

The Giver: Chapters 13-16

Keywords/Quotations	Notes
<p>1. How does The Giver view the decision makers in the community? Why? Cite text evidence from his dialogue and/or demeanor to support your response.</p>	<p>The Giver views the decision makers in the community negatively. During his interaction with Jonas, he expresses some doubt and critique of their decision-making abilities and believes they lack wisdom. He also verbally attacks them as saying "They no nothing," when Jonas tries to share how he learned about how the mind works. The Giver has disdain for the community because he - and he alone - understands what the community has sacrificed. In addition, he is alone in his ability to process, understand, and exist with the memories, which likely leads him to be lonely and angry about his situation.</p>
<p>2. What is significant about the following dialogue from The Giver? Why?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Jonas thought about it, what it would be like for him. "Along with walking, and eating, and --" He looked around the walls of books. "Reading? That's it?"</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Giver shook his head. "Those are simply the things I <i>do</i>. My <i>life</i> is here."</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"In this room?"</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Giver shook his head. He put his hands to his own face, to his chest. "No. Here, in my being. Where the memories are."</p>	<p>The Giver's dialogue demonstrates that he does not view what he does as living. Instead, he tries to explain to Jonas that his life is made up of the memories - that, to him, is experiencing life. This also signifies that The Giver has understanding that no one else - not even Jonas, yet - has. Because he says that his life is in his being, where the memories are, we can infer that The Giver does not believe that the members of Jonas' community are able to truly live or experience life.</p>
<p>3. How does Jonas respond to The Giver saying, "They know nothing." What does this reveal about Jonas' character and perspective?</p>	<p>Jonas reacts with shock and with fear. The text states that he glances at the speaker on the wall to ensure that the switch has been turned off. He also whispers when he responds with a follow-up question to The Giver. This suggests that Jonas still has fear and anxiety about going against the community rules. He knows that community members are not allowed to speak so negatively, and he still holds fear about the possible consequences of this.</p>

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<p>4. What inference can you make about The Giver's perspective on his community based on his dialogue and demeanor in chapter 13? Cite text evidence in your response.</p> <p>5. Compare and contrast Jonas' interaction/conversation with The Giver and his conversation with his parents. What do his dialogue and demeanor in each interaction suggest about how his character is changing?</p> <p>6. What choices does Jonas make that he has not made before? Why are these significant?</p>	<p>Based on The Giver's dialogue and demeanor, he does not believe the community has made the right decision to move to Sameness. He believes that they have sacrificed too much, but they are unable to see the consequences of their choices because he and he alone has the memories. The Giver also appears angry at the elders and the community leaders. This can be seen through his dialogue of, "They know nothing!" Given The Giver is alone in his understanding and called upon to help only in bad times rather than to provide true wisdom, he appears to resent the community.</p> <p>Jonas' interactions with The Giver and his conversation with his parents are markedly different. After experiencing the memory of love, family, and grandparents, Jonas shares openly, honestly, and vulnerably with The Giver, expressing how much he liked the memory and how he wishes that the community could still have grandparents and love even though he sees that there is some risk involved. He also expresses that he wishes The Giver could be his grandparent, which demonstrates he is building a deep connection with The Giver and feelings for him as someone who cares for and possibly even loves him (or at least can understand the capacity and emotion of love). His interaction with his parents is rigid and almost scripted. He asks a question to push them, and they give him the "textbook" response about precise language. As a result, he lies to them to end the conversation because he realizes that they could never understand. By asking the question to his parents - and by voicing his real feelings to The Giver - Jonas demonstrates that he is becoming more bold and more willing to openly question his community.</p> <p>Jonas begins to voice his true feelings to The Giver. He begins to question why the community has gotten rid of certain things that bring such joy and sense of completeness (like grandparents, family, and love). His conversation with The Giver also shows that he is beginning to doubt the rationale argument for why the community made these choices. Jonas also lies for the first time, which demonstrates that he is willingly breaking rules of his community, and doing so even with those closest to him. Jonas realizes that he has a unique understanding that no one else has.</p>