

Discussion Questions for *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

1. Did the author do a good job of world building? Why or why not?
2. What do you think happens at the end?
3. Is Jonas a strong main character? Do you like him? Do you find him believable? Why or why not?
4. Can you imagine our society going down a path that would end in the society found in *The Giver*? What aspects are the most believable? Were there aspects of the society you did not find plausible?
5. When did you realize what it meant to “be released”?
6. Some personal freedoms are taken away in the society of *The Giver* for the good of the whole society. Where do you think the line should be drawn between public safety and the personal right to choose?
7. Do you see any parallels between *The Giver* and the world today?
8. Has *The Giver* aged well, or does it feel dated? It was published in 1993 and won the Newbery Medal in 1994.
9. Could our society be better off if couples were paired based on personality and science instead of letting people choose?
10. Why are there so many dystopian books written, and why do they continue to be popular?
11. Were there any passages or scenes that you remember well or particularly liked?
12. Would you recommend this novel to a friend? Do you want to read the other books in the quartet?
13. *The Giver* has often been challenged in libraries. Why do you think that is? What do people object to?
14. If you could talk to the author, is there a question you would ask her?
15. Are there any questions you would like to ask?