

The Giver is a utopian novel about a society with citizens who had no memories of its past, except for individuals' known as the receiver of memory. Therefore, we get to see a boy by the name Jonas who lived in a futuristic society which had tried to relieve its citizens of choices to ensure sameness, fairness, and equality. Jonas lived with his parents and his sister Lily whereby his father was a Nurturer and his mother was in department of Justice. Every December the society had to hold a ceremony where each child was supposed to move up a year in school and receives special privileges. Jonas in that year was selected as the new receiver of memory, therefore he was instructed by the elders to visit the House of the Old (The Giver) to train him. After Jonas visits The Giver's house, he developed the ability to see beyond as the Giver transmits different colors to him. Unfortunately, the Giver also had to pass along painful memories, such as injuries, starvation, and war. Jonas had never experienced pain in his life, whereby he found it was so difficult for him to deal with such memories since he was not supposed to share any information he got from The Giver place. The pain was unbearable to Jonas which made him to go ahead and ask the Giver about the girl whom they tried to train as a Receiver ten years earlier, the Giver responded to him that she was not able to handle the painful memories, so she requested to be released. Jonas never understood what release means until when he watched a video of his father injecting an infant with a syringe to the forehead in order to kill it. Jonas was annoyed by that act and he went ahead, asked the Giver what it can be done to save their community from such incidences. They discussed and came up with a plan to help the community and also to free Jonas. They planned that Jonas would have to escape from the community to elsewhere, and as he leaves, his memories would be set free into the society and the people would be able to get their memories back. The Giver would

then help the community work through those feelings and show them the value of things that they had been taken away from their lives, like marriage, extended families and love.

Finally, As Jonas left the community he decided to rescue baby Gabriel because he found he was scheduled to be released. Jonas started his journey to elsewhere (elsewhere was an ambiguous term used to mean a place outside the community and the destination of people who were released or euthanized). As he was riding, he was very careful of planes using heat sensing technology to locate them, he also passed on cold memories to himself and Gabe so that they will not be detected. After many days and as they were nearing starvation, Jonas came to the top of a snow-covered hill where they found a sled which they rode it downhill towards music and Christmas light.

Lessons learned from the giver is that freedom of choice and individuality in human life is very important because even by eliminating as much as personal variation in the name of favor of sameness and a predictability in a society cannot solve people's problems and satisfy their needs too. Jonas community has rejected the truly utopia possibilities of a society where people are free to move the society forward of which it results to dystopia of conformity. A series of conversations between The giver and Jonas shows that the totalitarian rationale for restricting people's choice of job, spouse, clothing and also of making their own children results from the fear of making wrong choices or breaking the laws of community, through their conversations Jonas gets to understand both advantages and disadvantages of personal choice and in the end he considers to take risk of escaping from the community which worth the benefits of the society.

The Giver by Loise Lowry

