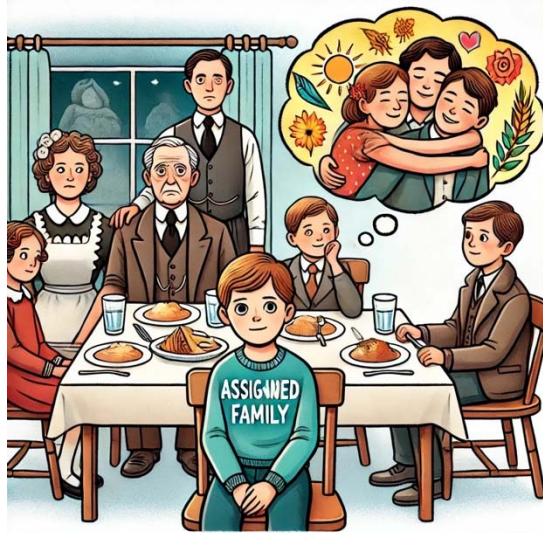


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Family or Duty?

In Jonas's community, families were not formed through love or personal choice. Instead, the government created "family units" by assigning one mother, one father, and up to two children—one boy and one girl. Parents did not fall in love or choose to be together. Instead, they were matched by the Committee of Elders based on personality traits that would make them good partners. Children were not born to their assigned parents. Instead, women

called Birthmothers gave birth to all the children, and Nurturers took care of the babies before they were assigned to families.

At first, Jonas believed his family unit was just like any other. His parents took care of him and followed all the rules. They shared their feelings at dinner and comforted him when needed. However, when Jonas became the Receiver of Memory, he learned that his family was very different from families in the past.

Through the memories given to him by the Giver, Jonas saw what true family could be. He experienced a memory of a warm home filled with laughter, where grandparents and parents hugged their children with love. He learned about emotions like love, joy, and deep connection—things his community had removed.

One day, Jonas asked his parents if they loved him. Their response shocked him. They laughed and told him that love was an old, meaningless word. Instead, they said they were proud of him and enjoyed his company. Jonas realized that his parents cared for him, but they did not feel love because love did not exist in their world.

Jonas began to question everything he had known. Was a family still a family without love? Could people truly care for each other if they had never experienced emotions? He realized that his world had sacrificed real family bonds in exchange for order and control.

As Jonas learned more, he understood that his society had taken away not just choices and emotions, but also the deep connections that made life meaningful. He knew that a real family was not just about being assigned people to live with—it was about love, care, and the freedom to choose who mattered most.