

The Giver

Chapters 1–5

by Lois Lowry

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: disgrace, distraught, intrigued, ironic, lurk, murky, pleasurable, recounted, ritual, serene

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–5 · Jonas awaits the Ceremony of Twelve

Section 2 · Chapters 6–8 · The Ceremony of Twelve

Section 3 · Chapters 9–13 · Jonas begins training with the Giver

Section 4 · Chapters 14–18 · Jonas receives memories of pain

Section 5 · Chapters 19–23 · Jonas questions the practice of release

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Cheating on the test brought **disgrace** to the whole team.

- A. a bitter argument
- B. a loss of honor and respect
- C. a harsh punishment

2. She was **distraught** when her dog slipped out the gate.

- A. badly confused
- B. deeply upset
- C. deeply embarrassed

3. The strange noise from the attic left her **intrigued**.

- A. curious and fascinated
- B. startled and uneasy
- C. annoyed and impatient

4. He gave an **ironic** laugh when his 'lucky' day ended in the emergency room.

- A. nervously uneasy
- B. quietly embarrassed
- C. darkly humorous

5. Crocodiles **lurk** in the shallows near the far bank.

- A. gather in large groups
- B. lie hidden, waiting
- C. swim slowly in circles

6. Frogs disappeared into the **murky** pond.

- A. dim and unclear
- B. shallow and warm
- C. wide and still

7. Her first taste of mango was **pleasurable**.

- A. enjoyable
- B. familiar
- C. surprising

8. She **recounted** the whole trip over dinner.

- A. told in detail
- B. complained about
- C. planned in advance

9. The team's pregame **ritual** ended with a shout.

- A. a short talk from the coach
- B. a quick stretching drill
- C. a set, repeated ceremony

10. The lake was **serene** in the early morning light.

- A. misty and gray
- B. bright and golden
- C. calm and peaceful

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

released — the Community's word for being permanently sent away from the community — a grave disgrace and 'statement of failure'

Ceremony of Twelve — the yearly rite at which each child turning twelve is given a lifelong Assignment

Assignment — the lifelong job the Committee of Elders selects for each new Twelve

Stirrings — the Community's term for the first feelings of desire, which are reported and then stopped with a daily pill

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	B
2	B
3	A
4	C
5	B
6	A
7	A
8	A
9	C
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Occasionally, when supplies were delivered by cargo planes to the landing field across the river, the children rode their bicycles to the riverbank and watched, intrigued, the unloading and then the takeoff directed to the west, always away from the community.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘intrigued’ most nearly means...

- A. confused and uncertain
- B. frightened and uneasy
- C. fascinated and curious

2 “There was an ironic tone to that final message, as if the Speaker found it amusing; and Jonas had smiled a little, though he knew what a grim statement it had been.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘ironic’ most nearly means...

- A. sharply angry about a small mistake
- B. darkly humorous about something serious
- C. sincerely cheerful about happy news

3 “‘Distraught’ is too strong an adjective to describe salmon-viewing.’ He turned and wrote ‘distraught’ on the instructional board. Beside it he wrote ‘distracted.’”

It can reasonably be inferred that ‘distracted’ appears beside ‘distraught’ because...

- A. it was harder to spell
- B. the two words share one meaning
- C. it was the milder, fitting word

4 “It was one of the rituals, the evening telling of feelings.”

According to the passage, the evening telling of feelings was...

- A. an established, repeated custom
- B. a new practice still being tested
- C. a game invented on the spot

5 “There was even a boy in his group of Elevens whose father had been released years before. No one ever mentioned it; the disgrace was unspeakable.”

Which detail from the passage best supports the idea that the release was a disgrace?

- A. the boy was in Jonas’s group
- B. it had happened years before
- C. no one ever mentioned it

6 “Depth, he decided; as if one were looking into the clear water of the river, down to the bottom, where things might lurk which hadn’t been discovered yet.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘lurk’ most nearly suggests that...

- A. the deep water was dangerous
- B. hidden things might wait below
- C. things below would soon surface

7 “It was a serene and slow-paced place, unlike the busy centers of manufacture and distribution where the daily work of the community occurred.”

According to the passage, unlike the busy work centers, the place described was...

- A. strict and formal
- B. calm and peaceful
- C. gloomy and neglected

8 “His mind wandered while Lily, as usual, recounted a lengthy dream, this one a frightening one in which she had, against the rules, been riding her mother’s bicycle and been caught by the Security Guards.”

In the passage, Lily is characterized as...

- A. fond of long, detailed storytelling
- B. fearful and timid by nature
- C. a habitual rule-breaker

9 “The details were murky and vague. But the feelings were clear, and flooded him again now as he thought.”

According to the passage, as Jonas thought back on the dream...

- A. only the feelings came back clearly
- B. the feelings had faded away
- C. every detail returned sharply

10 “The dream had felt pleasurable. Though the feelings were confused, he thought that he had liked the feelings that his mother had called Stirrings.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘pleasurable’ most nearly means...

- A. enjoyable and satisfying
- B. forbidden and shameful
- C. confusing and unsettling

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	Verbal irony as a tone: the announcement treats a grim fact as if it were amusing. Both halves — 'amusing' and 'grim' — are stated in the excerpt, so the contrast is on the page.
3	C	
4	A	
5	C	
6	B	The 'depth' described is Jonas's unusual pale eyes; the simile hints they suggest qualities not yet revealed. The question stays on the river image the excerpt gives.
7	B	
8	A	
9	A	
10	A	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–5

Introduces Jonas, his family, and the rigidly ordered Community as the December Ceremony of Twelve approaches, where each Twelve receives a lifelong Assignment. Establishes the rules, the enforced Sameness, and Jonas's growing apprehension. Grouped as the pre-Ceremony setup; the break falls just before the Ceremony itself.