

A FEW NOTES ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LOWRY, LOIS (1937-). Lois Lowry is the author of over twenty juvenile novels, and has contributed stories, articles, and photographs to many leading periodicals. Her literary awards are numerous and extensive. She once said that she gauges her success as a writer by her ability to "help adolescents answer their own questions about life, identity, and human relationships."

Lois Lowry was born on March 20, 1937, in Honolulu, Hawaii. At the time of her birth, Lowry's father, Robert, a career army dentist and officer, was stationed near Pearl Harbor. The family separated with the onset of World War II, and Lowry spent the duration of the war with her mother's family in the Amish country of Pennsylvania. Much later, Lowry's wartime experience inspired her fourth novel, *Autumn Street*. As an author, she has often translated her life into fiction for the purpose of helping others who may have suffered under similar circumstances.

Memories of her childhood, as well as her experiences as a parent, have led Lowry to her most popular character, Anastasia Krupnik, the spunky, rebellious, and irreverent adolescent who stars in a series of books that began in 1979. The broad audience appeal of the first Anastasia book prompted Lowry to write another novel featuring her heroine, "I have the feeling she's going to go on forever--or until I get sick of her, which hasn't happened yet." Subsequent Anastasia titles number nine at the current time.

In 1990- Lowry received her highest honors. She was awarded the Newbery Medal, National Jewish Book Award, and Sidney Taylor Award from the National Jewish Libraries, all for her World War II tale of Nazi-occupied Denmark, *Number the Stars*. In this novel she created suspense and tension without wavering from the viewpoint of Annemarie, a child who shows the true meaning of courage. Based on a factual account, the inspiration for this novel came from the stories told to Lowry by a friend who was herself a child in Copenhagen during the long years of the German occupation. In 1994, she was again awarded the Newbery Medal for *The Giver*.

With so many accomplishments in the field of children's literature to her credit, Lowry reflects on her career in the following manner: "When I write, I draw a great deal from my own past. There is a satisfying sense of continuity, for me, in the realization that my own experiences, fictionalized, touch young readers in subtle and very personal ways." Ms. Lowry divides her time between Boston and New Hampshire.

READING ASSIGNMENT SHEET - *The Giver*

Date to be Assigned **Chapters** **Completion Date**
(Prior to Class on This Date)

	Chapters 1-2	
	Chapters 3-5	
	Chapters 6-7	
	Chapters 9-10	
	Chapters 11-13	
	Chapters 14-16	
	Chapters 17-19	
	Chapters 20-23	

SHORT ANSWER STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS - *The Giver*

Chapters 1-2

1. What did the word "frightened" mean, according to Jonas?
2. What were Jonas and the other children taught to be careful about?
3. How did Jonas decide he felt? What was causing this feeling?
4. What evening ritual did the family perform after dinner?
5. What were the two occasions when release was not punishment?
6. What did Father want to do about the newchild, and why?
7. What fascinated Jonas about his father?
8. Why was the Ceremony of Twelve so important?

Chapters 3-5

1. What was unusual about Jonas and the newchild?
2. Describe the Assignment of Birthmother. What did Lily's parents say about it?
3. What happened to the apple while Jonas was playing with it?
4. Describe the Celebration of Release of Roberto.
5. Did Larissa know exactly where Roberto or anyone else went when they were released?
6. What was Jonas's dream about? What did his mother and father say about it?

Chapters 6-7

1. Describe the jacket that the Fours, Fives, and Sixes wore, and the reason it was designed the way it was. Also describe the jacket the Sevens wore, and what it symbolized.
2. Describe the Ceremony. Tell what happened at the Naming and the other age levels.
3. What Assignment did Asher get?
4. What happened when Jonas's number should have been called? What did Jonas think?

Chapters 8- 10

1. What was Jonas's Assignment? Why was it important and unusual?
2. What were the four qualities the Chief Elder said the Receiver of Memory must have?
3. What happened when Jonas was looking out at the crowd?
4. Did Jonas agree or disagree with the committee's choice of him as the new Receiver?
5. What happened the last time a new Receiver had been chosen?
6. From what rules was Jonas exempted?
7. What was Jonas prohibited from doing?
8. What was he allowed to do that he had not been allowed to do before?
9. What was the biggest difference in the Receiver of Memory's dwelling?
10. What memories did the Receiver of Memory say he had to transmit to Jonas?
11. What was the first memory the Receiver said he would give to Jonas?

Chapters 11 - 13

1. Describe Jonas's consciousness while he received the memory.
2. What words or concepts did Jonas experience?
3. What happened to the old man's memory of the ride on the sled after he transmitted it to Jonas?
4. What kind of questions did Jonas ask about snow, sleds, and hills? What was the old man's answer? What was Jonas's response?
5. Jonas thought the Receiver of Memory had power. What did the old man tell him?
6. What did the old man tell Jonas to call him? Why?
7. Describe Jonas's experiences of "seeing beyond."
8. What was happening when Jonas "saw beyond?" Why was it important?
9. Could the other people in the Community see colors? If not, why not?
10. Summarize the conversation between Jonas and The Giver about choices.
11. The Giver explained why the people needed a Receiver of Memory. What were the reasons?

Chapters 14-16

1. Jonas asked what made The Giver suffer. What memory did The Giver transmit to explain it?
2. What did Jonas realize about his family after his session with The Giver?
3. Jonas asked why he and The Giver had to hold the memories. What was The Giver's answer? What was his example?
4. What did Jonas want to do about the memories and the traditional way of doing things?
5. How did Jonas help Gabriel get to sleep?
6. What pain did The Giver ask Jonas to take in Chapter 15?
7. How did Jonas feel about being the Receiver at the beginning of Chapter 16?
8. Describe The Giver's favorite memory that he gave to Jonas. How did Jonas feel about it?
9. What question did Jonas ask his parents after his session with The Giver? What was their answer? What was his reaction?
10. Jonas did something different the next morning. What was it?

Chapters 17-19

1. Describe Jonas's new level of feelings and what caused them.
2. What was Father's responsibility when twins were born?
3. How did Jonas feel about becoming the new Receiver?
4. What was the name of the Receiver-to-be who was selected ten years before Jonas?
5. What happened to the Receiver-to-be who was selected before Jonas?
6. What happened to the Community after the incident with the Receiver-to-be?
7. Jonas and The Giver discussed the effects to the Community if Jonas would be lost. What did they think would happen?
8. Describe the release of the newchild.
9. What did Jonas realize as he watched the tape of the release?

Chapters 20-23

1. How did Jonas react after he watched the release?
2. What did The Giver tell Jonas he had realized about the memories?
3. Describe The Giver's ideas on changing things.
4. The Giver offered a very special memory to Jonas. What was it, and what was Jonas's response to the offer?
5. Jonas asked The Giver to escape with him. What was The Giver's reply?
6. What did Jonas do instead of the original escape plan, and why?
7. Describe the escape.
8. Describe the changes in the landscape.
9. What was the strongest fear that Jonas had during this part of the journey?
10. How did the story end?

NONFICTION ASSIGNMENT SHEET - *The Giver*
(To be completed after reading the required nonfiction article)

Name _____ Date _____

Title of Nonfiction Read _____

Written By _____ Publication Date _____

I. Factual Summary: Write a short summary of the piece you read.

II. Vocabulary

1. With which vocabulary words in the piece did you encounter some degree of difficulty?

2. How did you resolve your lack of understanding with these words?

III. Interpretation: What was the main point the author wanted you to get from reading his work?

IV. Criticism

1. With which points of the piece did you agree or find easy to accept? Why?

2. With which points of the piece did you disagree or find difficult to believe? Why?

V. Personal Response: What do you think about this piece? OR How does this piece influence your ideas?