

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## ***The Giver***

### **Chapter 1**



#### **Reading Strategy: Asking Questions**

When you begin reading a book, it is typical to have a lot of questions. You might be confused about who the characters are and what is happening. Write down your questions as you read and notice how many of them are answered by the end of the chapter. Record unanswered questions in your literature response journal and take them to your discussion group.

#### **Writing in Your Literature Response Journal**

A. Write about one of these topics in your journal. Circle the topic you chose.

1. *“It was almost December, and Jonas was beginning to be frightened.”*  
What do you notice about this opening sentence from *The Giver*? What kind of picture does it produce in your mind? What feeling does this sentence create? What observations can you make about the way this book begins?
2. Notice where Jonas lives. Where does this story take place? What kind of world is it? What can you tell from the first chapter about life in this world? Does it remind you of anywhere else you’ve read about or experienced?
3. Based on your reading of the first chapter, what do you predict will happen in the upcoming chapters?

B. What were your predictions, questions, observations, and connections as you read? Write about one of them in your journal. Check the response you chose.

Prediction       Question       Observation       Connection

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#### For Your Discussion Group

Lois Lowry does not explain exactly how her utopia is organized, but she does provide lots of clues in this first chapter about what life is like for these people. For instance, she never actually says there are no animals, but she does offer a conversation that reveals this information:



*“Animals?” Jonas suggested. He laughed. “That’s right,” Lily said, laughing too. “Like animals.” Neither child knew what the word meant exactly . . .*

- Find a short passage that you feel offers clues about the society in which Jonas lives. Share the passage with your group. Working together, use these to make inferences about this world.
- Discuss what you think about this vision of utopia so far. Record questions and comments from the group. (You may want to have one person in the group be the recorder.)
- Review your predictions about the book with the group.

#### Writer’s Craft: Synonyms

In the first chapter Jonas is very careful about the words he uses to describe his feelings. He is not *frightened*, he realizes at one point, but *apprehensive*. What is the difference between these two words? Think about a time when you felt frightened. How is that feeling different from feeling apprehensive? Talk about the differences between these words in your group.

Words that are close in meaning are called synonyms. Nevertheless, while the meanings are close, they are not the same. What other words can your group think of that are synonyms for the word *frightened*? Make up sentences using these synonyms. See if you can capture the special flavor of each word, as Jonas has done.