Name:

Date:

The Giver Novel Study Packet

**Introduction:** Just imagine if we could start over and create perfect communities.  How would we want things done?  What would we change in order to achieve “perfection”?  What would we have to give up?

In Jonas' perfect world, everything is under control.  There is no war or fear or pain. But when Jonas learns the truth, there is no turning back. In a Utopian community where there are no choices—where everyone has his or her place in the world assigned according to gifts and interests--the time has come for 12-year-old Jonas to become the new Receiver of Memory. He will be the one to bear the collective memories of a society that lives only in the present, where "Sameness " is the rule. But Jonas soon recognizes the losses and discovers the lie that supports his community. He decides he will change his world--but he cannot predict how that change will come about, or what that change will mean for himself and the "newchild" Gabriel, whom he has resolved to protect.

**Novel Study Directions**

* Read each section carefully. Think critically and carefully.  I want imaginative, creative and THOUGHTFUL ideas and answers to questions. It is quite possible your answers will be a paragraph long.
* All written answers in complete sentences. Answer EACH part of the question as specifically as you possibly can. You may need to directly quote the novel to ensure your answers are correct.
* Due dates for projects and questions will be given along the way. All rules for late work apply.
* There will be a large “midterm” in December covering the entire novel. The date for this will be given ahead of time as we finish reading and working.

**CHAPTERS 1 to 7 QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT: COMPREHENSION AND RECALL**

1. Why does Jonas find it unsettling that he and Gabriel have similar eyes?
2. Why do people take pills for the Stirrings?

**HIGHER LEVEL THINKING SKILLS**

1. What does it mean when someone is released?
2. How would you describe life in Jonas' community?
3. Why don't Jonas and Lily know what "animal" means?
4. Do you think there are cars, trucks, planes, buses, or trains within this community? Explain.
5. Why might Father's interest in Gabe cause problems?
6. Why do families tell one another their feelings and dreams each day?
7. Why is interdependence fostered in the community?
8. In what way do you think the apple changed when Jonas and Asher were tossing it?

**LITERARY ELEMENTS**

1. Significant detail: On the first page, how does the author alert you that there is something out of the ordinary about a plane flying over the community?
2. Suspense: How does the author keep the reader as well as Jonas in suspense about his Assignment?

**JOURNAL RESPONSE** (Several Paragraphs Long)

1. How do you feel about the "standard practices" and "rituals" practiced in the community? Why? How do you feel about the punishment given for infractions?
2. Would you want your future to be decided by others? Why or why not?
3. Did you have a "comfort object" when you were younger? What did you call it?
4. How do you feel about the way families are created in this community?

**CHAPTERS 8 - 15 QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT: COMPREHENSION AND RECALL**

1. Why does Jonas feel separateness after the Ceremony?
2. Why doesn't Jonas know about snow?
3. How does Jonas change Gabe's life?
4. Why are there speakers in every dwelling?

**HIGHER LEVEL THINKING SKILLS**

1. Why does Jonas feel terror at not having an assignment at the beginning of the Ceremony of Twelve?
2. What's the difference between being assigned and selected?
3. What do you think happened to the girl who was chosen ten years ago?
4. Why are people's homes called dwellings?
5. Why does Jonas find the instruction about lying so disturbing?
6. Why don't people have more than three books?
7. Why does The Giver say that making choices would be frightening for people?
8. Why does Jonas begin to feel frustrated and angry?
9. Why is The Receiver forbidden to share books or memories with other people?
10. Do you think The Giver is happy with his life?
11. What war does Jonas experience?

**LITERARY ELEMENTS**

Foreshadowing: How does the author foreshadow Jonas' gift?

**JOURNAL RESPONSE** (Several Paragraphs Long)

1. What is your reaction to the instructions Jonas receives?
2. What would it be like to five in a world where you didn't experience color, sunshine, or animals?

**CHAPTERS 16 - 23** **QUESTIONS TO TALK ABOUT: COMPREHENSION AND RECALL**

1. Why does Jonas lie to his parents about using the word "love?"
2. Why was Rosemary's release a disaster for the community?  Why was Rosemary's death a disaster for The Giver?
3. What are some of the feelings that people in the community have not known?
4. What is the hearing-beyond that The Giver speaks of.
5. How does Jonas give the people memories?

**HIGHER LEVEL THINKING SKILLS**

1. What memory (holiday) is The Giver's favorite?
2. Why does Jonas see love in a family as dangerous?
3. Why can't Jonas communicate with other children any more?
4. Why do people assume that twins would be identical in all things?
5. Why is Jonas' father so cheery when he releases the twin?

**LITERARY ELEMENTS**

1. Author's purpose: Why do you think the author called the book The Giver instead of The Receiver?

**JOURNAL RESPONSE**(Several Paragraphs Long)

1. What are some memories you would give to someone you care about?
2. How would you feel about not living with your own family but with one to which you were assigned?
3. How do you feel about the book's ending? What will happen to The Giver? the community? Jonas and Gabriel?

**TASKS** YES, YOU MUST DO ALL OF THEM - Make sure you write at least the amount suggested.  A paragraph means at least seven sentences, preferably ten.

1. Task: Write a well-constructed paragraph that outlines the choices in life that you take for granted. Include a topic sentence, supporting information and concluding sentence.

2. Task: Imagine that you were in the society in which Jonas lived. What role would you want to assume: a twelve, a nurturer, a birthmother, other. In a well-constructed paragraph, write a persuasive argument for why you are well suited for that role. Include your reasons for requesting that assignment.

3. Task: Make a list of the roles that were mentioned in Jonas' society.   In your opinion, what additional roles are needed in that society? Explain why those roles are needed.

4. Task: Would you be willing to take the role of Receiver? Why or why not?

5. Task: Rewrite the story with a different ending.

6. Task: In several paragraphs, describe three of the following concepts: sunlight, color, love, pain, freedom. (One paragraph for each)

7. Task: Write a diary or journal entry for one of the characters.

8. Task: In a paragraph, explain the responsibilities of one of the following roles: Receiver, Releaser, The Giver.

9. Task: In Jonas' society, the community was more important than the individual. Write an essay (three paragraphs) about what you think is important about being a unique individual.

10. Task: The community in The Giver had some positive features as well as negative ones. Make 2 columns. On one side list the positive features and on the other the negative. Do they balance out? Why? Write a comparative essay (three paragraphs) on the advantages and disadvantages of living in Jonas' society.

11. Task: (persuasive argument-one page 10 marks)
Prepare a persuasive argument for the advantage of experiencing something (i.e., seeing, smelling, hearing, loving ) over the disadvantage of never experiencing it.

12. Task: Create a brochure advertising the advantages in living in Jonas' community.

**Answer the questions about literary devices in complete sentences. One sentence will NOT be sufficient. You will likely need several sentences or a paragraph for full credit.**

1. **Hook** — How does the **hook** in *The Giver* draw you into the novel?

2. **Cliffhanger** — What is the **cliffhanger** in Chapter Two?

3. **Allusion** - The name Jonas is a variation of the name Jonah. In the Bible, the prophet Jonah was commissioned by the Lord to proclaim judgment upon a sinful city. Why might Lois Lowry have chosen Jonas as the name of her main character? In the Bible the angel Gabriel is a **divine** messenger. What does the choice of this name for the newchild suggest about Gabe’s importance in the novel?

4. **Science fiction** novels are a form of fantasy in which the action takes place on another planet, in the future, or in another dimension. What is the setting for The Giver? Provide evidence from the novel to support your opinion.

5. What is the **cliffhanger** at the end of Chapter Eight?

6. **Varying Chapter Length -**Reread Chapter 15. Why do you think Lowry put the memory of war in a separate chapter instead of making it part of another chapter?

7. **Simile** - Read the passage below and answer the questions about simile.

He fell with his leg twisted under him, and could hear the crack of bone.... It was as if a hatchet lay lodged in his leg, slicing through each nerve with a hot blade.

What two things are being compared?

What is the effect of this comparison?

8**. Dramatic Irony** - Complete the following exercise on dramatic irony.

*Jonas . . . had wondered what lay Elsewhere. Was there someone there, waiting, who would receive the tiny released twin? Would it grow up Elsewhere, not knowing, ever, that in this community lived a being who looked exactly the same?*(don’t have to answer these) *For a moment he felt a tiny, fluttering hope that he knew was quite foolish. He hoped that it would be Larissa, waiting.... Fiona had told him recently that Larissa had been released at a wonderful ceremony.*

What does the reader understand about this statement that Jonas does not? (answer this)

9**. Paradox** - Answer the following question based on the example of paradox. The community did not want change, which is why they created the Receiver of Memory whose job it was to assure Sameness. Yet The Giver said: “My work will be finished when I have helped the community to change and become whole.”

* Explain the paradox in the sentence above.

10. **Etymologies** - Speakers of English borrow words from other languages, so we have the largest vocabulary of any language in the world. The history of a word from its origin to its present use is called its etymology. The bold word in this paragraph from the novel has an interesting etymology:

* He tried to use the flagging power of his memory to recreate meals, and managed brief, **tantalizing** fragments: banquets with huge roasted meats; birthday parties with thick-frosted cakes...
* In Greek mythology Tantalus was a wicked king who, as punishment for his crimes, was forced to stand in deep water with grapes growing overhead. The water receded when he was thirsty, and the grapes receded when he was hungry.
* Look up tantalize in a dictionary. Write its definition below.
* How does knowing the history of the word enrich the meaning of this paragraph?

**Did you think about what you read? Answer each question in a paragraph.**

* So far, what do you see as the *positive* aspects of the Community Jonas lives in?
* So far, what do you see as the *negative* aspects of the Community Jonas lives in?
* What adjectives would you use to describe the relationship of Jonas’ family, as it is seen in their discussions, and around the dinner table.  Then, say why you chose those adjectives.
* Why do you think members of this society must do volunteer work while they are young?  Do you think this is a good or idea or a bad idea?  Defend your answer.
* Look again at Chapters 1 and 2.  Mostly, the things in the chapter are perfectly normal and like our world.  But not quite.  Make a list of all the things that are mentioned, or terms that are used, that identify the setting as different from our world.
* Somehow, you come upon Jonas’s Community…a group of people living peacefully, no poverty, no suffering, no pain, no war.  Should you tell them about pain and war and all those bad things, or not?  List the arguments for telling them, then list the arguments for not telling them.  Then decide whether you’d tell them or not.
* EXCEPT for the “Release” of babies and others, describe what you think are the *worst* parts of the society described in this book.
* Describe the *best* parts of the society described in this book.
* Re-read the last two pages of the book.  First, decide…Do Jonas and Gabriel reach Elsewhere?  Another Community?  Is he hallucinating?  Do they just die together in the snow?  To you, when you read it, what exactly happens*?  DEFEND your answer by quoting from and referring to the book.*  To you, is the ending of this book a happy one or a sad one?
* In a paragraph, tell what the lessons, themes, and messages are that the author would like us to get from this book.

**Defend each statement in a paragraph.**

* Agree or disagree, and say why: People should learn history, and learn about the past.
* Agree or disagree, and say why: It is possible to have a world where everyone is equal, but everyone is not the same.
* Agree or disagree, and say why: A world without any pain would be a bad thing.