

Name _____



Perfect or Flawed?

At first, Jonas believed his community was perfect. There was no war, no pain, and no suffering. Everyone had a role, and everything was fair. People did not have to make difficult choices because decisions were made for them. There was no hunger, no fear, and no mistakes. It seemed like a utopia—a place where everything was right.

But when Jonas was chosen to be the Receiver of Memory, he started to see the truth. The Giver shared memories of the past—memories of sunshine, love, and happiness. But Jonas also saw pain, loss, and sadness. He realized that the community had removed not only suffering but also joy. People didn't experience deep love or true happiness because they had never known pain. Without sadness, they couldn't understand real joy.

Jonas also learned that the community controlled every part of life. People did not choose their families, their jobs, or even what they felt. They lived without colors, music, or emotions. The rules were strict, and those who did not fit in were "released." At first, Jonas thought release meant moving somewhere else. But then, he discovered the shocking truth—being released meant death. The community had removed suffering by taking away freedom.

Jonas began to question whether his community was truly perfect. Was a life without pain really better if it meant giving up love and joy? Was safety worth the loss of choice? He realized that a perfect society was not one without mistakes, but one where people could make their own decisions and truly experience life.

In the end, Jonas made a choice. He could no longer live in a world without feelings. He decided to leave the community, knowing that his departure might bring change. He hoped that one day, the people he left behind would learn what he had discovered—that a perfect world is not one without pain, but one where people have the freedom to feel.