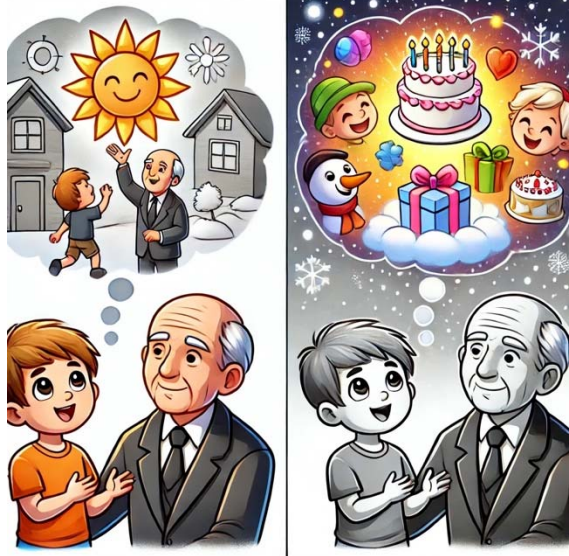


Name _____



Remembering Matters

Jonas had always believed that his community was perfect. Everything was organized, and people did not have to worry about making choices. There was no pain, no war, and no suffering. However, there was also no memory of the past. The people in Jonas's world did not remember history—they only knew the present.

When Jonas was chosen as the Receiver of Memory, he began to understand why the past mattered. The Giver transferred memories to him, showing him things that no one else in the community could remember. Jonas saw sunshine, snow, and the joy of a child opening a birthday present. He also felt deep love and warmth, things that had been removed from his world. But with these happy memories came painful ones—memories of hunger, war, and loss.

At first, Jonas did not understand why he had to carry these memories alone. The Giver explained that history had been erased to protect people from pain. If no one remembered war, then war would not happen again. If no one remembered hunger, then people would not suffer. But Jonas began to see the problem. Without memories, people could not learn from the past. They could not appreciate happiness because they had never known sadness. They could not understand true love because they had never felt loneliness.

Jonas realized that forgetting history had made his community empty. Without memories, people did not make real choices or understand what it meant to truly live. He saw that history was important—not just for learning from mistakes, but also for understanding joy, love, and the beauty of life.

Jonas knew he had to change things. He could not keep these memories to himself. He believed that if the people in his community could remember the past, they would see that life was more than just being safe—it was about feeling and experiencing everything, both the good and the bad.