

Name _____



Shifting Perspectives

Jonas had always believed that his community was perfect. Everything was orderly, peaceful, and fair. No one made mistakes, no one felt pain, and everyone followed the rules. At twelve years old, he was assigned his lifelong job, just like every other child his age. But Jonas's assignment was different—he was chosen to be the Receiver of Memory. This meant he would be the only one in the community to hold the past's memories, both the good and the bad.

At first, Jonas was excited. The Giver, an elderly man who was the current Receiver, began transferring memories to him. Jonas felt the warmth of sunshine, the thrill of sledding down a snowy hill, and the joy of a family celebrating together. But then, the Giver shared painful memories—war, hunger, and loneliness. Jonas realized that his community had removed all pain by taking away emotions, choices, and even colors. People did not truly live; they only existed.

Jonas's understanding of his world began to change. He saw that the community's rules, meant to protect people, also robbed them of love, freedom, and individuality. He learned that his parents had never truly loved him because they didn't know what love was. He discovered that those who broke the rules or grew too weak were "released," which he now understood meant death.

One day, Jonas saw a baby named Gabriel, whom his family had cared for. Gabriel was going to be "released" because he did not develop as quickly as expected. Jonas knew he had to act. He could not let Gabriel suffer the same fate as those before him.

With courage, Jonas made a choice. He took Gabriel and fled the community, risking everything for a chance at real life—a life where people could feel, choose, and truly experience the world. As he journeyed through unknown lands, Jonas felt cold, hunger, and exhaustion. But he also felt hope. For the first time, he saw a place beyond the community, where memories were real and life was free.

Jonas had changed. He was no longer just a boy following the rules. He was someone who understood what it meant to be truly alive.