The Giver - Week 2

Frontloading

- opinionnaire
- chart - problems in the world today
- Small group discussions on biggest problems and come to a consensus on the top three problems
- facing our society
- possibly Socratic Seminar or philosophical chairs on what issues are most pressing in our society
  OR 4 corners

Pre-Reading Activities

- Notes on utopia and dystopia
- Choose two of the following four journal topics to write about:
  o What would you be willing to give up to live in a world without crime or war?
  o Would you rather live a life where you never experience any feelings of real loss, isolation, severe emotional or physical pain or suffering but also never experience extreme excitement or joy or would you rather live like you do now, with a chance for extreme highs and extreme lows?
  o What is more important to you - your individual happiness, needs and wants, your family’s happiness, needs and wants, or your community’s happiness, needs and wants? Explain.
  o Do our different beliefs, cultures, traditions, physical appearances, etc. - our diversity – strengthen the world or cause more conflicts? Explain.
  o Before starting the book, give them some type of handout to track the laws/rules/procedures with illustrations and descriptions as I read the first few chapters aloud

Chapter 1 and 2

Start filling in your “First I think . . . Now I think . . . “ chart for release. (chapter 1-2)

  a. release:
    i. for the elderly, it is a celebration of a life well lived
    ii. for newchildren, it means they are struggling to fit in, and adapt
    iii. for others, it is a terrible punishment

1. What will happen if the newchild Jonas’ family takes in temporarily for “supplementary nurturing”? (chapter 1)
2. Describe how family units are created (both spouses and children). (chapter 1)
3. What is the definition of “aptitude” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 2)

4. Describe their justice system and (laws and enforcement of the laws). Name at least three ways our nation might be different if we had the same justice system and consequences. (chapter 1-2)

5. Describe the ceremony that is held each year in the community auditorium. (chapter 1-2)

6. What are the responsibilities of the Committee of Elders? (chapter 2)

7. So far, what do you see as positive aspects of Jonas’ community? Mention the specific positive aspects and explain why you see them as positive. (chapter 1-2)

8. So far, what do you see as possible negative aspects of Jonas’ community? Mention the specific negative aspects and explain why you see them as negative. (chapter 1-2)

**Chapter 3**

1. What does the word, “horded” mean and when is a real situation you might hear that term used?

2. What does the word, “solemn” mean and when is a real situation you might hear that term used?

3. Explain why Jonas broke the rule and took the apple from the recreation center.

4. Think back to Costa’s Levels of Learning (from basic acquisition of knowledge to application in different situations). Write two level 2 or level 3 discussion questions for the first part of the story.

**Chapter 4-6**

1. What does the word, “disquieting” mean and when is a real situation you might hear that term used?

2. What does the word, “infraction” mean and when is a real situation you might hear that term used? (chapter 5)

3. Why would pills be given to suppress the “stirrings”? Name three modern problems that might solve in our society. (chapter 5)

4. What does the word, “interdependence” mean and when is a real situation you might hear that term used? (chapter 6)

5. What does the word, “reprieve” mean and when is a real situation you might hear that term used? (chapter 6)

6. Use indirect characterization to describe Jonas’ personality from the beginning of the story until now. You need to describe at least four personality traits and give evidence of when he shows those traits from scenes in the book. (chapter 6)
The Giver - Week 3

Chapter 7-11

1. At the ceremony of twelve, the chief elder describes the qualities Jonas posses that qualify him to be the next Receiver. What are the qualities she mentions that make him a good candidate and separate him from the rest of the community? (chapter 8)

2. What is Jonas’ assignment? What is his reaction? What is the audiences reaction at the ceremony and after the ceremony? (chapter 8 and 9)

3. What are the seven rules Jonas must follow as the new Receiver? (chapter 9)

4. What is the definition of “conspicuous” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 10)

5. What advantages and disadvantages would there be to having “sameness” and climate control? (chapter 11)

Chapter 12

1. What is the definition of “admonition” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life?

2. What is the definition of “fleeting” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life?

3. What is the definition of “relinquished” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life?

4. What is “seeing beyond” that Jonas supposedly has?

5. Are there any advantages and disadvantages of having a world without color, without categorizing people as different races, and without focusing on physical differences? Why would the elders choose to do away with these things? Explain.

Chapter 13

1. What is the definition of “sinuous” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life?

2. What is the definition of “indifferent” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life?

3. What is the definition of “successor” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life?

4. What is the definition of “assimilated” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life?
5. What are the specific responsibilities of the Receiver? How might the Receiver’s responsibilities make having relationships, especially a spouse and close friends, difficult to have and maintain. Use specific examples to justify your claim.

6. What specific things happened when the previous Receiver in Training failed?
Chapter 14-15

1. What is the definition of “assuage” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 14)
2. What is the definition of “ominous” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 14)
3. Why did the Giver advice against the increase of births each year? What memory does he pass to Jonas to show why he made that suggestion? (chapter 14)
4. What in the required process when a birthmother gives birth to twins? (chapter 14)
5. What is the definition of “contorted” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 15)
6. What is the definition of “carnage” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 15)
7. What is the definition of “immobilized” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 15)
8. Jonas experiences a memory of war. Is war ever necessary? Make a claim and support your claim with specific evidence to back your claim. (chapter 15)
9. In your opinion, how much do children (over the age of 12) need to know about horrific things that occur in the world today and have occurred in the past (war, cruelty to animals, abuse and neglect, starvation and poverty, disease, etc.). Justify your answer. (after reading chapter 15)

Chapter 16-18

1. What is the definition of “pervaded” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 16)
2. What does the Giver say is his favorite memory that he shares with Jonas? What does the family in the memory have that Jonas, in his society, does not? How does Jonas feel about this absence? (chapter 16)
3. We tend to use the word “love” for a variety of reasons - “I love that movie. I love my family. I love when we get a break from school.” What do you think the word “love” actually means? Explain your answer by giving examples to demonstrate why you give the definition you do (what does “love” look like?). (chapter 16)
4. What is the definition of “permeated” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 17)
5. What is the definition of “dejected” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 18)
6. What is the definition of “luminous” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 18)
7. Explain who Rosemary was, what happened to her, and what happened to the community as a result of what happened to her. (chapter 18)

**Chapter 19**

1. Add to your “First I think . . . Now I think . . .” after seeing the true meaning of release and add your response to the scene you read with Jonas’ father and the twin.
2. Do you agree with the idea of “release” for any of the groups in their society? Explain. Would “releasing” some groups in our society benefit society? Explain.

**Chapter 20-21**

1. What is the definition of “emphatically” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 20)
2. What is the definition of “augmented” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 21)
3. What is the definition of “haphazard” and when is a situation that the term might be used in real life? (chapter 21)
4. How has Jonas changed from the beginning of the book to now? Give some specific examples from the book to illustrate the changes you see. (chapter 21)
5. What is the plan Jonas and the Giver come up with to release the memories back into the community and what do they predict will happen? What goes wrong with their plan? (chapter 21)