

THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY AND WALDEN MEDIA PRESENT

THE GIVER

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY LOIS LOWRY

ONLY IN THEATERS
AUGUST 15, 2014

In a seemingly perfect community, without war, pain, suffering, differences or choice, a young man is chosen to learn from an older man about the true pain and pleasure of the “real” world.

Go to WWW.WALDEN.COM/THEGIVER and register for a chance to win a TRIP FOR TWO to the WORLD PREMIERE IN NEW YORK CITY! See back panel for details.

A LETTER FROM WALDEN MEDIA

Walden Media is honored to bring Lois Lowry’s powerful story about the wisdom of memory, *The Giver*, to the screen. *The Giver* is an extraordinary work of art for readers of all ages. The assignment of the word “art” to a story — for young readers in particular — carries with it an important obligation. Playwright Anton Chekhov said that the purpose of art was not to offer solutions, but to correctly pose the questions. This is *The Giver*’s genius: correctly-posed questions framed by the story of a young person’s coming of age in a community where everything is taken care of, where sameness has replaced want, freedom and the capacity to question — to see.

Walden Media’s film adaptation of *The Giver* presents a story at the center of the canon of beloved stories for young people, a story that wrestles with powerful questions of human motivation, and a story that offers tremendous hope in the face of overwhelming odds. Above all, we at Walden Media hope our film of *The Giver* celebrates the singular vision of Lois Lowry, an author who, like our hero Jonas, has learned to see far Beyond.

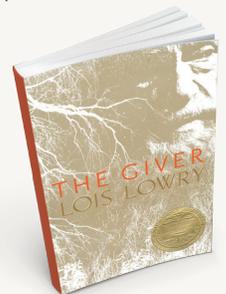
HOW TO USE THIS POSTER WITH STUDENTS

The activities within this activity poster are recommended for students in grades 6 through 8 and meet Common Core State Standards in English/Language Arts. Each activity includes context-setting comments for students and instructions so that students can either work independently, or as a class. Applicable Common Core State Standards for activities appear on Panel 7 of this poster. All pages are gray-scalable and may be photocopied for use with students.

READ THE NOVEL FROM HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.

Hardcover 978-0-547-99566-3, Paperback 978-0-544-33626-1 (Available July 2014), E-book 978-0-547-34590-1



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For educational resources, go to walden.com/thegiver

ACTIVITY I

“Other Rivers Flowing:” Author Lois Lowry Reflects on the Origins of *The Giver*

In her speech accepting the 1994 Newbery Award for *The Giver*, Lois Lowry discussed two questions she is often asked by students: “How do you know where to start?” and “How did you get this idea?” This activity will help you gain answers to these two questions.

READ TWO PORTIONS FROM LOWRY’S ACCEPTANCE SPEECH FOR *THE GIVER*:



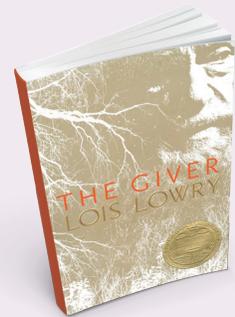
• “I’d like, tonight, to...try to tell you the origins of this book. It is a little like Jonas looking into the river and realizing that it carries with it everything that has come from an Elsewhere. A spring, perhaps, at the beginning, bubbling up from the earth; then a trickle from a glacier; a mountain stream entering farther along; and each tributary bringing with it collected bits and pieces from the past, from the distant, from the countless Elsewheres: all of it moving, mingled, in the current. For me, the tributaries are memories, and I’ve selected only a few...”

• “In beginning to write *The Giver*... I tried to make Jonas’s world seem familiar, comfortable and safe, and I tried to seduce the reader. I seduced myself along the way. It did feel good, that world. I got rid of all the things I fear and dislike; all the violence, prejudice, poverty and injustice, and I even threw in good manners as a way of life because I liked the idea of it. One child has pointed out, in a letter, that the people in Jonas’s world didn’t even have to do the dishes....”

YOUR TURN

A video of Lois Lowry delivering her Newbery Award acceptance speech, as well as a transcript of that speech can be found online at: loislowry.com. Click on “Collections” on the main page, then “Speeches.”

Read or watch the speech. Think about the “tributaries” or memories of Lois Lowry’s that have contributed to *The Giver*. How do these memories appear in *The Giver*? Use the space below to record your observations.



LOIS LOWRY’S MEMORIES

HOW THEY APPEAR IN *THE GIVER*

“I tried to make Jonas’s world seem familiar, comfortable and safe. I tried to seduce the reader. I seduced myself along the way. It did feel good, that world.”

–Lois Lowry

TALK IT OVER

As you read, look for what Lowry calls “the good things” about the world of *The Giver*. Does your opinion of these “good things” change as you read further? Why or why not?



ACTIVITY 2

The World of *The Giver*: From Words on a Page to Images on the Screen

Author Lois Lowry's words offer readers powerful images. Readers can use these images to create their own pictures as they read. For the movie of *The Giver*, words are turned into powerful images by some of the most talented artists in filmmaking today. This activity will help you explore how words from a book "move" to the screen, by comparing a scene from the book *The Giver* with the same scene from the movie script.

DESCRIPTION OF JONAS ENTERING THE GIVER'S LIVING AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME (FROM *THE GIVER*)

Jonas hurried through the door and found himself in a comfortably furnished living area. It was not unlike his own family unit's dwelling...But the most conspicuous difference was the books. In his own dwelling, there were the necessary reference volumes that each household contained....

But this room's walls were completely covered by bookcases, filled, which reached to the ceiling. There must have been hundreds—perhaps thousands—of books, their titles embossed in tiny letters.

Jonas stared at them. He couldn't imagine what the thousands of pages contained. Could there be rules beyond the rules that governed the Community?...

He only had a second to look around because he was aware that the man sitting in a chair beside the table was watching him. Hastily, he moved forward, stood before the man, bowed slightly, and said, "I'm Jonas."

"I know. Welcome, Receiver of Memory."

(HARDCOVER EDITION, CHAPTER 10, PAGES 93-94)

A SCENE FROM *THE GIVER* MOVIE SCRIPT

INTERIOR THE GIVER'S RESIDENCE -
TRANSEPT—MORNING

JONAS walks down a long transept. Dimly lit by glowing rectangles along the stone floor, he's slow, hesitant. He's scared. His finger traces the long cold wall. Tension builds. JONAS reaches an oversized wooden door. He raises a fist. He knocks. Nothing. He turns the knob. The door clicks open. Jonas takes a deep breath. He pushes the door...

INTERIOR THE GIVER'S RESIDENCE—MORNING

JONAS enters to see a huge spiral staircase to a large room. Dark, walnut shelves reach thirty feet in the air, holding book after book after book - THOUSANDS! He looks at furniture - a plush day bed, a heavy oak table - everything grander.

A LARGE WINDOW at the rear reveals only the MIST... JONAS is so in awe of his surroundings that he doesn't see the RECEIVER, who sits motionless at his desk, to the side of all this, watching him intently. JONAS gazes up at the-

GIVER
Books. Your books.

transept noun

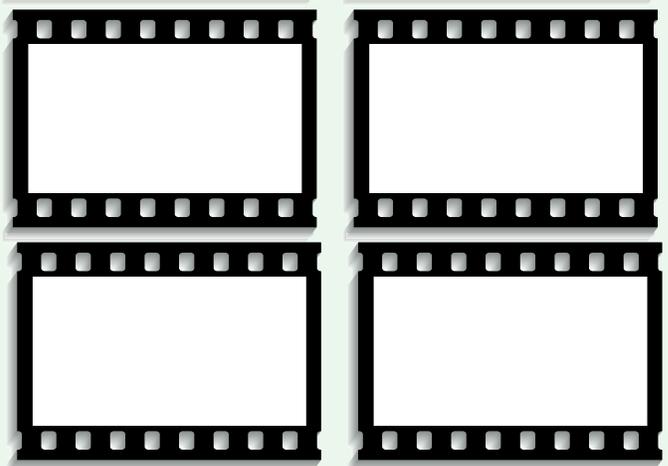
The section of a building that runs perpendicular to its main part, forming a kind of cross shape. Many transepts are found in churches.

YOUR TURN

- In what ways are the descriptions of the books in the Giver's living quarters similar in the novel and in the script? In what ways are they different?
- What are the most descriptive words or phrases Lois Lowry uses in the novel to show Jonas's reactions to the Giver's living quarters? To show Jonas's first reaction to the Giver? How is Jonas's reaction conveyed in the script?
- Why do you think the movie script includes a transept for Jonas to walk on, and a spiral staircase in the Giver's living quarters? What do you think these physical objects communicate to a movie audience about the Giver? About Jonas? About this first meeting?

BEFORE YOU SEE THE MOVIE

In the boxes provided, draw what you think this scene from the movie script will look like on screen.



AFTER YOU SEE THE MOVIE

Compare your drawing with what you saw on screen. How is the room similar to what you expected? How is it different?

ACTIVITY 3

“Precision of language, please!”

Precision of language is a phrase used often in *The Giver*. It is very important for the well-being of the community. But why is it so important? What’s behind it? This activity will help you explore these questions.

FROM THE GIVER

“Do you love me?”

There was an awkward silence for a moment. Then Father gave a little chuckle. “Jonas. You, of all people. Precision of language, please!”

“What do you mean?” Jonas asked. Amusement was not at all what he had anticipated.

“Your father means that you have used a very generalized word, so meaningless that it’s become almost obsolete,” his mother explained carefully.

Jonas stared at them. Meaningless? He had never before felt anything as meaningful as the memory [of love he’s received from the Giver].

“And of course, our community can’t function smoothly if people don’t use precise language. You could ask, ‘Do you enjoy me?’ The answer is, ‘Yes,’” his mother said.

“Or,” his father suggested. “‘Do you take pride in my accomplishments?’ And the answer is wholeheartedly ‘Yes.’”

“Do you understand why it’s inappropriate to use a word like ‘love’?” Mother asked.

Jonas nodded. “Yes, thank you, I do,” he replied slowly.

It was his first lie to his parents.

(HARDCOVER EDITION, CHAPTER 16, PAGES 159-160)

euphemism noun
A polite expression used in place of words or phrases that might be considered harsh, unkind or unpleasant to hear. Euphemism has also been described as “the language of avoidance.”

DISCUSS WHAT EACH OF THESE EUPHEMISMS FOUND IN *THE GIVER* STANDS FOR

RELEASE _____

COMFORT OBJECT _____

NURTURERS _____

LOSS _____

NEWCHILDREN _____

REPLACEMENT _____

DWELLING _____

ELSEWHERE _____

BIRTHMOTHERS _____

NAME SOME EUPHEMISMS YOU HEAR PEOPLE USING

Then share how you think they hide a more uncomfortable reality. (One example would be using the phrase “collateral damage” instead of the word “killing.”)

YOUR TURN

1. Why does Jonas’s mother choose to use the words “function” and “smoothly” when she says, “Our community can’t function smoothly if people don’t use precise language”? What words didn’t she use here? Why? How would the meaning of her statement change if she used different words here?
2. Why is it important to the community that the word “love” has become “almost obsolete”?
3. Why does Jonas tell his first lie in this moment? What does Jonas realize about his parents?

TALK IT OVER



- If “precision of language” is vital to the community, why do the members of the community use so many euphemisms in everyday conversation? (Euphemisms are not at all precise.)
- Without the experience of love, or memories of love, there’s no need for the word love. Why is it important for community members to live in a world without love? Why do you think the word “love” still exists in the community if there is no need for it?

ACTIVITY 4

The Giver as Teacher/Lessons for Jonas

The Giver has two “jobs.” The Giver transmits memories to Jonas, and he acts as Jonas’s teacher by offering Jonas the wisdom contained in the memories that are transmitted. In this activity you can explore some important memories transmitted from the Giver to Jonas. You can either pantomime them or act them out and think about the lessons the Giver offers Jonas through those memories.

FROM THE GIVER: THE GIVER MEETS JONAS FOR THE FIRST TIME

“...Simply stated, although it’s not really simple at all, my job is to transmit to you all the memories I have within me. Memories of the past... It’s the memories of the whole world... Before you, before me, before the previous Receiver, and generations before him... Here in this room, all alone, I re-experience them again and again. It is how wisdom comes. And how we shape our future.”

(HARDCOVER EDITION, CHAPTER 10, PAGES 97-98)



THINK ABOUT IT

Why is it so important for Jonas to understand that wisdom comes through memory in Jonas’s education as the community’s next Receiver?

If you were an actor playing the Giver or Jonas in the movie, what do you think some of the challenges would be in acting these scenes of transmission of memories? Why?

YOUR TURN

In pairs, act out or pantomime the following memories the Giver shares with Jonas. Show what experiences Jonas has as they are being transmitted to him. Then summarize the “wisdom” contained within the memories. Present your pantomimed scenes and your discussion of their wisdom for the class.

Note: The pages referenced below are from the hardcover edition of *The Giver*.

SLEDDING AND SNOW
(CHAPTERS 10 AND 11, PAGES 99-105)

Lined writing area for the SLEDDING AND SNOW memory.

SUNSHINE
(CHAPTER 11, PAGES 107-109)

Lined writing area for the SUNSHINE memory.

PHYSICAL PAIN
(CHAPTERS 13 AND 14, PAGES 149-151)

Lined writing area for the PHYSICAL PAIN memory.

Write these descriptions of memories on index cards. Then invite each classmate to pull a card and describe what Jonas learns about the memory indicated.

GIVING GABRIEL A MEMORY
(CHAPTER 14, PAGES 146-147)

Lined writing area for the GIVING GABRIEL A MEMORY memory.

THE GIVER’S FAVORITE MEMORY
(CHAPTER 16, PAGES 153-155)

Lined writing area for the THE GIVER’S FAVORITE MEMORY memory.

A BIRTHDAY PARTY AND VISITING MUSEUMS/COLOR
(CHAPTER 16, PAGE 153)

Lined writing area for the A BIRTHDAY PARTY AND VISITING MUSEUMS/COLOR memory.

“THE TERRIBLE SHARED MEMORY OF WAR”
(CHAPTER 15, PAGES 149-151)

Lined writing area for the “THE TERRIBLE SHARED MEMORY OF WAR” memory.

ACTIVITY 5

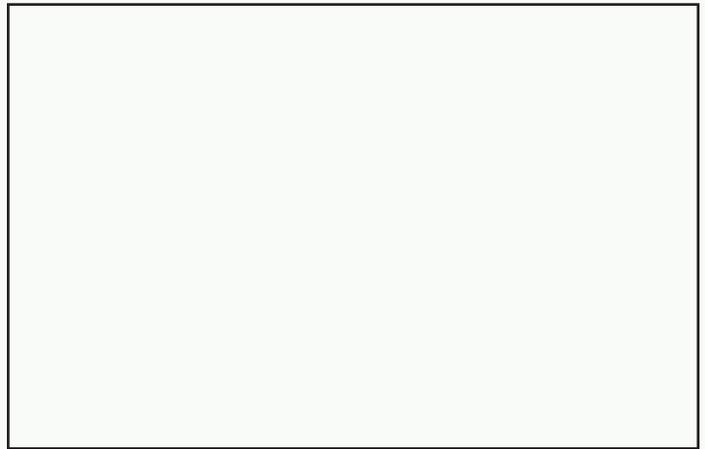
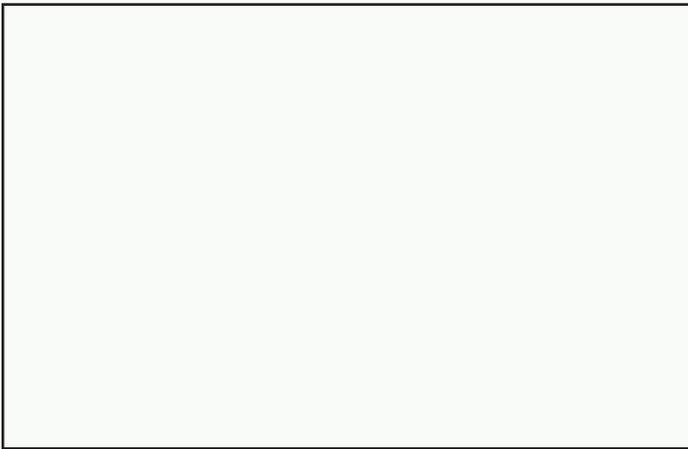
Seeing What Jonas Sees: The Changing View of Elsewhere

Elsewhere is a place far beyond the community. It's a place no one has ever seen or visited, but one that everybody takes for granted as real. For Jonas, Elsewhere is first a hope and then an actual destination. In this activity, you can "see" as Jonas does, by illustrating Jonas's changing views of Elsewhere as he learns to "see beyond."

ILLUSTRATE ANY TWO OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIONS OF ELSEWHERE DESCRIBED FROM JONAS'S PERSPECTIVE.

Note: The pages referenced below are from the hardcover edition of *The Giver*.

1. "Those who were released — even as newchildren — were sent Elsewhere and never returned to the community."
(chapter 6, page 54)
2. "Jonas, listening, thought suddenly about the bridge and how, standing there, he had wondered what lay Elsewhere. Was someone there, waiting, who would receive the tiny, released twin? Would it grow up Elsewhere, not knowing, ever, that in this community lived a being who looked exactly the same?" (chapter 14, pages 144-145)
3. "Now, through the memories, he had seen oceans and mountain lakes and streams that gurgled through woods; and now he saw the familiar wide river beside the path differently. He saw all of the light and color and history it contained and carried in its slow-moving water; and he knew that there was an Elsewhere from which it came, and the Elsewhere to which he was going." (chapter 17, pages 164-165)
4. "The runners [of the sled] sliced through the snow and the wind whipped at his face as they sped in a straight line through an incision that seemed to lead to the final destination, that place that he had always felt was waiting, the Elsewhere that held their future and their past."
(chapter 23, page 224)



How do your pictures convey Jonas's changing view of Elsewhere?



COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE

PREPARING AMERICA'S STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE & CAREER

Common Core Standards for Activities

The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. For more information, please go to: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Activity 1: "Other Rivers Flowing:" Author Lois Lowry Reflects on the Origins of *The Giver*

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Standards – Reading: Literature: Key Ideas and Details **RL. 6-8.1, 6-8.2, 6-8.3**, Craft and Structure **RL. 6-8.4, 6-8.5**; Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration **SL. 6-8.1, 6-8.3**, Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas **SL. 6-8.4, 6-8.6**.

Activity 2: *The World of The Giver: From Words on a Page to Images on the Screen*

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Standards – Reading: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas **RI. 6-8.9**;
Writing: Text Types and Purposes **W. 6-8.3**, Production and Distribution of Writing **W. 6-8.5**;
Language: Convention of Standard English **L. 6-8.1, 6-8.2**, Knowledge of Language **L. 6-8.3**.

Activity 3: "Precision of language, please!"

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Standards – Language: Vocabulary Acquisition and Use **L. 6-8.5**.

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Standards – Reading: Literature: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas **RI. 6-8.9**; Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration **SL. 6-8.2**.

Activity 4: *The Giver as Teacher/Lessons for Jonas*

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Standards – Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration **SL. 6-8.1, 6-8.3**, Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas **SL. 6-8.4, 6-8.5**; Language: Knowledge of Language **L. 6-8.3**.

Activity 5: *Seeing What Jonas Sees: The Changing View of Elsewhere*

Correlates to Common Core Language Arts Standards – Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration **SL. 6-8.1, 6-8.3**, Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas **SL. 6-8.4, 6-8.5**; Language: Knowledge of Language **L. 6-8.3**.

ABOUT LOIS LOWRY

Lois Lowry is known for her versatility and invention as a writer. She was born in Hawaii and grew up in New York, Pennsylvania, and Japan. She is the author of more than forty books for young adults, and has received two Newbery Medals, for *The Giver* and for *Number the Stars*. She has received countless honors, among them the Boston Globe–Horn Book Award, the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award, the California Young Reader's Medal, and the Mark Twain Award. She received the 2007 Margaret A. Edwards Award for a significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature. Her first novel, *A Summer to Die*, was awarded the International Reading Association's Children's Book Award. Ms. Lowry divides her time between Cambridge, Massachusetts, and a farmhouse in Maine. See: www.loislowry.com

SWEEPSTAKES FOR EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS

Enter for the chance to win a free trip for two to New York City for THE WORLD PREMIERE of *THE GIVER* in August 2014!
TO ENTER: GO TO: WWW.WALDEN.COM/THEGIVER AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS.

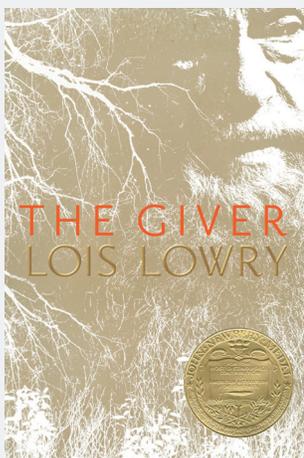
WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Any full-time teacher, school or public librarian, principal, educational paraprofessional, district professional, after school leader or registered home school parent.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE:

- Invitation for you and one guest to attend the world premiere of *The Giver*.
- Roundtrip economy airfare for two from any airport in the 50 United States or the District of Columbia to New York City, NY.
- Accommodation for two nights
- Meals and ground transportation to/from the airport and to/from the Premiere

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT NECESSARY. Sweepstakes begins at 12:01AM EDT, January 24th, 2014 and ends at 11:59PM EDT, June 30, 2014. Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia who are, at the time of entry, 18 years of age or older and are educational professionals, such as teachers, librarians, principals, educational paraprofessionals, district professionals, and afterschool leaders who have a valid school-associated email address, and registered home school parents. Limit one entry per email address per day. Odds of winning depend on the total number of eligible entries received. Approximate retail value of the prize awarded is \$4,000. The Sweepstakes is subject to the Official Rules (www.walden.com/TheGiverOfficialRules). All entries must be received by 11:59pm EDT, June 30, 2014. The Giver Sweepstakes is sponsored by Walden Media, LLC, 17 New England Executive Park, Suite 305, Burlington, MA 01803.

LOIS LOWRY'S GIVER QUARTET SERIES



The Giver

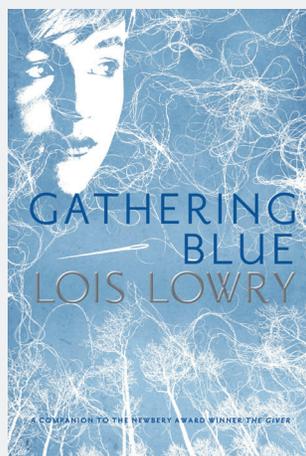
Hardcover 978-0-547-99566-3

Paperback 978-0-544-33626-1

(Available July 2014)

E-book 978-0-547-34590-1

The Giver, the 1994 Newbery Medal winner, has become one of the most influential novels of our time. The haunting story centers on Jonas, who lives in a seemingly ideal, if colorless, world of conformity and contentment. Not until he is given his life assignment as the Receiver of Memory does he begin to understand the dark, complex secrets behind his fragile community.



Gathering Blue

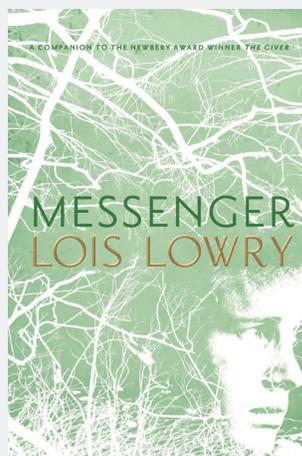
Hardcover 978-0-547-99568-7

Paperback 978-0-547-90414-6

E-book 978-0-547-34578-9

Kira— orphaned and physically flawed—is saved from an uncertain future by her skill at embroidery. She is sent to repair and watch over a robe of great significance to her primitive village but soon realizes this apparent honor could lead to the downfall of those she loves, including a young boy named Matt.

Book Two in The Giver Quartet



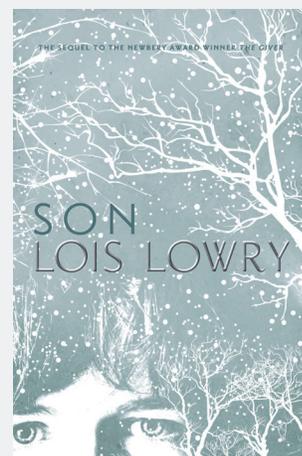
Messenger

Hardcover 978-0-547-99567-0,

E-book 978-0-544-33625-4

Trouble is brewing in Village. Once a utopian community that welcomed strangers, Village will soon be cut off to all outsiders. As one of the few able to traverse the forbidding Forest, Matty must deliver the message of Village's closing and try to convince Seer's daughter Kira to return with him before it's too late. But Forest is now hostile to Matty, too, and he must risk everything to fight his way through it.

Book Three in The Giver Quartet



Son

Hardcover 978-0-547-88720-3,

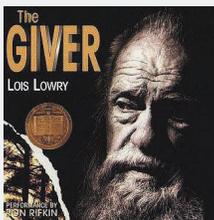
Paperback 978-0-544-33625-4

(Available May 2014)

E-book 978-0547-92851-7

Told in three parts, *Son* combines elements from the first three novels in the Giver Quartet into a breathtaking, thought-provoking narrative that wrestles with complexities and responsibilities of human freedom. Readers meet Claire, the birth mother of Jonas, and learn what happened to both Jonas and the baby Gabriel he rescued.

Book Four in The Giver Quartet



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Lois Lowry's entire Giver Quartet Series is available on audiobook from Listening Library. For over 55 years, Listening Library has been the leading publisher of unabridged audiobooks for children and teens. Our backlist includes the largest collection of Newbery winners, plus a wide selection of classic literature and popular fiction. Visit us at LISTENINGLIBRARY.COM to see what's new.

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For educational resources, go to walden.com/thegiver