

## ***Ms. Callahan- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Summer Assignment***

*“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” –Dr. Seuss*

**Below are the contents of the summer reading packet for students entering 6th grade. You are required to read *The Giver* by Lois Lowry and use these guided reading questions to make notes on Post-its for each chapter so you will be prepared with your text evidence for future discussions and/or essays.**

**Following the list of questions is a suggested book list for additional summer reading.**

### **“The Giver” Comprehension Questions**

Chapter 1:

1. What was the unidentified aircraft at the beginning of the story?
2. What month did the story begin?
3. Explain the ritual that Jonas’s family did at the end of their evening meal?
4. What were Jonas’ parents’ jobs?
5. What was Jonas apprehensive about? What might this say about him as a character?

Chapter 2:

1. Why was Jonah’s father was so concerned about Gabriel?
2. Were rules ever “secretly” broken by the community? Explain.
3. What is the most important job in the community? Explain this job.
4. Why was the Ceremony of Twelves the most important ceremony?
5. How did their lives change after the Ceremony of 12’s?

Chapter 3:

1. What was so different about the new child?
2. Jonas took an apple from the Recreation Area and was reminded by public announcement that he was not to do that. What was the significance of this moment where Jonas interacted with the apple?
3. Why was the new child, Gabriel, staying with Jonas’ family unit?

Chapter 4:

1. What did Benjamin do for his volunteer hours?
2. What did Lily do for her volunteer hours?
3. Where did Asher and Fiona work?
4. What did Jonas help do at the House of Old?
5. Explain the celebrations that took place at the House of Old?

6. Where do they go when one has been released?
7. When Roberto walked through the door of the Releasing Room He bowed to them and had a look of pure happiness on his face. What prediction can be made about what it means to be released?

#### Chapter 5:

1. What was the morning ritual for Jonas' family?
2. What was the "treatment" for "stirrings"?
3. Who has to take this treatment?
4. How did Jonas feel about taking the pills?

#### Chapter 6:

1. Fours, Fives, and Sixes had to wear jackets that were buttoned down their backs. What was the reason behind this?
2. Sevens wore a jacket that was buttoned down the front. What did that represent?
3. Nines got their first bicycle. What did that represent?
4. A replacement child was given for the four year old Caleb. What does this suggest about the community?
5. Lily went through the Eights ceremony. What did the pockets on her jacket represent?
6. What was special about turning 10?
7. If you wanted to leave the community, where would you go?
8. How did people get a spouse? Does this seem like a good idea?

#### Chapter 7:

1. At what age would your age no longer matter?
2. In what ways was Asher educated/disciplined as a child?
3. What was Asher's assignment?
4. What reason did Jonas think was why he was skipped?

#### Chapter 8:

1. Jonas had not actually been assigned, but he was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What was Jonas' new role?
3. Who will train Jonas?
4. The characteristics for a Receiver of Memory are intelligence, integrity, and \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. How did Jonas respond to this information and what does this suggest about his character?
6. How did the audience respond to Jonas left standing on the stage?
7. Why was he filled with fear?

#### Chapter 9:

1. Why did things seem so tense for Jonas after the ceremony?
2. What kind of job did Jonas get?
3. What happened to the girl that was supposed to have been trained for the Receiver

of Memory job?

4. What was in Jonas' instruction folder and how will these rules impact his life?
5. What was the final rule on his sheet of instructions?
6. What realization struck him?

Chapter 10:

1. What was different about the bikes after the Twelves ceremony?
2. Why was the Receiver of Memory's doors locked?
3. Why was Jonas so surprised to see all the books in the office?
4. What memories did the Receiver want Jonas to have?
6. What analogy did the Receiver compare his life to?
7. Describe Jonas' experience receiving his first memory.

Chapter 11:

1. For the first time, Jonas experienced the feel of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What happens to a memory once the Giver gives it away to Jonas?
3. Why was there no longer snow and what does this say about the community in which they live?
4. Why did the leaders go to "sameness?"
5. The second memory was warm and comforting. What was it?
6. What was the last memory given to Jonah in this chapter?

Chapter 12:

1. Why did Jonas feel uncomfortable listening to all the Twelves about their first day of training?
2. What weird thing keeps happening to Jonas?
4. The Giver told him that Jonas was experiencing \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Why did colors disappear in their society?
6. To help Jonas understand the concept of color, the Giver wants to give him the memory of a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What red things has Jonas seen so far?

Chapter 13:

1. Why was the community without color?
2. Why couldn't the community have choices?
3. Describe the horrible memory the Giver gave to Jonas this time?
4. When the Receiver failed, the memories were released out into the community. Why was this such a concern?
5. Jonas told the Receiver to start giving him some painful memories. Why?

Chapter 14:

1. How was the second snow/sled experience different from the first?
2. Why does the Receiver have to hold all the painful, terrible memories?
3. What was Gabriel's main problem?

4. What did they do when a birthmother had twins?
5. How did Jonas calm down Gabriel?

#### Chapter 15:

1. What was wrong with the Giver?
2. Describe the memory of war.

#### Chapter 16:

1. What were some of the good memories that were given to Jonas?
2. What was the Giver's favorite memory that was given away?
3. What new feeling did Jonas get to experience?
4. What is the significance of the choice Jonas makes to throw his pill away?

#### Chapter 17:

1. What did Jonas want to do on his unexpected holiday?
2. What happened with the war game?
3. How does Jonas' father describe the release?
4. What job did mother think would fit Lily?

#### Chapter 18:

1. What was the cause of Rosemary's failure?
2. What happened to the memories when Rosemary died?
3. Why is it important for Jonas stay away from the river?

#### Chapter 19:

1. Describe the significance of Jonas witnessing the release. How does this change things?
- 2.. What does it mean to be released?
3. How was Rosemary released?

#### Chapter 20:

1. Who all in the community gets released?
2. Why is Jonas' plan so risky?
3. What would the Giver tell the community happened to Jonas?
8. Who is the Giver's daughter?

#### Chapter 21:

1. What crimes did Jonas commit when he left?
2. Why couldn't the search planes see them?
3. How was Jonas able to throw the search plans off their tracks.

#### Chapter 22:

1. During the escape, what changes in landscape did Jonas notice?
2. Now that the fear of searchers was gone, what did Jonas fear now?
3. What had Gabe mistaken in the air?

4. There was a desperate fear building in Jonas. What was it?
5. Jonas and Gabe crying were crying because they were cold, wet, hungry, weak. Why else was Jonas crying?

Chapter 23:

1. How did Jonas try to warm up Gabe?
2. What was the first thing that Jonas saw in Elsewhere?
3. What did he hear for the first time?
4. How did he know this place would take care of Gabe and him?
5. What do you think happened?

**After reading the book, write a one-page essay, answering only ONE of the questions below, citing specific evidence taken from the book. Please state the page upon which the information is being cited (place page number in parenthesis). This essay may be typed or hand-written on lined paper.**

1. Analyze the advantages and disadvantages of Sameness in Jonas' community.
2. List the ways in which Jonas' community appears to be a utopia and explain why the things on your list contribute to perfection. (A utopia is “any idealized place of perfection” with a perfect society and a perfect government; in a nutshell, it is a “perfect world”.)
3. Discuss, in detail, whether Jonas' assignment as the next Receiver of Memory is an honor or a punishment.
4. The people in Jonas' community gave up their freedom and individuality to live in a safe environment. Discuss whether or not the community is a safe environment in which to live. How would you define a safe environment?

## Recommended Summer Reading:

### Fiction:

*Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg* by Rodman Philbrick  
*Leviathan* by Paul Westerfield  
*What I Saw and How I Lied* by Judy Blundell  
*Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko  
*Countdown* by Deborah Wiles  
*Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool  
*Heart of a Samurai* by Margi Preus  
*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly

### Sixth-Grade Social Studies:

*D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire  
*A Little History of the World* by E. H. Gombrich  
*One-Hundred-And-One Read-Aloud Myths and Legends* by Robin Fitzsimmons & Joan C Verniero  
*The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child: Volume 1: Ancient Times: From the Earliest Nomads to the Last Roman Emperor, Revised Edition Paperback* by Susan Wise Bauer

### Contemporary Fiction:

*When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead  
*Liar and Spy* by Rebecca Stead  
*Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes  
*Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers  
*A Mango Shaped Space* by Wendy Mass  
*Smiles to Go* by Jerry Spinelli  
*Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonneblick  
*American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang  
*Half Brother* by Kenneth Oppel  
*Every Soul a Star* by Wendy Mass

*Chomp* by Carl Hiaasen

### Fantasy/Science Fiction:

*The Alchemyst* by Michael Scott  
*Impossible* by Nancy Werlin  
*The Looking Glass Wars* by Frank Beddor  
*The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to a Nation: Volume One* by M.T. Anderson  
*Graceling* by Kristen Cashore  
*The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak  
*Ship Breaker* by Paola Bacigalupi  
*Watership Down* by Richard Adams  
*20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne  
*War of the Worlds* by H.G. Wells  
*The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery  
*The False Prince* by Jennifer Nielson

### Classics:

*The Red Pony* by John Steinbeck  
*Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls  
*A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith  
*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain

### Non-Fiction:

*The Real Benedict Arnold*, by Jim Murphy  
*Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith* by Deborah Heiligman  
*Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin  
*Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson  
*Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95* by Phillip Hoose

### Poetry:

*Swan: Poems and Prose Poems* by Mary Oliver  
*Delights and Shadows: Poems* by Ted Kooser  
*Boris* by Cynthia Rylant