***The Giver* Discussion Questions**

**Directions:** Each time you meet with your group, choose 2-3 of these questions to discuss. (You should choose your questions from a relevant chapter. E.g. If you read chapters 4-10, you should discuss questions from those chapters.) Have one person jot down notes on what your group said in response to the questions. (These can be in bullets.)

**Ch. 1**

1. Describe the setting. What do can you infer about Jonas’s society so far? How does it work? What are some of the rules and traditions?
2. What do you think of the family sharing ritual?
3. What do you think Jonas’s parents are trying to teach Lily when she shares her feelings?
4. What can you infer about what it means to be “release?”
5. Why don’t Jonas or Lily really know what the word “animal” means? What does that help you infer about the setting?

**Ch.2**

1. How many of the rules in Jonas’s society can you list so far? What do these rules tell you about their society?
2. What are some of the jobs in this society? How do people get their jobs? What does this tell you about the society?
3. What have you notice so far about the way Lily speaks and the words and phrases she uses? What does that make you think?
4. How do the people in this society form families? What do you think of this?

**Ch. 3**

1. When Lily comments on how Jonas and the baby share strange, light-colored eyes, Jonas is irritated because “It was considered rude to call attention to things that were unsettling or different about individuals.” (20) What do you make of this “rule”? Is this a good rule or not? What does it tell you about Jonas’s society?
2. Why doesn’t Jonas’s society have a lot of mirrors?
3. Why does the apple incident confuse Jonas?

**Ch.4**

1. How does Jonas’s society view individuality and community? Which do they value more? How can you tell? Which do you think is more important?
2. Where do you think people in this society are “released” to?

**Ch. 5**

1. Why do you think of the dream sharing ritual? Why do the people in this community feel it is important to begin each day sharing dreams from the night before?
2. What are “the Stirrings?” Why does everyone have to take a pill to make them stop?

**Ch. 6**

1. Why do Fours, Fives and Sixes have to wear jackets with buttons on the back? What do you think of this lesson?
2. What do you think of how this society views and treats Gabriel?

**Ch. 7**

1. What was Asher punished for when he was a child? What was his punishment? What does this tell you about this tell you about the values and beliefs of this society?
2. What does Jonas think when The Chief Elder skips his number during the ceremony? Who does he blame and what does this reveal about this society?
3. Is it a good idea to assign children their future jobs at 11? Why or why not?

**Ch. 8-9**

1. Why has Jonas been selected to become the next Receiver of Memory? What do you think this job might entail?
2. Why does Jonas sense that his friendship with Asher is starting to change?
3. What do you make of the rules Jonas is given for his assignment? What do they suggest about the assignment?

**Ch. 10**

1. Why is Jonas so surprised to see all the books in the old Receiver of Memory’s dwelling?
2. What is the Receiver of Memory’s job?
3. Why doesn’t Jonas understand what the old Receiver means by “the whole world”? (77)

**Ch. 11-12**

1. Why doesn’t Jonas’s society have snow, sleds and hills anymore?
2. Why does the old Receiver say that honor is not the same as power? (84)
3. Remember that in this chapter Jonas and the Giver discover that he is starting to see color and other people cannot see any colors. How would a lack of color affect people? Why then have the people of this society tried to get rid of color? Why did they try to create “Sameness”?

**Ch. 13**

1. Why does Jonas want the colors so badly? What is so important to him?
2. Why aren’t the people in this society allowed to choose things for themselves?
3. Remember that when Jonas is talking to the Giver about their society, he says, “We really have to protect people from wrong choices” (99). What do you think of this statement? Do you agree or disagree? Does a society have any responsibility to prevent someone from making a bad choice? If a society is allowed to prevent people from making “wrong choices,” what problems might that create?
4. Why is Jonas filled with so much irritation and anger now?
5. How does the memory of the men killing an elephant affect Jonas?
6. Why are Jonas and The Giver the only people allowed access to books?
7. What happened when the previous Receiver failed? How did her failure affect the community?
8. When Jonas and The Giver are talking about the scientists, The Giver says that “They know nothing” because “without the memories it’s all meaningless” (105). What does he mean?
9. Why does The Giver look so old and tired? Why is he in pain sometimes when Jonas comes to see him?

**Ch. 14-15**

1. Why does The Giver give Jonas a memories of pain? Why not only give Jonas happy memories? How do the memories give wisdom?
2. Why aren’t the memories shared by everyone as Jonas suggested?
3. Why does Jonas decide not to tell anyone that he gave a memory to Gabriel?
4. Why does The Giver ask Jonas to forgive him?

**Ch. 16**

1. How does “family” work in this community? Why do you think they do it this way? What are the pros and cons have having “family” work this way?
2. How do Jonas’s parents react when he asks if they love him? What do you think of their response?
3. What is Jonas’s first lie to his parents? Why does he lie?
4. What motivates Jonas to keep giving memories to Gabe?
5. What motivates Jonas to stop taking his pill?

**Ch. 17**

1. How are Jonas’s emotions now different from those of his family members?
2. How does the war game Asher and the other children are playing affect Jonas? What does the game make him realize about his friends and their society?

**Ch. 18**

1. What motivated Rosemary to ask for release?
2. Why wouldn’t the community be able to deal with the memories if they lost Jonas or The Giver?

**CH. 19**

1. When Jonas tells The Giver about how his father is releasing a twin, The Giver says, “I wish they wouldn’t do that.” (146) What does this tell you about The Giver?
2. Why does The Giver insist that Jonas watch a recording of the release?
3. What are your thoughts on the release?

**Ch. 20**

1. How does seeing the release affect Jonas?
2. According to The Giver, why do the people in this society behave in the way they do? Why do they follow the rules without question even when those rules have them kill people?
3. The Giver says to Jonas, “you and I are the only ones who have feelings.” (154) Is this true? Why or why not?
4. Why does The Giver believe things need to change? What has led him to this conclusion?
5. Jonas believes if he stays in the community his life will no “longer be worth living” (155). Why does he think this? Is he right?
6. Why does The Giver refuse to come with Jonas? Is he making the right choice?
7. During the conversation about what it will do to the community if Jonas and The Giver leave, Jonas says, “you and I don’t need to *care* about the rest of them.” (156) Why is Jonas feeling this way? Is he right? Do he and the Giver need to care about the rest of the community or not?
8. Imagine a world without music!
9. What do you think of The Giver and Jonas’s plan?
10. What does The Giver mean that he wants to be with his daughter when all this is over?

**Ch. 21**

1. Foreshadowing is when an author hints at what events are going to happen next. Can you find an example of foreshadowing on page 163? What do you think of the author’s use of foreshadowing? Good idea or not?
2. How come Jonas’s father doesn’t appear to be upset about releasing Gabe? Is he that much of a monster or is there another explanation for his indifference?
3. What do you think of Jonas’s decision to take Gabe with him? What motivated Jonas to take such a dangerous risk?

**Ch. 22-23**

1. How does being in a forest for the first time affect Jonas?
2. How is Jonas a dynamic character? How has he changed since the beginning of the book? What character traits would you give him based on the last few chapters?
3. What do you make of the ending? Why did Jonas see lights at the bottom of the hill?
4. Which words are unexpectedly capitalized in this book? Why are the capitalized?