

The Giver

by Lois Lowry

A book with many layers and a powerful message, *The Giver* gives great insight into a world where perfection is not as perfect as one may think.

This great novel is about a dystopia that focuses on subjects like memory, religion, color, and eugenics. Although religion is a major point of the novel, you don't have to be religious or know aspects of a specific religion in order to enjoy the story. The author, Lois Lowry, has written many other fascinating books relating to this novel like *Gathering Blue*, *Messenger*, and *Son*, which is the sequel to *The Giver*. She also wrote books outside of dystopia such as the Sam Krupnik series as well as the Anastasia Krupnik series. There is also a movie adaptation of this book that was made in 2014.

The Giver is a story about a boy who lives in a perfect society without crime, sadness, or choice. Everything is chosen for you, including your job, your significant other, your food, and even your parents. Jonas, the main character, has the special role of "memory keeper," which holds all the memories from society: both good and bad. As you follow Jonas's journey, you learn how this important role has changed his perspectives, connections, and eventually, his life.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book because it can be read over and over again. It's one of those books that you're able to read at any age and still get something out of the novel. The first time I read it, I was in the 4th grade and assumed it was a good dystopian novel. Now, as a 17-year-old, the book has a lot more meaning and I can connect it to real-life in a lot more ways than I could beforehand. Furthermore, even if you're not into rereading, it's just a great book overall. The plot twists throughout the story are very well placed, the way new information is revealed is very emotional, and the syntax fits the theme of the book very well. Being able to go through a completely new universe that seems to be perfect to those inside it really makes me question my own ideas and morals. Lois Lowry effectively pushes her audience into a society that is so alien to our own, and she does so amazingly.

I would recommend this book to anyone who's interested in dystopia and discovering new ways of thinking. This book makes you question, critically think, and contextualize all while working with a wide range of age groups. This book is amazing for people who just want a good story or people who want to dig deep in between the words and notice every little detail.

-Priyanka, age 17

