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**Journal Entries of *The Giver***  
 Lois Lowry

| Quote   | Significance to the Story  | Interpretation  |
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| <p>“ask someone, some adult, his father perhaps: ‘Do you lie?’ But he would have no way of knowing if the answer he received were true” (71).</p>     | <p>In a world that is designed to be perfect and where Jonas was told to never lie. Know that he is a Twelve he is required to lie. If he is required to lie, who is to say that other adults could not lie as well. The trust that he had for everyone is now lost because they could lie to him.</p>   | <p>Taking away lying in this utopia was a good idea because lying creates chaos, but as soon as you make an exception everything doesn't work. When hiding or lying about something you are trying to shield something from someone or shield yourself but that is babying. We have to be able to face the truth and not hide behind lies for our comfort</p> |
| <p>“‘I thought you were The Receiver, but you say that now I'm The Receiver. So I don't know what to call you.’ [...] ‘Call me The Giver,’” (87).</p> | <p>This is the first time we hear the name the Giver (the title of the book). As the old Receiver now the Giver is transferring memories into Jonas, the new Receiver, he is giving him memories of the past. When the world was in “disorder”. He is then supposed to advise the elders on the council so they will not relapse on previous mistakes. This old man the giver is giving Jonas wisdom through memories but is also guiding him on how to react to these</p> | <p>The telling of stories from older people or grandparents is like the giver. They give us stories that otherwise we could never know or it is just a book. It is filled with another life that we can now be a part of.</p>   |

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| <p>“[...]how could you describe a hill and snow to someone who had never felt height or wind or that feathery, magical cold?”(89).</p>  | <p>When Jonas first meets with the Giver he gives him the memory of snow and sledding. But when he first tries to explain it to Jonas before he transfers it, he can not comprehend any of it. One might be able to explain it as a pillow of wet crystals but still, it does not explain snow well enough. Snow could still be explained another way as crystals that fall from the sky to create chaos and cover everything on the ground.</p>                | <p>It is like speaking to a child about how the earth floats in space. You have to first explain gravity and then the lack of gravity in space.</p>  |
| <p>“‘Why did colors disappear?’ The Giver shrugged. "Our people made that choice, the choice to go to Sameness. [...] We relinquished color when we relinquished sunshine and did away with differences.’ He thought for a moment. ‘We gained control of many things. But we had to let go of others’”(95).</p> | <p>Sameness was the first when people decide to have everything be the same. People were not separated by class but by interests, they were no different shades of colors. But when that happened people lost things like color, choice, and love. For Jonas right now the thing that he is loving is color. How things can change and be different, vibrant, and unique. Such as a sunset, unique and color would be lost to the people in this community.</p> | <p>While in our society we should stop looking at people differently we also should not go to all being the same. There is something amazing about being unique. If we had all followed Hitler’s outline of a perfect human we would not have different skin tones, hair color, or eye color. People with green eyes or red hair or dark skin would not be around. Those are some of the most beautiful things</p> |

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| <p>“‘If everything's the same, then there aren't any choices! I want to wake up in the morning and decide things! A blue tunic, or a red one?’ He looked down at himself, at the colorless fabric of his clothing. ‘But it's all the same, always.’ Then he laughed a little. ‘I know it's not important what you wear. It doesn't matter. But—’ ‘It's the choosing that's important, isn't it?’ The Giver asked him”(97).</p> | <p>In the book, people are not able to make choices. Such as Gab, the toddler that lives with Jonas, can not choose what toy he wants; he is given a comfort object and therefore must keep it. He does not get the option to choose the red panda or the giraffe. They just must keep have, it is also not like they have wondered why their animals are not different colors because they have never seen a red panda or could not imagine the long neck giraffe that towers over the heads of them.</p>   | <p>A life without choices is similar to a communist government. The choices are made by the government or by the elders in the book for the “greater good” of the community or country While a government is good to have order in a country. A too strong of government means no choices.</p> |
| <p>“He found that he was often angry, now: irrationally angry at his groupmates, that they were satisfied with their lives which had none of the vibrance his own was taking on. And he was angry at himself, that he could not change that for them”(99).</p>   | <p>This world was created to bring out the best but Jonas was enjoying life more with knowledge. That also made him angry for the people around him, the people that said happiness but were only content because they had never felt true happiness. They never even felt true anger. When telling the story of the confusion of smacks ad snacks that brought irritation but they remember it as a learning lesson and thought nothing of it. When they would have been able to know things they would have seen how unnecessary that whole thing was.</p> | <p>It is hard to not get frustrated at people who do not understand. Worst of all these people can’t even sympathize with him because they have never felt anything close to what he is going through.</p>   |

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| <p>“‘Why do you and I have to hold these memories?’ ‘It gives us wisdom,’ The Giver replied. "Without wisdom I could not fulfill my function of advising [...] They don't want to hear about pain. They just seek the advice””(111).</p> | <p>When thinking of Elders you would think of someone with wisdom. But in this community, the only one with true wisdom is the receiver and currently the giver. But they do not even use his knowledge often. The elders put all the responsibility of pain and knowledge on to Jonas and they do not even want to know what he does. The Elders can not even comprehend what he has to deal with or maybe they do because of the last failed receiver. The one who released themselves and then all the memories she had received in 5 weeks were released into the community.</p> | <p>When holding secrets it eats people up inside much like how the people who hold all the memories. They can not tell people about their jobs and even if they wanted to, how could they explain it.</p>  |
| <p>“Jonas did not want to go back. He didn't want the memories, didn't want the honor, didn't want the wisdom, didn't want the pain. He wanted his childhood again,”(121).</p>   | <p>While the memories are important they come at a great cost. Knowledge does bear a heavy weight and it is easier to want to be a child. As the failed receiver relieved she would rather not live the life of knowledge but be content with death.</p>   | <p>Everyone always wishes for what is to be or what was. As a child you want to be growing up but as time goes on and you gain knowledge and wisdom you want your carefree childhood again. In a way It represents our need for whatever we can not have. We are greedy that way and we spend our entire life wanting things. We wish we could be somewhere else and we do not look around at what we have. Like how the failure wished she did not have to hold the memories.</p> |

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| <p>“‘There could be love,’ Jonas whispered.</p> <p>The next morning, for the first time, Jonas did not take his pill. Something within him, something that had grown there through the memories, told him to throw the pill away.”(129).</p>   | <p>This pill that stops stirrings or the feelings of love is required by all people so the strong feeling of love does not make you attached or irrational. But since he is the receiver he can get away with any rule so he does not have to take the pill which will most likely result in him having feelings again for Fionna. This may also help him in his training so he no longer has to compress his feelings for love as his training goes on. Him telling Gab about all his training is against his rules but sense he is such a small child they may overlook it.</p> | <p>Why in our society do we try to compress everything and avoid everything that we feel or we go the complete other way and irrationally do everything. We as people suck at handling emotions.</p>  |
| <p>“But Lily had not felt anger, Jonas realized now. Shallow impatience and exasperation, that was all Lily had felt. He knew that with certainty because now he knew what anger was. Now he had, in the memories, experienced injustice and cruelty, and he had reacted with rage that welled up so passionately inside him that the thought of discussing it calmly at the evening meal was unthinkable.” (132).</p> | <p>As the book shows when we say we feel something we may not actually know what that emotion is until they are more experienced. This is similar to how when Jonas was a child he used to say he was starving but in reality he had never been starving no one in the community had been starving, he was just hungry. Now Jonas had felt starvation and felt anger and realized that all the emotions that he says he may have felt were never really true full emotions.</p>   | <p>As children, have any of us really felt true strong emotions, or is that something that comes with time, and life situations. There are some people in this world who have probably been starving their whole life, felt actual need and been actually angry at a young age while others are so pampered that they just think that they have felt stuff but maybe just wanted something.</p> |

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| <p>“Listen to me, Jonas. They can't help it. They know nothing.’</p> <p>‘You said that to me once before.’</p> <p>‘I said it because it's true. It's the way they live. It's the life that was created for them. It's the same life that you would have, if you had not been chosen as my successor.’</p> <p>‘But he lied to me!’ Jonas wept.</p> <p>‘It's what he was told to do, and he knows nothing else.’</p> <p>‘What about you? Do you lie to me, too?’ Jonas almost spat the question at The Giver.</p> <p>‘I am empowered to lie. But I have never lied to you.’”(153).</p> | <p>His whole life he was taught never to lie and even though the thought had already crossed his mind that the people around him may be lying to him the idea that his father has been lying to him this whole time and that they almost released Gab without so much as a tear breaks his heart.</p>  | <p>It is hard to mad at people that do not know any better. Like a child when they cross the street. It is dangerously ignorant of the child and you need to punish them but it is hard because they did not know any better. But what would happen to our world if we did know the basics and were not punished for ignorance. The world would be chaotic.</p> |
| <p>“The worst part of holding the memories is not the pain. It's the loneliness of it. Memories need to be shared”(154).</p>   | <p>This entire time the Giver has been holding these memories without being able to tell anyone but now Jonas has some of the load it is lightened and they are able to bear the troubles together. That is how it is meant to be. However, the Elders do not realize that the burden that each of the receivers was to bear is so much. I mean the one receiver could not even bear it by herself, that is why she had to ask to be released.</p> | <p>The experience that you go through with people makes the memeroeir better and more realistic.</p>  |

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| <p>“The community where his entire life had been lived lay behind him now, sleeping. At dawn, the orderly, disciplined life he had always known would continue again, without him. The life where nothing was ever unexpected. Or inconvenient. Or unusual. The life without color, pain, or past”(81).</p>   | <p>Life however would not continue as normal the community would finally have all the memories.</p>  | <p>At least once in someone's life they are going to leave what they know and if they do not then they are a stagnant person. This is always a painful experience, overthinking everything and thinking that the people that you leave behind do not even notice that you are gone and life just continues without you.</p> |
| <p>“He forced his eyes open as they went downward, downward, sliding, and all at once he could see lights, and he recognized them now. He knew they were shining through the windows of rooms, that they were the red, blue, and yellow lights that twinkled from trees in places where families created and kept memories, where they celebrated love”(179).</p> | <p>This is in reference to the first memory that the giver gave him. Of him at the top of the snow covered hill and the sled takes him downhill. But in the memory he feels empty because he feels he has to get somewhere and he has not finished his ride. This time he is finishing the ride and now he can see the christmas lights and it also reminds him of the memory that the giver gave him of the all the family at christmas time all together; making memories and celebrating love for each other.</p> | <p>Without them even saying that the holiday was Christmas we can all recognize the favorite holiday with the tree covered in lights during the winter with sledding and surrounded by family and love.</p>   |

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| <p>“Suddenly he was aware with certainty and joy that below, ahead, they were waiting for him; and that they were waiting, too, for the baby. For the first time, he heard something that he knew to be music. He heard people singing”(180).</p> | <p>The Giver while never giving Jonas music in the memories, it did not take Jonas long to realize what music was because of its beauty. I do wonder since he says that they waited for him if he is actually dying and they are singing as he “comes home”. However this is how they end the book, leaving us to wonder certain things but ending on a happy note.</p> | <p>There is something truly beautiful about music at Christmas time. Either something about the birth of Jesus and a renewed hope of just being surrounded by family being happy. And just music in general with such a beautiful harmony as you get more people.</p> |
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