

The Giver: Chapters 22-23

Keywords/Quotations	Notes
<p>1. How does Jonas' experience in this new setting impact Jonas? Identify two ways Jonas is changed by his experience in the new setting, citing evidence from the text.</p>	<p>The new experience has changed Jonas by increasing his determination and his selflessness. As Jonas travels through the new and exciting terrain, he experiences more joy than he has ever felt before in his life despite the pain he also feels (whether physical - like starvation - or emotional). In addition, Jonas becomes selfless in his determination to protect Gabriel. He has come to care more for Gabriel's well-being than his own, and pushes himself to continue because of his love and desire to protect Gabe.</p>
<p>2. Does Jonas believe he has made the right choice to escape? Why/ why not? Cite text evidence to support your answer.</p>	<p>Jonas believes he has made the right choice to escape, despite his pain and suffering. As Jonas reflects on his starvation, he reminds himself that if he had stayed in the community, he would have "starved in other ways. He would have lived a life hungry for feelings, for color, for love." He also reflects on the fact that if he had stayed, Gabriel would have been killed. Given this, Jonas realizes he had no choice but to leave. Had he stayed, he would have lived a lonely, miserable life filled with resentment for his community and the people in it.</p>
<p>3. Do you think Jonas has made the right choice to escape? Why/ why not? Cite text evidence that has influenced your opinion.</p>	<p>Yes, I think Jonas made the right choice because he would have been unhappy in his community. Jonas' experience with The Giver has prepared him for this; he has realized that without color and joy and love, the world is not really worth living in. Given this, his pain is worth the risk of finding a better, more meaningful life elsewhere.</p> <p><i>Accept either answer, as long as it is supported with rational from the text.</i></p>

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<p>4. Make an inference about what happens to Jonas and his community at the end of the text. Cite text evidence to support your inference.</p>	<p>Jonas and Gabriel die at the end of the text by freezing to death before making it to Elsewhere. The hill, the sled, and the feelings that Jonas feels while sledding down the hill at the end of the text are a memory and not reality. The text states that Jonas struggled to not lose consciousness, which suggests that he was slipping into death and that the things he experiences and sees/hears at the end of the text are actually in his mind and not physically happening to him.</p> <p><i>Accept any answer that can be supported with text evidence. See Evaluating Claims handout for S7 for other inferences.</i></p>
<p>5. Why did Lois Lowry choose to make the ending of the text ambiguous? How does this impact the meaning you are taking from the novel?</p>	<p>By making the ending ambiguous, Lois Lowry forces the reader to grapple with the text's conclusion and make meaning for themselves. This allows people to engage in discussion about the different possibilities and draw conclusions for themselves, bringing their own ideas and experiences to the text to combine with the evidence and draw a conclusion. This also pushes readers to ask questions and may lead them to think about the ideas in the text long after they have turned the last page. In addition, the ambiguous ending underscores the idea that there are no easy answers in life. The questions that Lowry raises through Jonas' experience and community are ones that people have grappled with for centuries and will continue to do so. The ending reflects the idea that questions about individuality, freedom, choice, power, and memory are rich and meaty with many angles to be explored.</p>