The Giver: Chapters 1-5

Discussion questions: These questions will be discussed and answered in class. You do not need to write a response for them on paper, but please consider each question as you read and after and be prepared to share your thoughts with the class.

**Analyze the structure of the society Jonas lives in.**

• What happens if you don’t follow the rules? Who gets punished and how? Why were rules “very hard to change” (page 14)?

**Discuss the character traits of Jonas.**

• What are your initial impressions of Jonas? What are some of his character traits?

**Explore whether or not this is a fair society.**

• What were “Stirrings”? Why was it necessary for Jonas to take a pill as soon as he experienced them?

• Is a society in which everyone is treated the same fair or just? What is the relationship between equality and justice?

**Examine how the author’s writing style conveys mood and meaning.**

• “It was almost December, and Jonas was beginning to be frightened. No. Wrong word, Jonas thought.” … “But there was a little shudder of nervousness when he thought about it, about what might happen. *Apprehensive*, Jonas decided. That’s what I am.” (page 4) How does this passage make the reader feel? What does it reveal about Jonas and his world?

Response Questions: These questions require a written response. Please use complete sentences. You may write your responses on this page or on loose-leaf.

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?

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. Did Larissa know exactly where Roberto or anyone else went when they were released?