

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

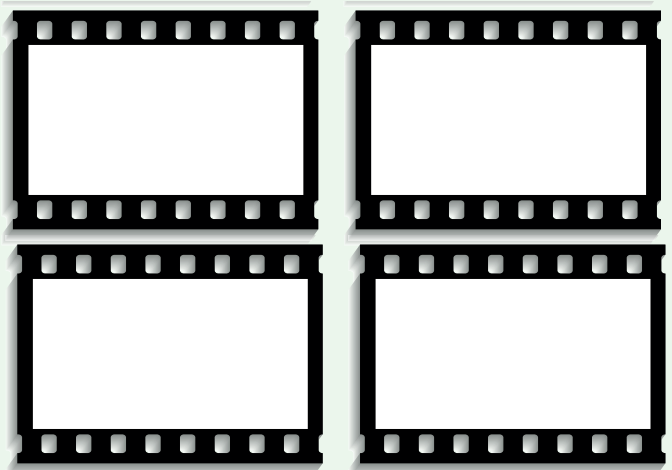
The section of a building that runs perpendicular to its main part, forming a kind of cross shape. Many transepts are found in churches.

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?