

Name _____



Control vs. Freedom

Jonas's community seemed perfect. There was no pain, no hunger, and no war. Everyone followed the rules, and life was predictable. But what Jonas didn't realize at first was that this order came at a cost—there was no real choice, no emotions, and no memories of the past. The government, known as the Committee of Elders, controlled everything. They decided what people could do, what they could feel, and even what they could remember.

As Jonas became the Receiver of Memory, he learned that his world was not as perfect as it seemed. He discovered that the government had removed pain by also taking away love and joy. People could not see colors, hear music, or even choose their jobs. Babies who did not meet certain requirements were "released," meaning they were secretly killed. The Elders believed they were protecting the community, but in reality, they were controlling it completely.

The way Jonas's society functioned reflects real-world issues related to government control and censorship. In some places, governments limit what people can read, watch, or say. Books are banned, history is changed, and personal freedoms are taken away, all in the name of order and safety. In Jonas's world, no one even knew they had lost their freedom, just like in some real-world societies where people do not realize they are being controlled.

Jonas's story also raises questions about free will. Should people be allowed to make their own choices, even if they might make mistakes? Or is it better for a government to decide for them to avoid problems? In *The Giver*, Jonas realizes that true happiness comes from being able to feel, to choose, and to remember. He understands that without free will, life is empty.

Jonas's decision to leave the community is a fight for freedom. He risks everything to escape, hoping to bring memories back to the people and give them a chance to truly live. His journey reminds us that real life is not about avoiding pain—it's about experiencing everything, the good and the bad, and making our own choices.