
3. List the times when Jonas experienced seeing beyond.
4. What is Jonas beginning to recognize?

### **Chapter Twelve Summary**

Jonas went for a second encounter with the Giver. He asked about seeing beyond. The Giver explained that Jonas had recognized the color red, before the sameness there were many different colors. The decisions to waive colors, and to renounce sunshine in their world had been taken before his time when the community adopted sameness.

### **Discussion**

1. What are the disadvantages of living in a world without colors? What are the advantages?
2. How does color help you today?
3. Explain how in our society it would be useful to ban colors.

## **Chapter Thirteen**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Peering
2. Grimly

### **Comprehension Questions**

- 1 Why is Jonas angry with his group mates and himself?
2. Name the difficulties or prohibitions that the giver had in his family life.
3. When is the giver called to advise the elders?

### **Chapter Thirteen Summary**

Jonas learned about colors and war. He felt frustrated because he cannot change the lives of his group mates. He tries to pass memories to Asher and to Lily. He questioned the Giver about the reason why the community does not have the freedom to choose their mates or work. The Giver replied that it is for the protection of citizens against their own lack of judgment. Competition had been eliminated in favor of citizens working to benefit the collective. When the Giver is in pain Jonas did not receive training.

### **Discussion**

1. Why is it frightening for people to be able to choose their own mate or their own work?
2. How does the prohibition against reading book affect the level of education that a citizen can reach?
3. In your opinion will it be better to have choices or to follow a secure path in life?

## **Chapter Fourteen**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Jarred
2. Haste
3. Wry
4. Ominous

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. How does the Giver end each section?
2. Why does the Giver have all the memories instead of community?
3. Why are households only allowed to have two children?

### **Chapter Fourteen Summary**

Jonas learned about pain and hunger. The Giver explained that those are the reasons why the community is not allowed to have more than two children per household. Jonas questioned the Giver about why not everyone is permitted to have memories such as pain.

At his house, Gabriel is growing but his father still fearful that he could be released. The baby was not sleeping through the night. Jonas wondered about the future of the child and the meaning of release. Jonas asked for Gabriel to sleep in his room where he would release calming memories for him to sleep. Gabe slept, but Jonas did not tell the giver about these transfers.

### **Discussion**

1. Why would anyone release people from a community?
2. Where do old people and small babies go in the event of being released?

## **Chapter Fifteen and Sixteen**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Grotesque
2. Implore

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. How does Jonas learn the meaning of warfare?
2. Why does Jonas not want to come back to the Giver?
2. What helps Jonas understand individuality?
3. List some of the good memories that Jonas received.

### **Chapter Fifteen and Sixteen Summary**

Jonas saw the Giver suffering and asked him if he could help. The Giver transmitted to him the memory of warfare and Jonas started to resent his job. To balance pain and suffering the Giver passed to Jonas his favorite memory. Jonas learned about extended families and wondered about his grandparents. He also felt the love of a family. He asked his parents if they love him. They stated that he should use more precise language. His parents said that they enjoyed him and were proud of his accomplishments. He became dissatisfied with the community and threw his pills away, because he liked to experience feelings.

### **Discussion**

1. Compare and contrast Jonas' society with our society. How do the living arrangements for the families differ?
2. Are you in favor of euthanasia? When do you think that its use would make sense?

## **Chapter Seventeen**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Rage
2. Dart
3. Ambush

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why was Jonas so sensitive?
2. Why did Jonas dislike the war games?
3. What occupation does the mother want for Lily?

### **Chapter Seventeen Summary**

The community declared an unscheduled holiday and Jonas searched for his friends. He was very sensitive for two reasons: the memories he had received and he had not taken his pills for the stirrings. He had seen mountains, lakes, oceans and streams. He knew that the river comes and goes to Elsewhere. In his training he had experienced cruelty and injustice. He bumped into Asher's bicycle at the park. He found his friends playing a war game. He remembered the real war and asked Asher not to play that cruel game anymore. His friends were unable to understand him, so he felt lonesome and regretted that his friends can't experience feelings.

At his house that evening, his father talked about selecting one twin to stay in the community and release another to go Elsewhere. Lily wondered about a place where all twins go, and the possibility of everyone having a twin in another place. Jonas wondered about release. He asked his father about how the babies are released but the father was not precise in his response.

### **Discussion**

1. Why do you think that they have to release one of the twins?
2. How would you feel having knowledge that you can not share with your friends?
3. According to the father, where do the babies go?



## **Chapter Eighteen**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Overwhelmed
2. Deject
3. Luminous
4. Ruefully

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why is the Giver prohibited from asking to be released?
2. What kind of memories does Rosemary receive?
3. Why was Rosemary's release a disaster for the community?

### **Chapter Eighteen Summary**

Jonas asked the Giver about the Receiver ten years ago. The Giver told him that her name was Rosemary and he loved her the same way he loved Jonas. He said that she was eager to learn. He confessed that to give her painful memories was difficult for him. She received memories of poverty, hunger and terror. After five weeks of training, she could not stand the job anymore. She went directly to the Chief of Elder and asked to be released. The memories that she had collected came back to the community, which felt overwhelmed by those feelings.

### **Discussion**

1. In what ways will feelings of hunger, poverty, and terror help a community?
2. Would you rather have one person in the community has wisdom and feelings or everyone being able to suffer and enjoy?

## **Chapter Nineteen**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Limp
2. Numbly

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. In the community, what is to be released?
2. Why does the community release one of the twins?
3. What is the selection process?

### **Chapter Nineteen Summary**

Jonas was curious about the release process. He asked the Giver to see the release of the twin. The Giver allowed Jonas to watch the video of the ceremony. His father came with one of the twins and a nurse's assistant with another. The twins are weighed and the lighter one is selected for release. The heavier one is sent to the community while, the other is injected by Jonas' father in his scalp. The child cried for a moment, became limp and inert. Jonas realized that his father had killed the twin and thrown his body in the trash. He had difficulties accepting the role of his father in the release and Fiona's role at the House of the Elders. The Giver narrated the released of Rosemary. She asked the Care Givers to allow her to put her own lethal injection.

### **Discussion**

1. Do you agree with the recording of all private ceremonies?
2. What is the role of Jonas' father in the release?
3. Should society allow people to be released?

## **Chapter Twenty**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Sarcastic
2. Anguish
3. Rueful

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why does Jonas have difficulties accepting his father's role as a releaser?
2. Why can the Giver escape?
3. Name three steps of the escape plan?

### **Chapter Twenty Summary**

Jonas refused to go to his dwelling after he watched the video of the release. He was upset because his father and the community obey orders without questioning. Jonas refused to accept the sameness and the community way of living. The Giver agreed that the community must change. They planned Jonas' escape from the community. If he escapes, he will not be able to return. Jonas asked the Giver to escape with him but the Giver would not leave the community without a Receiver. He also planned to join his daughter Rosemary.

Jonas would receive memories of courage and strength to find Elsewhere. The day before the ceremony, Jonas would write a note to his parents, leave his house at midnight and the Giver would announce that Jonas had been lost in the river. The Giver would remain in the community to bring about change and wholeness.

### **Discussion**

1. Why does the Giver refuse to leave the community?
2. Name four steps of the escape plan.
3. Why is Jonas so upset?

## **Chapter Twenty-One**

### **Vocabulary**

1. Meticulously
2. Frazzled
3. Haphazard

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why does Jonas change his escape plan?
2. What charges would Jonas receive if he were caught?
3. Why was Gabriel going to be released?

### **Chapter Twenty-one Summary**

Jonas discovered that Gabriel was going to be released because he could not sleep at the nursery. He was going to be released early in the morning. He left his community of sameness. He pedaled the whole night. In the morning, Gabe and he had breakfast and slept during the day. He saw how the planes were looking for him. He sped to the nearest bush or tree and hid.

### **Discussion**

1. Should someone be brought back to a community in which they no longer want to live?
2. Infer what is going to happen to the Giver and the Community?
3. Predict whether Jonas was going to find Elsewhere?

## **Chapter Twenty-two and Twenty-three**

### **Vocabulary**

### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why do the number and frequency of the search planes diminish?
2. How is the landscaping changing?
3. What is happening to Jonas' memories?
4. What is the memory that gives Jonas the will to survive?

### **Chapter Twenty-two and Twenty-three Summary**

Jonas detected the changes in the landscape. The terrain became irregular. He bumped into a rock and twisted his ankle. The frequency of the search planes diminished and he rode his bike during the day. Gabriel confuses a bird with a plane. They had very little food left. They are both weak and hungry. The weather changed and they felt wet, cold and hungry.

Jonas foresaw the proximity of Elsewhere. They felt cold and the ground had snow. Jonas recalled the memory of sunshine. He struggled to reach the summit of the mountain. He started recalling happy times, his sister, his parents, his friends and the Giver. He found the sled and went down the mountain. He heard the music and people singing, but perhaps it was only an echo of his imagination.

### **Discussion**

1. Were Jonas and Gabriel safe? How do you know?
2. What is your opinion about the ending of the book?
3. What is the part of the book that you visualize most clearly?