

Teacher Guide

Grades 7–8

The Giver

Lois Lowry

NOVEL UNITS[®]



NEW WAYS TO TEACH READING,
WRITING, & CRITICAL THINKING



Novel Units® Single-Classroom User Agreement for Non-Reproducible Material

With the purchase of electronic materials (such as ebooks and print-on-demand teaching activities) from a Novel Units, Inc. (Novel Units) Web site, or that of a Novel Units authorized dealer's Web site, the customer (the purchaser or person for whom this product was purchased) is granted a single-classroom user license, which entitles the customer to use these materials for a single classroom (or home) only.

Sharing the digital files or reproduction of any part of this publication in any way or by any means for additional classrooms (or homes), an entire school, or a school system; by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers; or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Reproduction of any part of this Teacher Guide is strictly prohibited.

Use of the materials for anything other than classroom instruction is a violation of Novel Units intellectual property rights. Novel Units retains full intellectual property rights on all proprietary products, and these rights extend to electronic editions of print books or materials, excerpts of print books or materials, and individual teaching activities offered for sale in digital format.

To obtain more information, or, if you would like to use Novel Units products for additional purposes not outlined in the single-classroom license (described above), please contact customercare@ecslearningsystems.com.

THE GIVER

by
Lois Lowry

Teacher Guide

Written by
Monica L. Odle

Note

The 2002 Dell Laurel-Leaf paperback edition of the novel, © 1993 by Lois Lowry, was used to prepare this guide. Page references may differ in other editions. Novel ISBN: 0-440-23768-8

Please note: Please assess the appropriateness of this novel for the age level and maturity of your students prior to reading and discussing it with them.

ISBN 978-1-60878-275-8

Copyright infringement is a violation of Federal Law.

© 2012 by Novel Units, Inc., Bulverde, Texas. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any part of this product is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted or shared in any way or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise) without prior written permission from Novel Units, Inc. Reproduction of any part of this publication for multiple school terms, an entire school or for a school system, by for-profit institutions and tutoring centers, or for commercial sale is strictly prohibited.

Novel Units is a registered trademark of Novel Units, Inc.

Publisher Information
For a complete catalog, contact—

Novel Units, Inc.
P.O. Box 97
Bulverde, TX 78163-0097

Web site: novelunits.com

For more digital resources, visit:
ecslarningsystems.com

Table of Contents

Summary.....	3
About the Author	3
Characters	4
Initiating Activities	5
Vocabulary Activities	6
Eight Sections	7
Each section contains: Summary, Vocabulary, Discussion Questions, and Supplementary Activities	
Post-reading Discussion Questions	22
Post-reading Extension Activities	24
Assessment	25
Scoring Rubric	35

Skills and Strategies

Critical Thinking

Brainstorming, predictions,
compare/contrast, research,
creative thinking

Comprehension

Cause/effect, summary, decision-
making, sequencing

Writing

Poetry, essay, journal entry,
news article

Listening/Speaking

Oral presentation, discussion

Vocabulary

Definitions, vocabulary story, parts
of speech, synonyms/antonyms,
context clues

Literary Elements

Genre, theme, point of view,
character analysis,
conflict/resolution

Across the Curriculum

Government/History—types of
government, famous activists;
Art—community map, collage,
painting, brochure, photography;
Life Skills—career choices; Music—
song selection

Chapters 1–2

Eleven-year-old Jonas feels apprehensive about the Ceremony of Twelve—a celebration during which Jonas will receive his lifetime job assignment. He reflects on past experiences as he tries to mentally prepare for the ceremony. Jonas’s family discovers that a newchild named Gabriel might be placed temporarily in their household. Jonas’s father recounts his experience at his own Ceremony of Twelve, and both parents reassure Jonas that his Assignment will be ideal for him.

Vocabulary	
	intrigued
	navigational
	anthem
	distraught
	unison
	wheedle
	defiant
	despotic
	complementary
	permeant
	adherence
	aptitude

Discussion Questions

- Where is the story set? From what point of view is the story told, and how do you think this point of view will affect the story? *(The story is set in a fictional community governed by a committee that makes people’s choices for them. Citizens in this community follow a schedule every day, with each citizen’s job being assigned specifically to them. Precision is of utmost importance in the community, as is safety and obeying the rules. The story is told in third-person limited point of view, from Jonas’s perspective. Answers will vary.)*
- Why was Jonas frightened when an unidentified aircraft flew over the community? What does his fear of the aircraft indicate about the society in which he lives? *Jonas was frightened because aircraft are forbidden from flying over the community. The only aircraft citizens of the community ever see are cargo planes that bring food and supplies. In contrast, the plane that flew over the community that time was a sleek jet. Answers will vary, but students will likely comment that Jonas’s community seems very secluded, with its citizens protected from all outside threats.)*
- Why do you think precision of language is so important in Jonas’s community? *Answers will vary. Students should note that Jonas tries very hard to pinpoint the correct word to describe his feelings about the Ceremony of Twelve. Jonas also thinks fondly about his friend Asher, who often misuses and mixes up words. Jonas’s society seems to value truth and honesty; therefore, speaking precisely is simply making an effort to tell the complete truth and communicate as effectively as possible. More evidence that the community values truthfulness, and communication can be seen in the feeling-sharing that the family practices each night.)*
- Describe Jonas’s family unit. *Jonas’s family unit includes his mother, his father, himself, and his younger sister. Each of Jonas’s family members is a rule-abiding citizen. His father is a nurturer, and his mother works in the Department of Justice. Jonas is a bright young boy about to receive his lifetime job assignment. Lily is a popular young girl with a naïve outlook on life and a simple understanding of right and wrong. The family members share their emotions at the end of each day and are intimate, albeit not very affectionate, toward one another.)*
- How are family units organized in this society? How is this similar to or different from the society in which you live? *Families are only allowed two children—one male and one female. That means while Jonas’s family may temporarily help nurture a newchild, the newchild cannot become a permanent member of their family unit. People like Jonas’s father nurture the newchildren until they are assigned a family at an annual ceremony in December. Families must apply for a child and be approved before the Committee of Elders will assign the family a child. The committee selects which children will go to which family, and it also names the children. The names are announced during the ceremony, as well. Answers will vary. Similarities might include that nuclear families live in the same household, families eat dinner together, and a separate facility exists for elderly people.*

Differences might include that children's parents are not a part of their lives after a certain age, people's marriages are constantly monitored, and innocent individuals are often "released" from society.)

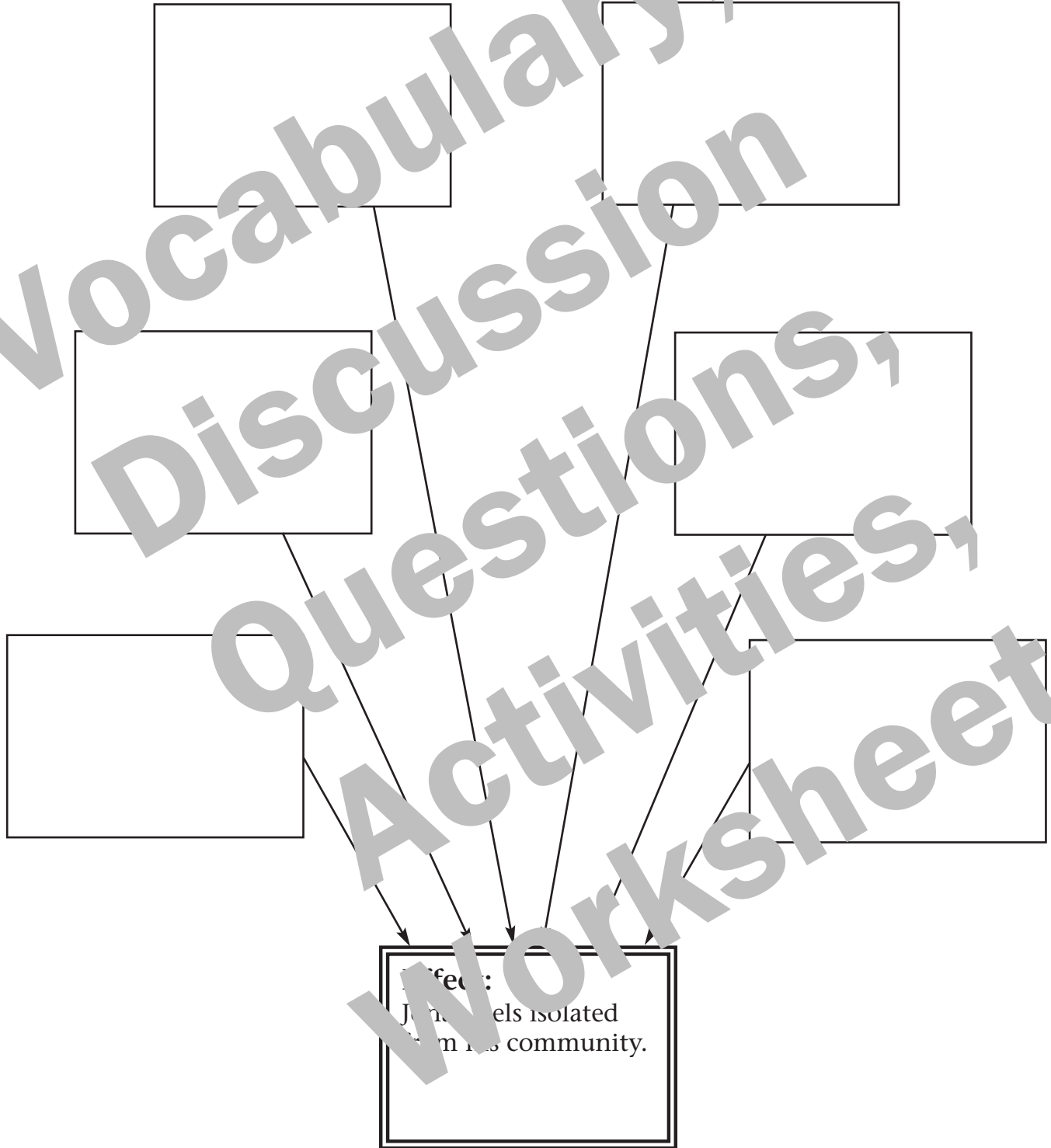
6. Discuss the significance of the Ceremony of Twelve. Why is Jonas uneasy about this ceremony? What do you think about the concept of the Ceremony of Twelve? *(At age 12, each child is assigned a role in the community during the ceremony. From this point on, they spend most of their free time learning their new occupation rather than volunteering or playing with friends. Jonas is uneasy because he volunteers at many places and does not feel particularly suited to any one profession. He knows he has been carefully observed by the Elders, but he fears he might dislike his Assignment. Answers will vary. Students should note the pros [no indecision about career choice, no unemployment, etc.] and cons [lack of freedom, potential to be assigned something you do not enjoy, etc.] of the system the community uses.)*
7. In this society, severe consequences for multiple infractions can result in a "release." The Old and some newchildren are released, as well. What do you think the concept of "release" means in Jonas's community? *(Answers will vary, although perhaps students may guess that "release" is synonymous with "death." Students should note that release is permanent and that once an individual is released, s/he is never seen in the community again. They should also note that some releases are considered disgraceful [such as when a contributing citizen is released for wrongdoing], while others are considered honorable [release of the Old] or simply necessary [release of newchildren who fail to mature adequately].)*
8. **Prediction:** What will happen to a newchild facing possible release?

Supplemental Activities

1. Comprehension: Use the Community Life chart on page 27 of this guide to begin listing the rules, rituals, and daily activities that are observed or take place in Jonas's community. Continue adding to this chart as you read the novel. (Examples from the text might include the ritual of sharing feelings after dinner or the rule that Pilobolus is not to be over the community.)
2. Poetry: Write an acrostic poem using the word "apprehension."

Cause/Effect Map

Directions: In the empty boxes, list six reasons why Jonas feels increasingly isolated from his community as he trains with The Giver.



Conflict

The **conflict** of a story is the struggle between two people or two forces. There are four main types of conflict: person vs. person, person vs. nature, person vs. society, and person vs. self.

Directions: In the space provided, list four conflicts Jonas experiences and justify why you identify it with that particular type of conflict. Then, explain how each conflict is resolved in the story.

person vs. person

Conflict	Resolution

person vs. nature

Conflict	Resolution

person vs. society

Conflict	Resolution

person vs. self

Conflict	Resolution