

### Incident Chart

In the chart below, track incidents in which being “released” is discussed in the text. In the left-hand column, note the incident by citing textual evidence that describes the release and specific page numbers. In the second column, record your observations and inferences about what this suggests about how release is viewed by Jonas and his community.

Incidents of Release	How is it viewed by Jonas/ the community?
P.31: “This morning, we celebrated the release of Roberto,” she told him. “It was wonderful.”	Larissa describes the release as something to be celebrated, which suggests that release is a celebration or joyful event for the elderly.
<p>P.32: Larissa explains more about Roberto’s release and how he felt about it. “Well, there was the telling of his life. That is always first. Then the toast. We all raised our glasses and cheered. We chanted the anthem. He made a lovely good-bye speech. And several of us made little speeches wishing him well.”</p> <p>Larissa doesn’t know what happens during the actual release, but she shares Roberto’s perception: “I don’t know. I don’t think anybody does, except the committee. He just bowed to all of us and then walked, like they all do, through the special door of the Releasing Room. But you should have seen his look. Pure happiness, I’d call it.”</p>	Larissa describes the release as a joyous celebration, and Roberto felt “pure happiness” after his ceremony. Jonas is curious about the release and wishes that he would be able to see a release.

p. 2: In chapter 1, the pilot who mistakenly flew over Jonas community against the rules is released. The text states, "NEEDLESS TO SAY, HE WILL BE RELEASED."	Jonas' reaction to the release signifies that being released is something that can be negative in the community. The text states, "Jonas had smiled a little, though he knew what a grim statement it had been. For a contributing citizen to be released from the community was a final decision, a terrible punishment, an overwhelming statement of failure." This shows that being released can be a negative punishment or consequence.
p.9: Mother discusses her worry that a person who has committed his second transgression will commit another and be released. She says, "You know that there's not third change. The rules say that if there's a third transgression, he simply has to be released. Jonas shivered.""	Mother's worry about the person suggests that release is a bad thing. Jonas' reaction, to shiver at this news, also suggests that release is something to be feared.
P.9: Jonas thinks of a boy whose father was released. The text states, "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. It was hard to imagine."	This shows that the idea of release is something that the community views as negative and disgraceful. Jonas and his friends do not discuss the boy's father, who was released, which shows that it is something that people do not like to discuss.
P.12 Father shares that the new child, Gabriel, may be released if he does not continue to develop. He says, "His name - if he makes it to the Naming without being released, of course - is to be Gabriel."	Father says this in a matter-of-fact way that does not convey positive or negative emotion.
P.136 Father explains what he does in preparation of a new child's release. He says, "I weigh them, hand the larger to a Nurturer who's standing by waiting, and then I get the smaller one all cleaned up and comfy. Then I perform a small Ceremony of Release and --' He glanced down, grinning at Gabriel. 'Then I wave bye-bye,' he said, in the special sweet voice he used when he spoke to the newchild." He also explains to Jonas that he doesn't take the released child to Elsewhere, but someone else comes to get him/her.	Father's explanation of the preparation for release shows that he takes care of the child prior to the release. He ensures it is clean, and comfortable, and he suggests that someone else then takes the child after he performs a Ceremony of Release. His description and mannerisms, including waving and smiling to Gabriel in a sweet voice, suggest release is a positive thing.

P. 150 Jonas finally learns what release truly means in the community: "With an odd, shocked feeling, Jonas recognized the gestures and posture and expression. They were familiar. He had seen them before. But he couldn't remember where.

Jonas stared at the screen, waiting for something to happen. But nothing did. The little twin lay motionless. His father was putting things away. Folding the blanket. Closing the cupboard.

Once again, as he had on the playing field, he felt the choking sensation. Once again he saw the face of the light-haired, bloodied soldier as life left his eyes. The memory came back.

*He killed it! My father killed it!* Jonas said to himself, stunned at what he was realizing. He continued to stare at the screen numbly....

Jonas felt a ripping sensation inside himself, the feeling of terrible pain clawing its way forward to emerge in a cry."

Jonas is horrified by the release. The author describes him as pained by what he sees, as though he is "ripping" from the inside. This contrasts greatly with his father, who views the release as just another part of his job. His description of release from the previous chapter shows that he is not at all horrified by what he is doing. He smiles and waves bye-bye as he releases - or kills - the infants.