

Sample Response Sheet

Student Name: Composite answers from papers

Title of Book: The Giver

Author: Lois Lowry

I. Plot of Book:

The book The Giver is about a boy named Jonas and his special role in the community. In Jonas' community there are no feelings or memories and everyone sees in black and white. It is Jonas' job as the new Receiver to remember all of these things so they will not be lost. He begins to receive memories and feelings such as love and pain. These emotions unlock a whole new world for Jonas, one that once entered, one cannot return from.

II. Theme of Book:

Life is meant to be lived and cherished and embraced, including all of the pain, love, and fear that comes with it. In The Giver this theme is evident. This book shows that life is monotonous and shades of gray when you take out emotions and feelings. This is realized even by those who have never lived any other way.

III. Major characters in book:

Jonas, the main character in this book is a bright and perceptive 12 year old with an important position. His family unit is made up of his parents and younger sister Lily. Jonas is given his special job as Receiver at a ceremony with his friends Fiona and Asher. He is the next Receiver and is to be trained by the current Giver.

IV. Setting of book:

Jonas' story takes place in the future, in a small community separate from pain, fear, and color.

V. In paragraph form, describe TWO (3 are given) passages in the book that were especially memorable or meaningful to you. Tell why.

One of the most memorable passages in Lois Lowry's The Giver is that when the Giver tries to explain to Jonas the idea and importance of memories and how it helps the Elders shape the future. In this passage, the Giver explains the idea and existence of a past. He says, "There's much more. There's all that goes beyond--all that is Elsewhere--and all that goes back, and back, and back"(78). Then the Giver continues to describe the significance of memories by saying, "...I re-experience them again and again. It is how wisdom comes. And how we shape our future" (78). It is not until this moment that Jonas realizes that different living styles had existed before him. By telling Jonas about a past, The Giver exposes a new concept to Jonas, a concept that will ultimately change everything in his life

Another significant passage in The Giver is that when Jonas and the Giver decide on a plan which will allow everyone to have memories. Because of the feelings memories provide, Jonas and the Giver want to allow every

person in the community to have memories. The Giver explains that "...memories tell us that...people felt things once" (154), and both he and Jonas are willing to risk anything for them to feel it again. The Giver says, "The worst part of holding memories is not the pain. It's the loneliness of it. Memories need to be shared" (154). In this passage, Jonas and the Giver finally have resolved to change the lives of everybody in the Community. In addition, they have learned from their memories that "it has not always been" (154) and they can change their world for the better.

The passage that shows Jonas' realization of the true reason why he left his Community is the most essential in Lowry's *The Giver*. When Jonas is starving during his escape to Elsewhere, he ponders whether he had made the wrong choice of leaving. However, he recalls that "if he had stayed...he would have starved in other ways. He would have lived a life hungry for feelings, for color, for love" (174). Here, Jonas remembers the goal of his escape: to live a life of choice and freedom. He had the freedom to feel and experience new things. Never feeling anything but sameness, he finally experienced it and "enjoyed the new feeling of it...[he] became cold and wet" (174). This passage demonstrates how Jonas has changed, for now "he no longer cared about himself" (174).

VI. Pick ONE of the questions below and write a well organized and complete response of at least one-half page to a whole page in response.

Question: What do you think the author is saying about life, perfect or other wise, in this book?" Do you agree with the point(s) of view? Did the book change your beliefs or opinions? Explain.

I think the author is trying to show a world that is supposedly perfect, but in actual fact it's the opposite. In *The Giver*, the community that Jonas lives in is safe and perfect, but it lacks many things. The people behave almost as if they are computerized and have no feelings at all. I strongly feel that Lois Lowry is trying to get a message across saying that if everything in life were perfect and safe, it would also be very artificial. The people of this community had never experienced emotions such as anger, fear, or even happiness. They didn't know what it was like to feel real pain or loss, not even the warm feeling of love

I agree with the message that the author is trying to convey to the reader, which is that it is better to live in a real world rather than an artificial one. Even though the world we live in today has many problems, it would be really incomplete if we were to live in a perfect world. We would miss out on so many things if our lives were controlled and our decisions were made for us. No close relationships were formed between people and a "family unit" was just a temporary attachment. Though the people of this community lacked emotions such as anger, jealousy, sadness, etc., they also lacked knowledge. They knew nothing of the little splendors of life. They had never seen snow, never had a real friendship and never seen colors

To give up all the good things in life to achieve a perfect world would be a great loss to me; I would rather just stay and live in the imperfect world that I am in today.