

Pre-viewing activities

- You have read the book. Describe the first scene of your personal film version.

- Getting to know the people

Prepare role cards.

Divide the class into groups of seven, give each student one role card.

Each student reads their role cards to identify with the respective person. They use the information to introduce the person to the rest of their group in order to find out how they are related to each other.

Alternatively, students develop a freeze frame to illustrate the relationship of the characters.

Role cards

Jonas, 12, lives with his family (not his biological one) in a community, isolated from all but a few towns, where everyone from small infants to the Chief Elder has an assigned role.

In his childhood, Jonas has learned that the Elders, who assign the children their careers, are always right.

December is approaching, the month of the “Ceremony of Twelve”, where Jonas is given his life’s work.

He is nervous and does not know what to expect.

Lily, 7, Jonas’ sister, is a little girl who likes to chat a lot and according to her age, does not realize when to be quiet. She is a fan of her brother’s and wants to know everything he does.

Lily is interested in a lot of things and quite clever for a child her age.

She is extremely practical.

Father, a Nurturer, who cares for the new babies, who are genetically engineered. He and Mother are not the biological parents of their children.

He is sad and worried about one baby who is not doing well, who does not sleep well and who does not grow fast. Therefore, the baby may be released. Father brings the “new child” home at night because the night crew of nurturers do not take good enough care of the children. He acts against the rules.

Mother, an official in the Department of Justice, is in charge of punishing offenders.

She takes her work seriously, hoping to help people who break rules realize their mistakes and better themselves. She frequently gives Jonas advice about the worries and fears he faces as he grows up.

Asher, 11, Jonas' best friend, a friendly, cheerful boy who thinks life is a game. He has trouble following the given rules and so he gets into conflict with the law. But, due to his friendly character, he is much liked by everyone and easily forgiven his minor blemishes.

The Giver, the old man currently the Receiver of Memory in the community. He has held the community's collective memory for many years and uses his wisdom to help the Committee of Elders make important decisions. He suffers from the pain his memories give him. He is not allowed to share these memories with the community and lives an isolated life.

Fiona, a young girl befriended with Jonas and Asher. She is a caring person but on the other hand curious and interested in finding out more about Jonas' new position. She does not realize that she is able to grow beyond herself.

- Watch the beginning of the film without the sound. What is happening here? Describe the setting.
- What can we see/hear/smell/taste/feel in the first scene?

Quelle: <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2e4yeb>, letzter Aufruf: 09.06.2021

While viewing questions

1. What do you learn about Jonas in the first scene?
2. Why is Asher worried that this is their last night of childhood?
3. Do you think Jonas's response comforts Asher and Fiona? Give reasons for your answer.
4. What is the difference between Jonas being selected and other children being assigned?
5. Jonas gets an unusual new set of rules along with his new "job". Write down the new rules he gets.
6. Why, as Jonas receives memories from the Giver, does the film change from black and white to color?
7. When and why does Jonas think that the elders were right?
8. What has been done away with in this society in the course of time? Name five examples.
9. Why is it so important to Jonas that Fiona stops receiving her injections? What motivates him to try to convince her?
10. What does Fiona hear and see after she did not take her injections anymore?
11. In Jonas' community, is choice a luxury or is it a burden for its members?
12. What information do you get about Rosemary? Name three facts.
13. Which incident makes Jonas realize that this society is wrong?

Possible answers

While viewing questions

1. What do you learn about Jonas in the first scene?
 - has no last name,
 - is scared the day before graduation,
 - is able to see things other people do not see,
 - his friends are Fiona and Asher,
 - lives in a world where differences are not allowed.
2. Why is Asher worried that this is their last night of childhood?
 - Everything is going to be different.
3. Do you think Jonas's response is comforting to Asher and Fiona? Give reasons for your answer.
 - somehow comforting, because they are friends,
 - will be friends forever,
 - they and their relationship do not seem to change.
4. What is the difference between Jonas' being selected and other children being assigned?
 - All are assigned for a job, e.g., Asher as drone pilot, Fiona as nurturer,
 - Jonas is selected as next receiver of memory, because he has got outstanding attributes: intelligence, integrity, courage, the capacity to see beyond,
 - it seems like a menace for him,
 - all cheer him up, but actually do not show any emotions.
5. Jonas gets an unusual new set of rules along with his new "job." Write down the new rules he gets.
 - Report directly to the receiver of memory for your training. After training, return immediately to your dwelling.
 - You are exempt from all rules governing rudeness. You may ask all questions.
 - Beside from your daily injections, you may not receive other medicines, especially those for pain.
 - You may not discuss your training with anyone.
 - You may lie.
6. Why, as Jonas receives memories from the Giver, does the film change from black and white to color?
 - In Jonas' world, they did away with colors, and any other differences,
 - there they created sameness to abolish envy, anger, hatred,
 - memories from the "real world" called "elsewhere" are colored,
 - having stopped the injections Jonas can see more and more colors.
7. When and why does Jonas think that the elders were right?
 - When he feels pain and cannot do anything to change the situation,
 - he sees that war is real, people murder each other,
 - he does not want to any killing.
8. What has been done away with in this society in the course of time? Name five examples.
 - Emotions,

- dancing,
 - people of different color,
 - other creatures who knew who their parents were, who had joy and pain,
 - cruelty (culling of elephants),
 - dreams,
 - love,
 - war, killing people,
 - loss (child taken from her mother).
9. Why is it so important to Jonas that Fiona stops receiving her injections? What motivates him to try to convince her?
- Wants her to feel what he knows,
 - wants to share the good things with her,
 - Fiona, as nurturer, will be trained to kill babies, will have no feelings.
10. What does Fiona hear and see after she did not take her injections anymore?
- First is scared because she is not used to feeling anything,
 - cannot describe her feelings,
 - later describes them as warm, nice, beautiful,
 - feels love.
11. In Jonas's community, is choice a luxury or is it a burden for its members?
- It is a burden because people are said to choose wrong.
12. What information do you get about Rosemary? Name three facts.
- The Giver's daughter,
 - learned to play the piano,
 - was in training to become the next Giver for two months,
 - was released after those two months.
13. Which incident makes Jonas realize that this society is wrong?
- His father returning Gabriel to the nurturing center to release him into "elsewhere" (to murder him),
 - this society did not eliminate murder, they just called it differently.

Post viewing questions

1. How do friendships change across the duration of the story? What causes these changes?
2. Even though the Giver is technically required to transfer all memories to the Receiver, both good and bad, do you think this is necessary? Give reasons.
3. What significance does the absence of love have on the community as a whole?
4. With which character in the story do you most closely identify or sympathize? Explain your choice.

Individual answers

Post viewing activities

- Develop a series of freeze frames showing Jonas', Asher's' and Fiona's development during the film.
- Add a new scene. Act out the new scene in class or record the new scene.
- "Blow up" a scene, e.g., Jonas' family talking. What do they really say?

Individual answers