

## The Giver – Themes Test

### Directions

- Read through the questions in each theme. Choose **one from each theme** and write your response.
- Each response should be at least 100 words.
- Use a separate sheet of paper to write your answers.

### *Theme: Memory and the Past*

1. What is the value of memory in The Giver? Why does the community need to preserve it?
2. What are the consequences of giving only one person the responsibility of keeping all the memories?

### *Theme: Rules and Order*

1. What is so jarring about the new list of rules that Jonas receives after the Ceremony of Twelve? What seems to bother him the most about this list?
2. If some rules are taken seriously, and some are over looked when they are broken, what determines how important law is in Jonas's society?

### *Theme: Choices*

1. What does memory have to do with the freedom to choose?
2. Why does Jonas get so worked up over the ability to choose between a blue tunic and a red one?
3. Does Gabriel have more or less freedom than Jonas?
4. Why does Jonas choose to stop taking his pills? Does it have any effect on him?

### *Theme: Language and Communication*

1. Are words for emotions (like "anger" and "love") the only hollow or meaningless terms in the community? If not, what other terms are misconstrued, or wrongly interpreted, despite the attempts at "precision of language"?
2. Why is the community so obsessed with "precision of language"? What does it have to do with rules and control?

### *Theme: Isolation*

1. What is it about his duties as Receiver that isolates Jonas from others?
2. Does Jonas isolate himself, or do his friends ostracize (treat differently) him?
3. The Giver and Jonas have to bear the memories on their own. How does this sort of isolation change the way they interpret and deal with their knowledge?

### *Theme: Old Age*

1. What does Jonas discover when watching the release that makes him realize old age is wasted?
2. How does releasing the old waste their knowledge and experience?

### *Theme: Traditions and Customs*

1. What is done when the child's name is chanted at the Ceremony? How does this hide the community's true feelings?
2. The children are given a comfort object at a young age. How does this tradition compare with people in your own community? How does it differ?