

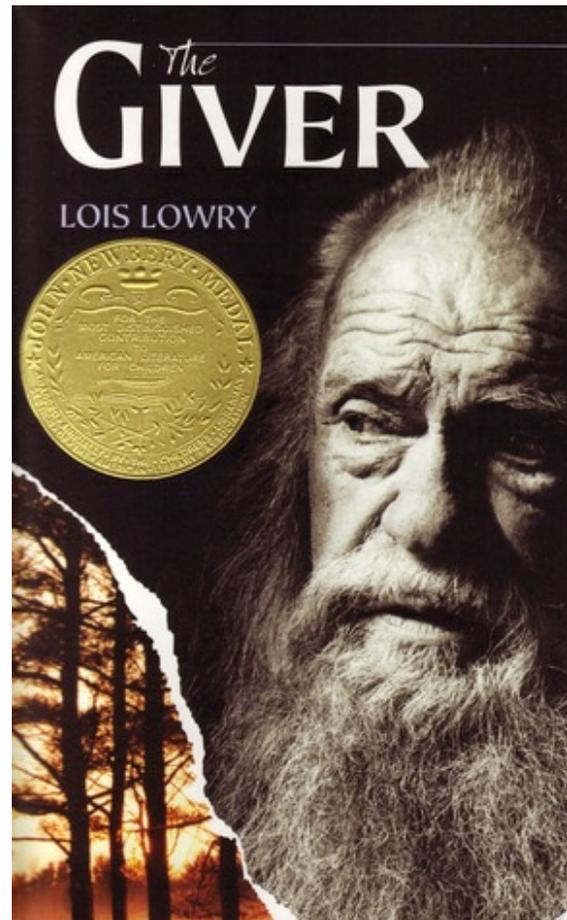
## ***The Giver*: A Book Review**

**By Katie Bowers**

Imagine living in a society where your every move was recorded, from the moment you brush your teeth in the morning to when you pull your covers over your head to go to sleep at night. This is reality for Jonas and his family in Lois Lowry's *The Giver*. Jonas has recently turned twelve, meaning it is time for his Ceremony of Twelve – a special ritual where he will be assigned the occupation he will have for the rest of his life. In this society, there is virtually no choice. Children are born to Birthmothers then given to a set of parents who will bring them up. When they grow older, their job is selected for them, and they are matched with a husband or wife. Each couple is permitted to have no more than two children, who are given to them by the community.

Jonas knows there is something different about him. Sometimes when he looks at things, they change before his unusually pale eyes. What he does not realize until later is that he is seeing colour – something that no one else can do. At the Ceremony of Twelve, his uniqueness is confirmed. Jonas is given a special role as the Receiver of

Memory, meaning he will be responsible for keeping track of the collective memories of his whole society from days gone by. These memories are passed to him from the Giver. As Jonas receives memories, he realizes how different the world used to be, when people were permitted to have choices and experience different emotions.



*The Giver* is a classic dystopian young adult novel that appeals to many different ages because of its compelling story. Lowry's writing allows readers to really feel for Jonas and his frustrations with the world he has been brought up

in. As you read the novel, you can feel the innocence that he has been conditioned to see the world with. As Jonas receives more and more memories, that innocence fades away. Young adult readers will be able to relate to his feelings of frustration with growing up and learning more about the world around him, as this is universal regardless of the type of society we live in.

A movie adaption of *The Giver* was released in 2014. This tags along with the dystopian trend that has grabbed hold of young adult literature as of late, and breathes new life into a now-classic book. The film adaption ages the characters a bit beyond the book, making it so it will be appealing to older teens rather than just children. The film is fast paced and exciting, and really brings this timeless story to life on screen. Whether read in the book or watched on screen, this story is sure to open teens eyes to a new world and open up conversations about what a “perfect world” really is.

### **Read Alike**

*Among the Hidden* by Margaret Peterson Haddox

Luke lives in a world where population is strictly controlled and no family may have more than two children. Luke is the forbidden third child in his

family, so he must always stay hidden – he is not even permitted to attend school like his siblings. His life seems to be boring and miserable until he meets Jen, another third child who introduces him to what a life outside of hiding is like. This book will definitely appeal to fans of *The Giver*, as it deals with very similar themes of dystopia and corruption.