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| Chapter 16 Summary | Analysis | Themes |
| **The Giver** is gentle with **Jonas** for days following the war memory. He gives Jonas wonderful memories of birthday parties, paintings in museums, horseback riding, and camping trips. None of these things exist in the community.  | To relieve Jonas’s trauma at being forced into maturity by becoming aware of pain, The Giver gives Jonas memories associated with childhood. | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/3.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/5.gif |
| When **Jonas** asks **The Giver** to describe his favorite memory, The Giver tells Jonas he wants to give it to him, not just describe it to him. **The Giver** transmits the memory of a group of people, very young and very old, opening presents under a tree covered in lights. He tells **Jonas** the memory is of family and love. Jonas asks who the two old people were, and The Giver tells him they are called grandparents. Jonas has never heard of Grandparents. In the community, **parents** aren’t a part of their children’s lives once their children become full adults. They go to the House of Childless Adults, and then the House of the Old, and they are released without their children even knowing. Jonas wishes aloud that his own family could be more like the family in the memory and that The Giver was his grandfather. | Jonas realizes that maturity is not just an awareness of pain. It is also an awareness of love. He realizes that in his community family exists solely for practical purposes, without deeper emotions that truly make human, like love. His wish that the community could be more like this other world is another indication that his faith in the community is cracking. Also notice how the gift giving grandparents in the memory are in fact a lot like The Giver, who shows his love for Jonas by giving him the precious gift of his favorite memory. | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/1.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/3.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/4.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/5.gif |
| At home that evening, **Jonas** asks his **parents** if they love him. They laugh at the question and chide him for using such a vague term. They tell him that they take pride in his accomplishments and enjoy having him around, but they cannot say they love him. | Another stage of Jonas’s development is his realization that those he loves cannot love him in return because, lost in Sameness, they don’t know what love is. | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/1.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/3.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gif |
| That night, **Jonas** gives **Gabriel** another happy memory to help him sleep and tells the sleeping newchild that he wishes he could change the community to make it have colors, grandparents, and love. The next morning, **Jonas** decides to stop taking his pill for the Stirrings. | Jonas continues to make choices and break the community’s rules in minor ways. But his wish indicates a desire to break rules and change things much more profoundly.  |  |
| Chapter 17 Summary | Analysis | Themes |
| Four weeks later, the community loudspeakers declare an unscheduled holiday. Jonas does not have to go to school. Now that he has stopped taking the pills, his Stirrings have returned. He feels a little embarrassed about the dreams he is having at night, but also has no intention of giving up the pleasure that the dreams give him. He understands that his dreams and the memories that he has gotten from The Giver have given him a new depth of feeling, and he gets annoyed when people use expressions like sadness and anger because he knows that only he has actually felt genuine emotions. | Jonas is now filled not only with the emotions of his training, but the emotions of a regular boy going into adolescence. He has realized that there is nothing wrong with these feelings and his lack of remorse indicates a continuing belief that the way the community is run is wrong. In fact, Jonas now understands that feelings are no more than ideas to the community members, which seems robotic and cruel to him.  | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/1.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/2.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/3.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/4.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gif |
| Jonas rides his bike along the river. He knows the river must lead to Elsewhere and wonders what Elsewhere must be like.  | Jonas’s thoughts of escape and a world outside of the community grow stronger. | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/1.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/2.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/4.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gif |
| Returning from the river, Jonas sees Asher and his friends playing a game of war. He tries to explain to Asher that the game is a cruel mockery of the terrible realities of war. Asher doesn’t understand him, and angrily responds that he has to play these games because of his job in recreation. Jonas realizes it is hopeless to try to explain all that he has experienced.  | Jonas tries to change his friends’ behavior by explaining why it’s wrong. When his friends can’t even conceive of the things he is trying to explain, Jonas sees that only through shared experience would his friends be able to understand what he knows. | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/1.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/3.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/4.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gif |
| Fiona arrives and tries to comfort Jonas, but eventually leaves on her bicycle. Jonas sadly realizes that he loves Asher and Fiona, but that they can never love him back. | Jonas’s realization that his friends can’t love him further isolates him. | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/1.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/3.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gif |

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| When he gets home, Jonas takes comfort in Gabriel, who has now learned to walk and talk, and can say his own name. | Jonas has shared experiences with Gabriel, and their loving connection grows stronger. | http://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/3.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/4.gifhttp://www.litcharts.com/files/images/tt/0.gif |
| The identical twins are scheduled to be born the next day, and Jonas’s father mentions having to release one of them. Curious, Jonas asks whether his father will personally take the smaller child Elsewhere. His father says no. Instead he will just identify which of the boys has a lower weight, and then someone else from Elsewhere will then come and get the boy. Lily comments about the strangeness of two identical twins growing up separated, one in the community and one in Elsewhere. | Release is an important part of life in the community, but the fact that none of the citizens seem to know what it entails signals to the reader that it is probably something unpleasant. After all, the community tries to shield its members from all unpleasant or uncomfortable experiences. |  |