The Giver: Chapters 9-13

**Discussion Questions**

**Explore what memory is and how it influences people.**

• What happens when The Giver transmits a memory? Why do you think this is?

• The Russian writer and dissident Alexander Solzhenitsyn said, “Literature transmits incontrovertible condensed experience . . . from generation to generation. In this way literature becomes the living

memory of a nation.” Why is The Giver allowed to have many books while the other citizens are only allowed three? How are books and memory related?

• Why have memories been eliminated for everyone else?

• The Giver says, “Without the memories it’s all meaningless.” (page 112) What do you think he means? What is he suggesting about his own society?

• Why does The Giver say that to have memories is a “burden”? (page 105)

**Personal Response Questions: Chapters 9 & 10**

1. What did the Chief Elder mean when he said, “his training would be alone and apart”?

2. Why might a person’s name be labeled as “Not to be Spoken”?

3. In Jonas’ file there is a sheet of paper with eight rules or instructions. Which rule is particularly unnerving for Jonas? Why?

4. Why do you think Jonas is surprised to see locks on the Receiver of Memories door?

**Personal Response Questions: Chapters 11 & 13**

1. What is Sameness? How do you feel about the importance the community places on sameness? Is it healthy?

2 *“He was left upon awakening, with the feeling that he wanted, even somehow needed, to reach the something that waited in the distance.”* Explain what it is that Jonas struggling with during this passage.

3. In your opinion, why have colors disappeared? What is the meaning behind this loss for the community and those in it?

4. What happened when the previous Receiver-in-training failed? Why is such failure so dangerous to the community?