

The Giver



The Giver by Lois Lowry

- *The Giver* is one of Lowry's most well-known novels. Along with its popularity, it is the recipient of the 1994 Newbery medal for the Most Distinguished Contribution to American Literature for Children.
- Lowry has written over twenty novels which range from historical fiction to fantasy, but they all share the common thread of addressing human themes.

About the Author

Birthplace: Hawaii

Birth Date: March 20, 1937

Parents: Robert & Katherine Hammersburg

Education: Brown University

—→ *Her father was in the Army so her family moved around a lot.
Lois has lived all around the world.*

Setting

What is a Utopia?

- A Utopia is a perfect place where people can lead perfect lives.

The Giver takes place in such an ideal community.

- Some synonyms for utopia are paradise, arcadia, and Zion.

Setting Continued..

→ The Society is ideal with everyone having a job that is 'especially suited' for them.

→ The elderly and new additions to the family are cared for and looked after.

→ There seems to be harmony and balance that comes with the utopia.

Conflict

→ A conflict is a problem or struggle between:

- (a) two characters
- (b) character and society
- (c) character and nature
- (d) an internal problem within a character

→ In *The Giver*, The main conflict is between Jonas as an individual and the society in which he lives! (Run video)

Discussion Questions

- The Giver details a society where “sameness” is the way. Although this is very different from our society, how are the societies alike?
- Why do Jonas’s parents tell him the word “love” is not accurate? What has happened to the concept of love in Jonas’s community?
- Why are books banned in the community? How does this compare to the banning of books as we know it in our