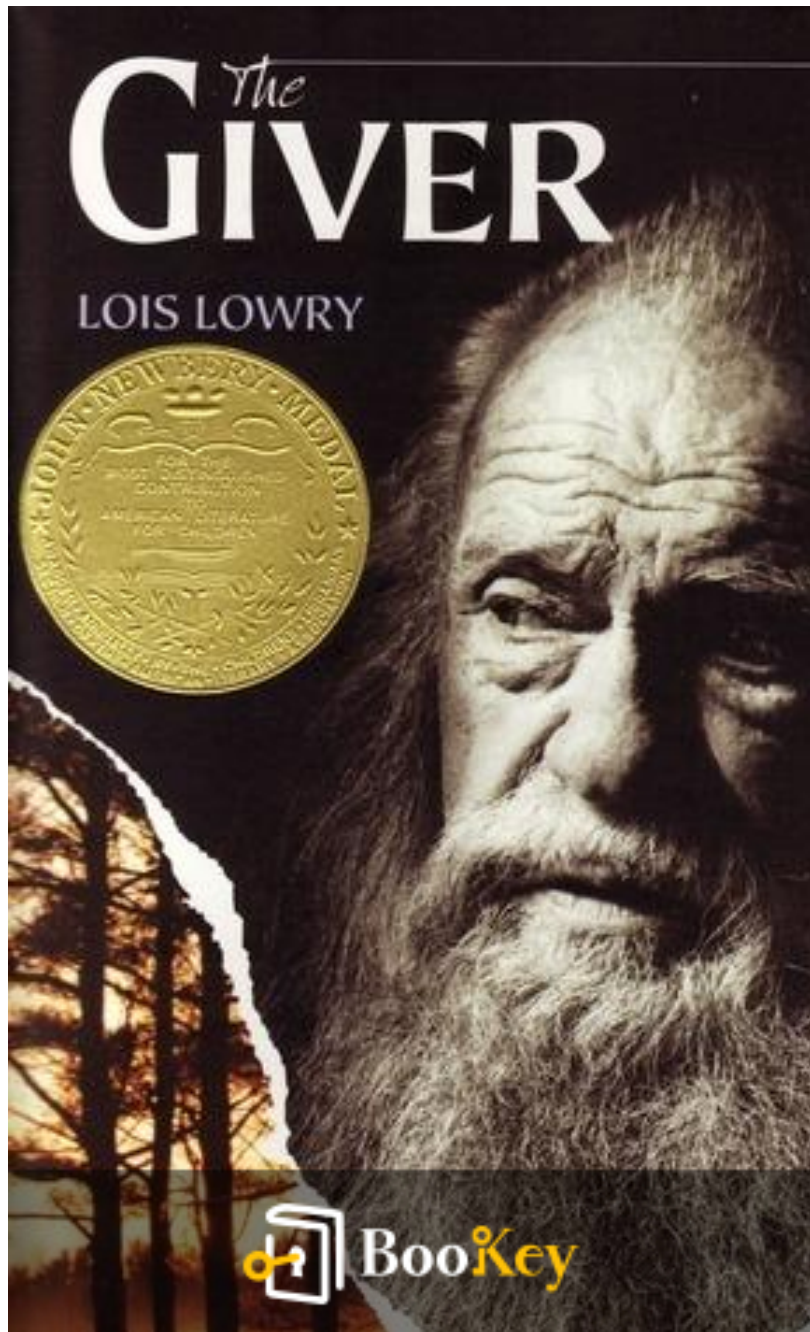


The Giver PDF (Limited Copy)

Lois Lowry



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The Giver Summary

"Discovering Emotions in a Controlled Utopian World."

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About the book

In a world utterly devoid of choices and color, where conformity is the epitome of societal perfection, Lois Lowry's "The Giver" invites readers on a compelling journey into the life of young Jonas. This novel brilliantly unfurls the layers of a seemingly utopian society, hidden under façades of uniformity and control, enlightening us about the sacrifices made in pursuit of order. As Jonas receives the monumental honor of becoming the Receiver of Memory, he embarks on an enlightening expedition that unveils the mysteries of human emotion, memories of a forgotten past, and the unsettling truths about his meticulously controlled community. "The Giver" is an exploration of what it truly means to be human, compelling us to question the value of our emotions, relationships, and the very essence of freedom in a world that cherishes harmony over individuality. Dive into this thought-provoking narrative, and prepare to be challenged by the courageous choices of a young boy who becomes the unexpected harbinger of change in a perfectly imperfect world.

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About the author

Lois Lowry, born on March 20, 1937, in Honolulu, Hawaii, is a celebrated American author renowned for her profound impact on children's literature. Lowry's writing career spans over five decades, during which she has penned more than 40 books, including the critically acclaimed "The Giver" quartet. Her works often delve into themes of individuality, ethics, and emotion, skillfully exploring the complexities of human experience with clarity and empathy. A two-time recipient of the prestigious Newbery Medal, for "Number the Stars" in 1990 and "The Giver" in 1994, Lowry is lauded for her ability to address sensitive topics with grace, fostering dialogue and understanding among young readers. Her compelling narratives and attention to detail have positioned Lois Lowry not only as a titan in the realm of young adult fiction but also as an enduring voice advocating for deeper connections and meaningful communication in a rapidly evolving world.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

Chapter 4 opens with Jonas, a thoughtful young boy approaching the pivotal Ceremony of Twelve, where he will receive his lifelong Assignment in his highly regulated community. As Jonas rides his bike through the town, he ponders the significance of volunteer hours, a period when children aged Eight and up choose tasks that interest them across various community facilities. This phase provides a rare taste of freedom in an otherwise meticulous society. Jonas reflects on the nervous excitement he felt upon becoming an Eight and starting his volunteer hours, which helped him discover personal interests and talents over time.

Jonas reminisces about Benjamin, a fellow Eleven who spent his entire volunteer tenure at the Rehabilitation Center. Benjamin excelled so much in this setting that it was widely anticipated he would receive an Assignment there, potentially even bypassing standard training.

As Jonas rides past familiar landmarks such as the Childcare Center and Central Plaza, he is on a quest to find his friend Asher, who is frequently mischievous and makes work challenging. Eventually, he finds Asher's bike, along with another bike belonging to Fiona, an Eleven Jonas admires for her balance of seriousness and playfulness. Both of them are volunteering at the House of the Old, where Jonas decides to join them.



Upon entering the House of the Old, Jonas is greeted warmly by an attendant and learns there had been a release ceremony earlier, a somber yet celebrated event within the community. The notion of "release" is deeply mysterious, often discussed but poorly understood by the younger members of society. Jonas is directed to the bathing room to assist with bathing the elderly.

Jonas, upon entering the soothing environment of the bathing room, joins Asher and Fiona in tending to the elderly residents. As Jonas gently washes a woman named Larissa, he finds himself reflecting on the relaxed, trusting nature of the elderly—contrasting it against his community's strict norms surrounding privacy.

During their conversation, Larissa reminisces about the release ceremony of Roberto, another resident from the House of the Old. She describes Roberto's commendable life and the celebration held in his honor, filled with speeches and anthems. Despite the procedural nature of these events, she conveys the genuine contentment Roberto exhibited as he walked through the door of the Releasing Room—a detail that intrigues Jonas.

The chapter highlights the contrasting elements of individuality in volunteering and the mystery that surrounds the community's concept of "release." Jonas's interactions, reflections, and observations continue to foreshadow the significant choice looming at the Ceremony of Twelve, while subtly introducing questions about the true nature of his society.



Chapter 2 Summary:

In the structured and orderly world of Jonas, dream-telling is a routine part of morning rituals, where family members share and discuss their dreams. Typically, Jonas doesn't have much to contribute, as he often wakes up with only fragmented memories that he can't fully piece together. However, this morning is different. Jonas experienced a vivid dream the previous night, making him more engaged in the ritual than usual.

As Jonas's younger sister, Lily, recounts her frightening dream about breaking community rules by riding her mother's bicycle and being caught, the family discusses the warning her dream implies. When it's Jonas's turn, he hesitantly shares his peculiar dream about being in the bathing room at the House of the Old. In the dream, he is with his friend Fiona and feels an intense desire for her to get into the tub so he can bathe her, feelings he describes simply as "wanting."

As his parents listen, Jonas is puzzled by the strong emotions in his dream. His parents recognize the significance and inform him that these are his first "Stirrings," a term he vaguely remembers from community rules which require mandatory reporting and treatment. His mother reassures him that the treatment involves taking a daily pill to suppress these emotions. Jonas is relieved to learn he doesn't need to go away for any special treatment and realizes that this is something even his friend Asher experiences, as hinted



by a past interaction.

As Jonas swallows the pill his mother gives him, he realizes this is now his reality, something that will become a routine part of his adult life. Despite the new responsibility of taking the pills each morning, he feels a strange sense of pride at this milestone. But as he heads off to school on his bicycle, he briefly recalls the pleasure of the Stirrings and realizes, with some regret, that taking the pills means these strong feelings will dissipate. Yet, just as the dream had slipped out of focus, so does this longing, as he continues on his way, integrating into the sameness of his community life once more.

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Chapter 3 Summary:

In this chapter, we dive into a day in the life of Jonas and his family in their highly organized community. The focus is on the annual Ceremony, a meticulous and celebratory event marking various stages of childhood and young adulthood.

The scene opens with Mother attempting to neatly tie hair ribbons in Lily's braids, despite her protestations of independence. Lily looks forward to the upcoming privileges that come with age, notably the coveted bicycle at Nine, a symbol of growing independence and integration into the community.

Jonas, meanwhile, teases Lily about wanting to be a Pilot, a role he later jokingly dismisses, highlighting the societal expectation that each person will dutifully fit into their designated role within the community. The entire family then prepares to set off for the Ceremony, an event not only important for the children receiving their milestones but also a community-wide occasion attended by everyone.

Ceremony day unfolds in structured sequences. Newchildren are brought onstage by Nurturers, each receiving a name and a family unit. Jonas observes, recalling his own experience of such an event. His father, a Nurturer, is particularly focused on a newchild named Gabriel, who has been



given a second chance due to his father's intervention. This action underscores the otherwise cold, clinical handling of those who do not meet the community's standards, as they are often "released" to the ominous and mysterious "Elsewhere."

The day continues through the sequence of age groups, with each session involving symbolic items like front-buttoned jackets and bicycles at Nine, which signal increased independence and responsibility. In particular, the naming of a replacement child, Caleb, stands out. This ceremony is weightier, due to the rare and tragic loss of the original Caleb to an accident, something almost unheard of in their meticulously safe community.

The chapter highlights both the rigidity and nurturing aspects of the societal structure. The narrative gives insights into how deeply every detail of life is managed, down to the interactions of family members and the matching of spouses based on complementing traits to ensure harmony. This structured life is underscored by the casual mention of dreaded "release" and whispered myths about those who unsuccessfully try to leave or fit into another community.

As the ceremony progresses to the Eleven and Twelve-year-olds, suspense heightens around the Assignments. There's a palpable anxiety of what's to come, as each child in their twelfth year will be given their life-long job role, a significant turning point in their lives, carefully determined by the



community leaders—the Committee of Elders.

Through Jonas's anticipation and observations, the chapter sets the stage for the pivotal assignment he will receive, reflecting on the careful consideration that defines every aspect of their controlled existence. The looming conclusion of the Ceremony promises change for Jonas and his peers, and the chapter closes with the anticipation palpable as they await their turn in the second day's continuation of the Ceremony.

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Chapter 4:

Chapter 7 of the story sees the young protagonist, Jonas, and his peer group attending the Ceremony of Twelve, a pivotal community event where children are assigned their future roles or "Assignments." This ceremony marks their transition into adulthood, with each child seated by their birth numbers, highlighting their roles within the community. Jonas, known as Eleven-nineteen, is particularly aware this will be his last time as an Eleven.

As the Ceremony unfolds, the Chief Elder, a leader chosen every decade, addresses the group. She emphasizes the importance of differences, which for the first time are being celebrated, as they determine each individual's future roles. The Chief Elder starts announcing the Assignments, beginning with Madeline, who becomes a Fish Hatchery Attendant, followed by Inger, granted the role of Birthmother, a job considered low in prestige, and Isaac as an Instructor of Sixes.

Asher, Jonas's lively best friend who is known for his humorous language slips as a child, receives the fitting Assignment of Assistant Director of Recreation, drawing laughs from the audience and showing how well the community knows and values each individual's traits. By contrast, Jonas is filled with apprehension about his own forthcoming role, reflecting on the prominent path laid out by earlier recipients, like Fiona who is designated as Caretaker of the Old, a role that seems perfect for her nurturing nature.



However, Jonas's anxiety rises when his name is unexpectedly skipped by the Chief Elder. He is left bewildered and humiliated, sitting quietly as the ceremony continues with each child receiving their role in turn. This surprising omission leaves Jonas confused, pondering whether an error has been made, though he knows such a mistake is unlikely at a Ceremony of Twelve. His friends are also uneasy, casting furtive glances towards him, as the chapter closes with Jonas in a state of growing tension about the fate of his own Assignment.

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Chapter 5 Summary:

In a tense and emotionally charged ceremony, Jonas nervously awaited his Assignment, a pivotal moment when young members of the community are designated their roles in society as per "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. Sitting in the audience, Jonas, a young boy in a dystopian society where emotions and choices are strictly regulated, felt a sinking sense of fear and confusion. The ceremony had proceeded with a seamless and enthusiastic charge, but when it came to Jonas's turn, something felt wrong. The crowd grew uneasy, with murmured confusion overshadowing the usual cohesive applause.

As he sat, overwhelmed with a feeling of humiliation, Jonas contemplated his possible failings. The Chief Elder, a respected figure tasked with announcing Assignments, addressed the community, acknowledging the anxiety she inadvertently caused by seemingly overlooking Jonas. She apologized, providing a slight reprieve from the palpable tension in the auditorium.

Jonas, identified for a special role rather than a customary Assignment, was called to the stage. Despite rehearsing for this moment, his movements felt cumbersome, an outward manifestation of his internal turmoil. The Chief Elder reassured the crowd and astonished Jonas by announcing him as the community's new Receiver of Memory, a role imbued with profound significance and rarity.



This revelation shocked the audience, as the role of Receiver is critical in holding the collective memories of the community, preserving wisdom that is otherwise inaccessible to its members due to their emotionless, orderly existence. It was a position demanding intelligence, integrity, courage, and a mysterious trait termed "the Capacity to See Beyond." The current Receiver, an enigmatic figure with pale eyes, would train Jonas, having observed him from afar for years.

The Chief Elder spoke of past failures in selecting a Receiver, a rare and risky process necessitating unanimous consent within the Committee of Elders due to its immense responsibility. Jonas's attributes were highlighted: his intelligence as a top student, his integrity, and the courage he would need to face unknown challenges and the intense, incomprehensible pain associated with his training.

Although the Chief Elder assured everyone, including Jonas, of his latent abilities and potential for great wisdom, Jonas felt a profound sense of doubt and isolation. The "Capacity to See Beyond" was something he struggled to understand, leaving him at a moment of self-doubt and despair. Yet, the community's expectation and the honor of the role suggested that Jonas possessed the unique qualities to fulfill this vital position, setting him on a path that would challenge the very structure of the society he knew.



Chapter 6 Summary:

In the narrative, Jonas is experiencing a profound moment of realization during a ceremonial gathering. As he looks across the crowd, something inexplicable occurs—a change reminiscent of a previous incident with an apple. Though Jonas doesn't fully understand it, he senses this change is significant and perhaps linked to a greater truth beyond his comprehension. Observing him is the Chief Elder, who informs Jonas and the community that he has been selected to become the next Receiver of Memory, a position of great honor and responsibility. The community begins chanting Jonas's name, signifying their acceptance and support, yet Jonas feels a mixture of pride and overwhelming fear as he contemplates his uncertain future.

That sense of being "apart" or different from others quickly takes hold of Jonas. The Chief Elder had mentioned that his training would be solitary. After the ceremony, while departing the Auditorium with a folder given to him, Jonas already feels this new isolation. As he wanders through the crowd, people make way for him, and whispers follow him.

Looking to reconnect with the familiar, Jonas seeks out his friend Asher. There's an initial awkwardness as they engage in small talk about their respective new roles and the ceremony's proceedings. Asher seems hesitant, an indicator that change is indeed happening. Although friendships are shifting, the societal structure pushes the new Twelves towards their future



assignments, emphasizing training and memorization of new rules that mark the transition into adulthood.

During the evening meal, conversation is subdued. Jonas's sister, Lily, talks excitedly about her new volunteer work at the Nurturing Center, while his parents express pride in Jonas's prestigious selection. However, when Jonas inquires about a previously failed selection for Receiver of Memory, his parents' unease grows. They reluctantly share that the past candidate was a female, and mention her name is now forbidden—a sign of ultimate disgrace. This conversation reveals the gravity of Jonas's new position.

In the solitude of his bedroom, Jonas finally examines the contents of his folder, expecting extensive instructions. Shockingly, it contains only a single, simple set of rules, drastically altering his understanding of his community and life. He's expected to report to the Annex for his training, forbidden from discussing it, and surprisingly, permitted to lie—something unimaginable in their society where language precision is ingrained from early childhood. These revelations unsettle Jonas. The removal of routine comforts, like recreational time and dream-telling traditions, coupled with training exemptions from rudeness, medication, and the prohibition of release, all highlight the isolating path ahead of him.

Reflecting on the permission to lie—an act previously inconceivable—Jonas feels his worldview begin to shift. The possibility that others among the



community, like adults, might hold the same secret permission disturbs him deeply. With his mind racing and questions forming, Jonas understands that while he can now ask questions with impunity, he may never be certain of the truthfulness of the answers he receives, bringing into question the very fabric of trust he has known his whole life.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Understanding the Power of Truth

Critical Interpretation: As you immerse yourself in Jonas's world, one key lesson emerges: the transformative power and complexity of truth. When you consider how Jonas's permission to lie begins to alter his perspective, you can relate this to your own life. We often accept truths given to us without question, trusting in the structures of authority and tradition that shape our environment. However, when you're invited to question these truths, as Jonas is, you initiate a journey of self-awareness and discovery. This encourages you to critically assess the information and societal norms you encounter daily. Embracing a reflective mindset enables you to discern your genuine beliefs from imposed expectations, empowering you to navigate your world with authenticity and integrity.

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Chapter 7 Summary:

In this chapter of "The Giver," Jonas and Fiona, new citizens-in-training, ride to their respective assignments. Fiona is nervous as she approaches the House of the Old, despite her familiarity with it, because everything has changed since they became Twelves, including their nameplates. Jonas, also anxious, heads to his first day of training at the Annex, a part of the community where he will meet the current Receiver of Memory.

Upon arriving at the Annex, Jonas encounters a locked door, a rarity in the community where security is typically unnecessary. A friendly Attendant explains that the locks ensure the Receiver's privacy, highlighting the uniqueness of Jonas's new role. As Jonas enters the Receiver's living quarters, distinct from his own home by its luxurious furnishings and walls filled with books, he meets the man who will pass on the world's collective memories to him.

The current Receiver explains to Jonas the weight of his responsibilities, sharing that his role is to transmit memories of the past to Jonas, which include the entire world's history, not just the community's. Jonas, previously unaware of anything beyond his immediate world, grapples with the concept of inheriting memories from a time and place he didn't know existed.



The Receiver, now visibly aged from the burden he carries, conveys the profound honor and challenge of the role. He attempts to introduce Jonas to these uncharted territories of knowledge through a metaphor of sledding in snow, a concept entirely foreign to Jonas. The Receiver notes Jonas's confusion and decides to begin Jonas's training by transmitting his first memory: the exhilarating experience of snow.

Jonas complies with the Receiver's instructions to lie face down, as the Receiver turns off the community's ever-present speaker, signaling the significance and privacy of the moment. As Jonas anticipates the transmission, he embarks on a journey of discovery that will shape his understanding of the world and his place in it.

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Chapter 8:

Chapter 11 introduces Jonas, a new Receiver of Memories in a dystopian society where emotions, color, and sensory experiences have been eliminated to achieve uniformity, known as Sameness. Jonas begins his training with the previous Receiver, an elderly man now called The Giver. Initially, Jonas feels only the Giver's hands gently placed on his back, but this soon transforms into a remarkable experience. As the Giver transmits memories of snow, a sled, and a hill from a world long gone, Jonas feels cold air and tiny frozen dots on his tongue as he visualizes himself on a sled speeding downhill. This vivid memory enthralls Jonas and introduces him to a sensation he has never known.

The Giver explains that the memory of snow—the simple joy of sledding down a hill—is distant because of Climate Control and the pursuit of Sameness, which eliminated snow to ease food production and transportation. Jonas expresses a desire to experience such things, but the Giver explains that choice and diversity are no longer within their power.

In another memory transmission, the Giver introduces sunshine, another lost natural phenomenon. Jonas perceives the warmth and comfort of the sun, something he had never felt under the society's controlled weather. The Giver gradually introduces Jonas to the complexities of the world that used to exist before their society's strict capture of emotions and climate.



The chapter concludes as Jonas experiences his first discomfort—a sunburn—a minor pain compared to what lies ahead in future sessions. When Jonas asks about the old man’s name, he learns to call him The Giver, understanding he will now assume the monumental role of bearing all memories of the past. Jonas's journey begins here, with newfound knowledge and comprehension of the world's richness, complexity, and the burdens they have chosen to forget in pursuit of sameness.

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Chapter 9 Summary:

In Chapter 12 of "The Giver," we find Jonas at the breakfast table with his family, avoiding the discussion of his recent dreams. While Jonas claims to have slept well, he is preoccupied with a recurring dream about sledding down a snow-covered hill toward an undefined but significant destination. This dream seems emotionally powerful to Jonas, even though the specifics remain elusive. His parents mention Gabriel, a baby who is restless at night, contrasting Jonas's own sound sleep.

At school, Jonas senses a transformation. His peers, also new Twelves, are excitedly chatting about their first day of training. Jonas listens silently, as his own experiences in training are beyond words due to their unusual nature. He cannot explain sensations like the texture of snow or the concept of a sled, as they are alien to his community's understanding.

Later, after school, Jonas rides to the House of the Old with Fiona. Unlike his friends, he avoids discussing his training experiences with her, though customs prevent Fiona from asking directly. Jonas avoids the topic, instead commenting on Fiona's familiarity with her volunteer work at the House of the Old. She talks about the disciplinary practices and day-to-day activities there, which reveals the community's rigid structure.

An intriguing moment unfolds when Jonas notices a change in Fiona's hair,



similar to past experiences with an apple and the audience's faces—a fleeting glimpse of something extraordinary. Bewildered, Jonas decides to consult The Giver regarding these occurrences.

Upon arriving at The Giver's dwelling, Jonas learns more about this phenomenon. The Giver confirms that Jonas is beginning to "see beyond," specifically starting to perceive the color red, an element absent in the community's reality due to a societal shift toward Sameness—a concept designed to eliminate differences. The Giver explains that once, everything had color, but to maintain control and predictability, the society sacrificed these differences. The Giver further details that Jonas, as he receives more memories, will eventually come to see all colors and gain wisdom.

This chapter reveals a critical layer of the society's constraints—how it has sacrificed diversity and choice for uniformity, and it hints at the broader implications of Jonas's unique abilities. Jonas's nascent perception of color symbolizes his emerging awareness and individuality, setting the stage for his journey of discovering deeper truths about his community and the human experience.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Embrace Your Unique Perspective

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 12, you witness Jonas's transformative journey as he begins to 'see beyond' the monochromatic vision of his community. He perceives the color red, a powerful symbol of diversity, emotion, and individuality. This experience stirs an awakening within Jonas, piquing his curiosity and setting him on a path of profound self-discovery.

Imagine viewing the world through a diverse palette rather than a singular shade. Just like Jonas, you have a unique perspective that allows you to perceive the world differently than those around you. Embracing this individuality can fuel a deeper understanding of yourself and inspire you to challenge the status quo. This chapter prompts you to value your distinct lens on life and encourages you to explore uncharted territories of thought, to question, and to grow.



Chapter 10 Summary:

In the story, Jonas is undergoing training to become the Receiver of Memories in a highly controlled, utopian society. This society values "Sameness," eliminating any divergence to ensure order and predictability, but this also means that colors, emotions, and individual choices are suppressed. The chapter begins with Jonas asking his mentor, the Giver, about his experience when he became the Receiver. The Giver assures Jonas they'll discuss it another day, as they need to focus on work. To help Jonas grasp the concept of color, the Giver shares a memory of a rainbow, allowing Jonas to start seeing fleeting glimpses of real colors, something the rest of the community doesn't perceive.

As weeks pass, Jonas becomes familiar with colors through the memories, but they remain temporary experiences, unable to hold them permanently. Frustrated, Jonas realizes that without diversity, there are no real choices, no freedom even to select what to wear. This revelation leads to a discussion on the importance of choice with the Giver. Jonas laments that even the smallest choice, like picking a color, is denied in pursuit of safety and sameness.

Jonas starts to feel isolated, irrational anger brewing as he observes his peers' contentment with their monotonous lives, devoid of the vibrancy he now perceives. In a defiant attempt to share his newfound understanding, Jonas



tries to show his friend Asher the color red but fails, as it's forbidden to transmit such knowledge directly.

The narrative moves to a more intense part when the Giver shares a deeply disturbing memory with Jonas. In this memory, Jonas witnesses people hunting elephants, an image that conveys strong feelings of sadness and loss, symbolized by the elephants' mournful cries after one is killed. This experience leaves Jonas anguished and burdened by the society's distance from genuine emotions and natural life.

Back home, Jonas struggles to pass even a fragment of this memory to his family, revealing the deep communication barrier enforced by their society's strictures. Later, in conversation with the Giver, Jonas asks about the existence of a spouse, leading to a revelation that, as the Receiver, having a family is possible but challenging due to the secrecy of his role.

The Giver recalls a past Receiver's failure, which caused the community to experience the released memories, bringing chaos and only reinforcing their decision to isolate such knowledge to prevent suffering. This role of the Receiver bears great pain, as they alone shoulder all memories of the world, preventing the community from feeling any burden. Jonas is slowly introduced to this burden, experiencing memories of pain and conflict but is often left questioning this stark contrast between his vivid inner world and the bland existence outside.



As Jonas continues with the Giver, he becomes aware of the deeper struggles tied to his role and begins thinking about the world beyond where he lives. His curiosity about the land beyond the community reflects his budding desire for freedom and a life filled with authentic experiences and choices, setting the stage for future dissent against the constraints of his society.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

In Chapter 14 of "The Giver," Jonas once again experiences a memory of sledding down a hill, but this time it's far more dangerous. The sled moves uncontrollably over icy terrain, leading to a painful accident where Jonas fractures his leg. The memory is vivid, with Jonas feeling intense pain as if a hatchet sliced through his leg. When he returns to reality in the Annex room, he is still wracked with pain, and he desperately asks for relief, which is denied by The Giver. This experience marks a significant shift in Jonas's training, as he now regularly endures memories of pain to gain wisdom.

Back in his everyday life, Jonas struggles to conceal his distress, especially since community rules prohibit medication for pain related to his training. His family, unaware of his burden, goes about their normal routine, leaving Jonas feeling isolated and misunderstood. This sense of loneliness is compounded by his awareness that his community members have never truly known pain.

In a conversation with The Giver, Jonas learns the importance of these painful memories as they provide wisdom necessary for advising the Committee of Elders. An example is given of how The Giver used the memory of hunger to advise against increasing the birth rate, avoiding overpopulation issues that had historically led to hunger and warfare. Jonas grapples with the responsibility of holding these memories, questioning why



the burden should be his alone. The Giver explains that the Receiver's role is crucial to prevent the community from experiencing such burdens collectively.

Meanwhile, Gabriel, the newchild in Jonas's household, continues to grow and develop, yet struggles with restlessness at night. Jonas volunteers to take Gabriel into his room to allow his parents some rest. During the night, Jonas accidentally transfers a calm memory of sailing to Gabriel, realizing only afterward that he has the ability to share memories. This revelation is both amazing and frightening for Jonas, leading him to contemplate his role and the powers he is beginning to understand. Despite the occurrence, Jonas chooses to keep this newfound ability a secret from The Giver, as he is not formally qualified to share memories nor is Gabriel a designated Receiver.

The chapter underscores Jonas's escalating conflict between the safety of his community's ignorance and the profound, albeit painful, understanding he gains through memories. It raises questions about the role of memory in providing wisdom and the complexities of bearing knowledge alone. As Jonas begins to question the fairness of the societal structure, he and The Giver consider the burden they carry to safeguard the community from suffering.

Section	Summary
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Section	Summary
Memory of Sledding	Jonas experiences a dangerous sledding memory, leading to a leg fracture, feeling intense pain as if a hatchet sliced through his leg. The Giver does not relieve the pain.
Endurance and Pain	Jonas's training shifts to include enduring painful memories to gain wisdom, leaving him isolated as he conceals his distress from family due to community rules against pain medication.
Conversations with The Giver	Jonas learns from The Giver about the necessity of painful memories for advising the Committee of Elders, using the example of hunger memories to prevent overpopulation.
Role of Receiver	The Giver emphasizes the solitary responsibility and wisdom of holding memories to protect the community from suffering.
Gabriel's Restlessness	Jonas takes Gabriel into his room to reduce his restlessness and accidentally transfers a calm sailing memory to him, realizing his ability to share memories.
Internal Conflict	Jonas grapples with the moral implications of his responsibilities and questions the societal structure, balancing community safety with memory wisdom.



Chapter 12:

In Chapter 15 of "The Giver," Jonas visits the Annex room, only to find The Giver in immense pain, hunched over in his chair with his face buried in his hands. Realizing that it might be a day when he would otherwise be sent away without receiving any memories, Jonas offers to help alleviate The Giver's suffering. The Giver, desperate and contorted in agony, asks Jonas to "take some of the pain."

Though concerned, Jonas bravely agrees and prepares himself by seating The Giver comfortably on the bed before removing his own tunic and lying face down, ready to receive the painful memory. The Giver places his hands gently on Jonas, and the memory, heavy with suffering, transfers to Jonas.

Jonas finds himself in a chaotic and distressing setting, a battlefield at early dawn, enveloped in dense, foul-smelling smoke. All around him lie injured and dying men. The scene is vivid, with grotesquely bright colors illustrating the horror and bloodshed. A horse, frenzied with terror, moves erratically among the wounded before collapsing.

Near Jonas, a young soldier, not much older than himself, lies gravely injured, begging for water. The sight of the soldier, streaked with dirt and blood, is haunting. Despite being in pain himself, with one arm immobilized and looking battered, Jonas manages to use his other arm to open a container



of water. He painstakingly brings it to the lips of the dying boy, who sighs and slips away into silence, his lifeless eyes staring blankly.

The memory continues to assail Jonas with the ongoing turmoil of the battlefield—men crying out for water and comfort, for their mothers, and even for death. The sounds of suffering are accompanied by the disturbing shrieks of horses, thrashing erratically in their own terrified demise.

Through this experience, Jonas is exposed to the brutal reality and the intense suffering of war, a profound and harrowing memory that The Giver had to bear alone until now. This chapter deepens Jonas's understanding of the world's complexities, marking another significant step in his journey as the Receiver.

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Chapter 13 Summary:

In this part of Lois Lowry's novel "The Giver," Jonas experiences a profound shift in understanding through the blend of painful and joyful memories shared by The Giver, a wise elder who stores the community's memories. From a painful memory of war, Jonas learns the harsh realities and suffering of warfare, leaving him with a newfound appreciation for his sheltered childhood—a life without memories of violence or pain.

Despite his urge to return to this simpler life void of responsibility, Jonas continues his training with The Giver, who subtly introduces him to the beauty and diversity of human experience. Jonas learns about individuality through a birthday party, discovers the bond between humans and animals, and experiences the serenity of solitude.

One memory particularly opens Jonas's heart—a warm family gathering celebrated with lights, laughter, and gifts, a contrast to his own community's structured existence. This memory introduces Jonas to the concept of "love," a word foreign to him but resonating deeply within, making him yearn for relationships filled with such warmth and affection.

Jonas's conversation with The Giver reveals the organization of his community's family structure. Families are formed temporarily and do not extend over generations as in the shared memory; the community's Elders



are isolated in the House of the Old. Jonas reflects on missing elements in his life, such as grandparents and deep familial bonds, which are absent from the structured, efficient community he knows.

Courageously, Jonas questions his parents about love, receiving a lesson about the "precision of language," indicative of how sterile and emotionally detached his community is. This realization is stark compared to the emotional depth he feels through memories.

Jonas's growing bond with Gabriel, a baby staying in his room to aid his sleep habits, deepens his sense of hope for a different kind of life, one enriched with feelings, memories, and connections that transcend what his community offers. In a pivotal moment of defiance, Jonas decides to stop taking his daily pill that suppresses emotions, symbolizing his quiet rebellion against the emotional void mandated by his society.

Through this narrative arc, Jonas's journey illustrates the transformative power of emotions and memories, propelling him toward a path of internal independence and contemplation of a life filled more richly with authentic human experience.

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Chapter 14 Summary:

In Chapter 17 of the story, an unexpected holiday is declared, surprising Jonas and his family as they hear the announcement over the community's loudspeakers. This rare event allows everyone to take a break from their usual responsibilities, with substitute laborers stepping in to handle essential tasks. Jonas, excited about the sudden holiday, abandons his plans to go to school, eager to enjoy the day.

Jonas, who has stopped taking his community-prescribed pills for a month, begins to experience the return of intense feelings and vivid, pleasurable dreams. The memories bestowed upon him by the Giver have not only allowed Jonas to perceive the world in vibrant colors but also opened his mind to deeper emotions and a broader understanding of the world around him. Now, when he sees the wide river nearby, he comprehends its history and envisions its connection to an unknown "Elsewhere."

As Jonas sets out on his bicycle looking for his friend Asher, he feels a profound happiness—one that stems from the depth of his heightened emotional capacity. When he finds Asher playing a war game with Tanya and other children, he is disturbed. Having experienced the true horror of war through memories, Jonas can no longer see the game as innocent fun. As the game progresses, he recalls a haunting memory of a boy dying on a battlefield, begging for water. Struggling with these raw emotions, Jonas



inadvertently disrupts the game, leaving the other children confused and Asher frustrated.

Jonas realizes that his friends cannot comprehend the weight of his feelings without the memories he possesses. His plea to Asher to stop playing the game is misunderstood, highlighting the chasm that now exists between them because of Jonas's unique role as the Receiver.

Back at home, the family discusses the day's events. Lily shares her excitement about someday receiving her own bicycle, while Jonas's father, a nurturer, talks casually about the impending release of one of the twin babies to Elsewhere. This mundane conversation starkly contrasts with Jonas's inner turmoil, as he now knows the harsh reality of what "release" truly means.

As Jonas watches Gabriel, the little boy under his family's care, toddle around, he feels a mix of love and sadness. The chapter ends with a touch of light humor as Lily imagines a scenario involving two identical twins mistakenly switched between communities—a reflection of her innocence in contrast to Jonas's burdened awareness.

The chapter explores the theme of awareness versus ignorance within the community, as Jonas's growing understanding and emotional depth set him apart from his friends and family, leaving him grappling with feelings of



isolation and loss.

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Chapter 15 Summary:

In these pivotal chapters of "The Giver" by Lois Lowry, we delve deeper into Jonas's training and learn more about the enigmatic role of the Receiver. As the story unfolds, Jonas listens to Lily's imaginative musings about having unknown twins living elsewhere. This sets the stage for the mysterious and controlled environment in which the characters live—a place where individuality is stifled, and reality is often cloaked in euphemisms like "Elsewhere."

The focus then shifts to a conversation between Jonas and The Giver. Jonas, increasingly burdened by his role as the future Receiver, asks if The Giver contemplates "release"—a euphemism for euthanasia in their community. The Giver reveals he sometimes considers it due to his immense suffering, but he cannot request release until Jonas's training is complete. This policy arose after a previous Receiver-in-training failed a decade ago—an event that still haunts the Community's leadership.

Jonas learns about Rosemary, the previous Receiver-in-training. She was a bright and enthusiastic young woman whose training closely mirrored Jonas's experience. However, unlike Jonas, she struggled immensely with the painful memories she received. Eventually, overwhelmed by sorrow and memories of loss, Rosemary requested release—a request that was granted because the rule forbidding it had not yet been established.



The disaster of Rosemary's release became clear when the memories she held returned to the people, causing widespread emotional chaos as the community, unfamiliar with raw emotions, couldn't manage them. The Giver, grieving and angry over Rosemary's loss, couldn't assist the overwhelmed citizens, illustrating the deep interdependency between the Receiver and the society that shuns the very emotions he bears.

Jonas, contemplating the possibility of an accident befalling him, realizes the catastrophic impact his loss would have. With a year's worth of memories, his abrupt absence would force the community to endure a similar turmoil. The Giver warns Jonas to remain safe and away from the river—a metaphor for freedom, risk, and the unknown. He also briefly entertains the notion that he could potentially help the community cope if such an event occurred, yet it's an unsettling thought left unexplored.

The narrative underscores not only Jonas's growing awareness of his fate and responsibilities (as well as the isolation they entail) but also the precarious balance the Community maintains by suppressing emotions and memories to achieve their version of utopia. These chapters reveal the profound connections between individual memory, societal memory, and the painful price of ignorance.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: The Power of Emotional Authenticity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter 15 of 'The Giver,' you're drawn into the heart of the narrative where Jonas's experiences and the community's history reveal profound insights into the essence of being authentically human. Imagine standing in Jonas's shoes, realizing that the denial of true emotions can lead to spiritual desolation, not just for an individual but for an entire society. Witness how the absence of genuine feelings, masked under euphemisms and control, debilitates not only personal growth but the collective soul, leaving it vulnerable to the chaos of suppressed truths. This key moment beckons you to embrace emotional authenticity in your own life. By daring to feel, to acknowledge pain as well as joy, you cultivate a resilient spirit capable of withstanding challenges. Embrace the pains, sorrows, and joys with equal openness, knowing that they enrich your life and connect you more deeply with others. Let this chapter encourage you to foster a world where emotions are celebrated rather than hidden, where vulnerability becomes a bedrock for strength, and where compassionate understanding guides our shared humanity.

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Chapter 16:

In Chapter 19 of "The Giver" by Lois Lowry, Jonas continues his training with The Giver, exploring intense topics such as the community's practice of "release." Jonas, curious about this procedure, has a personal connection, as his father is set to release a twin that day. In their community, one of the identical twins must be released because having two identical people is considered confusing. Release is understood by the community as sending individuals to "Elsewhere," believed by most to be a peaceful transition.

The Giver reveals to Jonas that, unlike others, he can view ceremonies because of his special training as the future Receiver of Memory. The Giver suggests Jonas watch a recording of the morning's release to truly understand what it entails. Initially reluctant, Jonas agrees, using the opportunity to exercise his unique privilege.

As Jonas watches the footage, he witnesses his father gently handling two newborn twins. His father weighs them to determine which will be released. The smaller of the twins is selected, and Jonas's father administers a lethal injection under the guise of nurturing care. The child goes limp, and Jonas is struck by the eerie familiarity of the scene, reminding him of a past memory involving death.

Appalled by the realization that "release" equates to euthanasia, Jonas is



overwhelmed with shock and disillusionment. Previously, he had believed release was a gentle process, but the truth shakes him to his core, revealing the community's darker underbelly.

The chapter concludes with The Giver reciting a personal and emotional story about his own loss. He tells Jonas how Rosemary, the previous Receiver-in-training, had chosen to release herself, further illustrating the harsh realities masked by the community's euphemisms. This revelation marks a turning point for Jonas, challenging everything he has known and compelling him toward a path of deeper understanding and potential rebellion against the community's norms.

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Chapter 17 Summary:

In this charged chapter of "The Giver," Jonas grapples with the stark and unsettling truth about his community, a place devoid of authentic emotion and shackled by rigid conformity. This narrative unfolds with Jonas in deep turmoil, having witnessed his father's role in the release—a euphemism for euthanasia—of a newborn twin, a practice Jonas finds abhorrent.

Overcome with anguish, Jonas rebels against returning to his family unit, but The Giver, who serves as the community's memory keeper, assures Jonas that he can stay the night. The Giver represents the repository of all past memories, including pain and joy, emotions foreign to their community. In their conversations, The Giver explains to Jonas that the people in their community, including Jonas's father, lack awareness of the true implications of their actions, as they are conditioned to live without genuine emotions or memories.

Amidst this emotional turmoil, Jonas questions his place in a society that seemingly thrives on deception and ignorance. The Giver acknowledges that while Jonas's father follows orders, he does so blindly without understanding the moral weight of his acts. Recognizing that Jonas now fully grasps the gravity of what "release" actually entails—a term his society sanitizes to mask its grim reality—The Giver reveals another alarming truth: Jonas's friend Fiona, who is in training to care for the elderly, is also being taught



the same detached execution of "release."

The narrative reaches a pivotal moment when The Giver and Jonas, confronted with the necessity of change, begin to devise a plan. The Giver discloses that he has long harbored thoughts of altering the community's structure but has felt incapacitated by the enormity of the task. With Jonas's presence, however, the once seemingly insurmountable challenge appears barely possible, yet worth pursuing. They conceive a daring escape for Jonas, a plan that implores him to venture to "Elsewhere," a place beyond the community's limits, in hopes of instigating real change.

In preparing for this mission, Jonas will accumulate memories of courage and strength transferred from The Giver. This preparation is vital for the arduous journey to Elsewhere, a symbolic representation of hope and free will. Meanwhile, The Giver will remain in the community to assist and guide people as Jonas's unleashed memories flood back to them, an upheaval bound to disorient and challenge the conformist order.

Though Jonas pleads for The Giver to accompany him, The Giver insists on his duties to the community, noting his weakened state and explaining his role in helping the people bear the daunting task of rediscovering emotions and memories that were once theirs. The Giver also shares with Jonas his own treasured memory of music—a sensory delight Jonas has yet to experience—symbolizing glimpses of human joy and connection lost to his



people.

As the escape strategy crystallizes, Jonas acknowledges the risk involved—they both understand that if Jonas is caught, death may be certain. Yet, Jonas is undeterred, driven by the possibility of a more authentic life for himself and the community. Jonas plans to leave under the cover of night, evading detection with The Giver's guidance. His covert departure will coincide with the community's Ceremony, ensuring that his absence is noted too late.

In this passage, we witness the complexity of Jonas's evolution—he transitions from a compliant citizen to a symbol of change, carrying the weight of hope and the prospect of rediscovery for a community entrenched in oblivion. His and The Giver's intertwined destinies forge a path toward liberation, underscoring themes of individuality, memory, and the human experience.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Courage to Seek Change

Critical Interpretation: This chapter highlights Jonas's courageous decision to defy societal norms and question the status quo, inspiring you to take bold steps when faced with uncomfortable truths and unjust systems. Despite overwhelming odds and the fear of potential consequences, Jonas's determination to seek a more authentic and humane existence for himself and his community showcases how personal bravery can initiate transformative change. It reminds you that even in the face of deeply ingrained practices, one individual's courage to step outside their comfort zone and explore alternatives can spark a ripple of change that holds the promise of a better future.

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Chapter 18 Summary:

In this pivotal segment of "The Giver," Jonas comes to a crucial decision point about his role in changing the community, guided by his deepening relationship with the Giver. His journey begins with a poignant conversation where the Giver, a wise and compassionate elder tasked with retaining the community's memories, thanks Jonas for paving a way towards change. The Giver, however, reveals a personal motivation for staying behind—to reunite with his daughter, Rosemary, who had been a previous Receiver of Memories and whose failure had profoundly impacted him.

Jonas, despite the strong bond he's formed with the Giver, knows his path leads elsewhere. Initially confident that their meticulous plan for transformation would succeed, Jonas is forced to abandon it abruptly. An unexpected crisis during a routine family meal—his father's casual mention of releasing the baby Gabriel—shocks Jonas into action. Release, in their organized but emotionally sterile society, is a euphemism for euthanasia, a revelation that propels Jonas to escape to save Gabriel.

Undercover of night, Jonas, driven by love and resolve, flees with Gabriel, breaking multiple community rules. Using his father's bicycle fitted with a child seat, he journeys toward an uncertain freedom, fueled by memories and emotions that the society he leaves behind systematically suppresses. He transcends his fears and regrets, motivated by the responsibility to protect



Gabriel and hope for a more authentic existence.

Throughout the escape, Jonas enters a rhythm of survival—traveling by night, hiding by day, and sharing memories with Gabriel to sustain them both, conveying feelings of warmth or cold to evade the search planes that hunt them with heat-seeking technology. The physical and emotional strain is immense; Jonas's strength and resilience are tested as he navigates ever more remote terrains while avoiding detection. The journey underscores his transformation from a boy tethered to societal norms to a harbinger of change, whose innate capacity for deep feelings drives him toward a future where choice and love might prevail.

Jonas's flight is not just about physical distance from his community; it represents a profound shift towards self-awareness and the risky embrace of a world brimming with uncertainty, yet also with the vibrancy of freedom and choice. This act of defiance weaves a narrative rich with themes of courage, sacrifice, and the relentless pursuit of a meaningful life.

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Chapter 19 Summary:

In this chapter, Jonas's journey becomes increasingly difficult as he and Gabriel move away from the familiar and well-ordered community into the unpredictable wilderness. Initially, they remain cautious of the overhead search planes, but as time goes by, these planes become less frequent and their search less determined, suggesting that Jonas and Gabriel might be beyond their reach.

The landscape transforms gradually, becoming wilder as Jonas rides through narrower, bumpier roads that are no longer maintained. The terrain's unpredictability causes Jonas to fall, injuring his ankle and scraping his knees, highlighting the physical challenges of their escape. Despite his injuries, he perseveres, recognizing the need to protect Gabriel, the infant in his care.

As they venture further, Jonas is introduced to the natural world, which is full of new sights and sounds like dense forests, flowing streams, and diverse wildlife. For the first time in his life, Jonas experiences genuine moments of awe and joy amid the natural beauty—a stark contrast to the controlled environment of his upbringing in the community where everything was predictable and devoid of color or variation.

Yet, amidst the beauty, new fears arise, primarily the fear of starvation.



Having left the cultivated fields and their scant supplies of potatoes and carrots behind, finding food becomes a significant concern. Desperate and hungry, Jonas attempts to catch fish with his hands from a stream, eventually succeeding with a makeshift net crafted from Gabriel's blanket. The raw fish and berries sustain them temporarily, but the ongoing hunger is a persistent and oppressive concern.

As night falls and Gabriel sleeps, Jonas is haunted by his cravings, reminiscing about the abundant, effortless meals from his past life. His memories of banquets, cakes, and fresh fruits are fleeting and unfulfilling, serving only to accentuate his current suffering. These memories also recall a time when he was scolded for the careless use of the word "starving," a word too literal and accurate for his current reality.

Jonas, once secure in a community that met his every basic need, now faces the bleak possibility of starvation. His journey symbolizes not just a physical escape but also an emotional and psychological transformation as he learns independence, self-reliance, and the raw experiences of life beyond the confines of a regulated society.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Discovery of the unpredictable beauty and challenges of the natural world

Critical Interpretation: By leaving the controlled and monochrome world of his community, Jonas steps into a realm bursting with untamed beauty and unforeseen challenges. His experience demonstrates how venturing beyond familiar confines can inspire awe, wonder, and a deeper appreciation for life's intricacies. This highlights the powerful lesson that embracing the unpredictable aspects of the world can lead to profound personal growth and a rewarding sense of discovery. In your journey, stepping out of comfort zones may initially present difficulties, but it also offers a chance to experience life's richness in ways that routine cannot provide. This becomes an invitation to explore, learn, and cherish the diverse, vibrant world beyond what you know.



Chapter 20:

In this chapter, Jonas grapples with the consequences of his monumental decision to leave his community, becoming acutely aware that his choice has led him and Gabriel into a perilous situation. The absence of sufficient food leads to physical weakness, turning every pedal on his bicycle into an arduous task, especially as he encounters hills whose existence he had only imagined from memories given to him. He reflects on the irony that if he had stayed in the community, he and Gabriel would have faced a different kind of starvation—one devoid of emotions, color, and affection.

As the narrative unfolds, the weather turns harsh, with relentless rain and cold that Jonas and Gabriel, a baby boy with him, are ill-equipped to handle. Gabriel begins to cry from hunger and cold, and Jonas is overcome with fear and desperation, concerned that he may not be able to save the child. Despite the bleakness, Jonas clings to a belief—a sense rather than a concrete signal—that their destination, referred to as Elsewhere, is close. However, that hope is challenged as snow begins to fall, making travel even more difficult.

In a moment of desperation, Jonas uses his unique ability to transfer memories of warmth to comfort Gabriel momentarily. This act revives Jonas's spirit, and he continues onward despite the worsening conditions. Memories of warmth and love from his past, including those involving his



friends and family, bolster his resolve.

The critical moment arrives when Jonas reaches the summit of a hill, and an inexplicable surge of joy and nostalgia floods over him. He finds a sled at the hilltop, recalling this as a memory of his own—a vision stemming from a

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