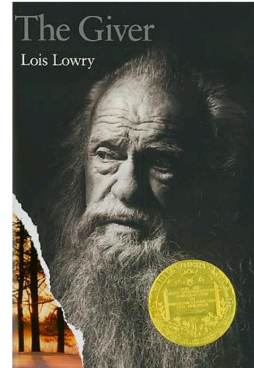


Summer Reading Guide:

The Giver

by Lois Lowry

This guide will help you explore *The Giver* and show up to 8th grade ready to hit the ground running. It includes some pre-reading activities, journaling, and post-reading response questions. Complete all of your responses in a notebook. Work at your own pace, but make sure to keep an eye on the calendar. Summer goes by too quickly!



Complete all your writing in a **wide-ruled composition notebook** (marbled black and white style). This notebook will be used all next year for journal exercises in writing. Be sure to use your best handwriting, grammar, punctuation, and feel free to add in your personal reactions to the reading.

Understanding Utopia and Dystopia

Before reading, it's important to understand the types of societies in *The Giver*. Look up and write the definitions of these words:

- **Utopia:**
- **Dystopia:**

Can you think of any books you have read or movies you have seen that might be an example of utopia or dystopia? Explain your answer.

Setting & Society in *The Giver*

As you begin the story, pay attention to Jonas's world. Use one page in your notebook to collect your answers and title it "Setting & Society in *The Giver*".

1. Describe the Setting:

- Where does the story take place?
→
- What do people's lives look like day-to-day?
→
- What is missing from this world compared to our own?
→
- What differences do you notice between the text and our own world?
→

2. Community Rules & Customs

Create a page in your notebook titled “Community Rules and Customs.” It should look like the chart below. Fill it out as you come across rules and customs. As you read, try to determine the reason why these rules exist and what the rules try to control or prevent. You may need to read many chapters (or the entire book!) to understand and complete this chart.

RULES	REASON

3. Reflection:

On the next page of your journal, I would like you to reflect on these rules. What do these rules tell you about the place Jonas lives and what that society values? Write a paragraph of 5-7 complete sentences explaining your ideas.

Formal Writing Questions

Read the book in four parts. After each section, write journal responses using the prompts below. Make sure you label each response and answer all parts of the questions provided.

Example: Section 1 Formal Writing Questions

What does Jonas's society value most? Explain your answer.

Jonas's society values (your answer) the most. In the second chapter of *The Giver*, Lois Lowry writes about the rules everyone is expected to follow. "(quote from chapter 2,"(page #). This proves the community values... (what does this quote mean or prove about your answer).

Section 1: Life in the Community (Chapters 1–5)

- What does Jonas's society value most? Explain your answer?
- What rule or custom would be hardest for you to follow?
- How would you feel if your emotions were controlled?

Section 2: The Ceremony & The Assignment (Chapters 6–10)

- What does the community gain or lose by assigning roles?
- How does Jonas feel being chosen as Receiver? How would you feel?
- How would you feel if your profession or job was chosen for you? What if it was not what you wanted, but did not have a choice?

Section 3: The Memories (Chapters 11–18)

- What memory would you give someone else? Why?
- Is it better to avoid pain or to experience both joy and sorrow?
- Why does Jonas feel different from his friends and family?

Section 4: Truth & Escape (Chapters 19–23)

- How does learning the truth about "release" affect Jonas?
- Why do Jonas and The Giver want to change the community?
- What do you think happens at the end? Explain your idea.

Reflective Writing: Once you have completed the reading, choose one or all of the following questions to write your own personal reflection. Be sure to think about these questions before we return to school. We will spend the first weeks of school discussing with classmates.

- Is it better to live without pain if it means giving up freedom and emotion?
- What did *The Giver* teach you about memory, freedom, or identity? How is Jonas like or unlike you?
- What makes a society "perfect," and what is the cost of that perfection?

Write a short essay (about one page) answering these questions using examples from the book and your own ideas.