

Plan a circle: “The Giver”

Lois Lowry (1993) · novel · grades 6–8 · ~2–3 weeks. Rights: Copyrighted.

Kit section 5 (group agreement & calendar) filled in for one text — a finished plan students see before writing their own. *Tinted italic* = sample answers.

Preview note: Copyrighted — use a previewed edition. Contains “release” (euthanasia) and mature ideas. Verify all plot details against the book.

Copyright: Independent educational companion to *The Giver* by Lois Lowry. Students need lawful access to the novel; this planner does not reproduce or replace it and is not affiliated with the author or publisher. Verify all plot details against the book.

Text, group, and target

Text / author / edition	<i>“The Giver” — Lois Lowry (1993). Novel.</i>
Group / period / dates	<i>Jonah’s group · Period __ · Meetings __ & __</i>
Grade / TEKS target (p. 3)	Grade 7 · §110.23 — 7(A): theme through characters/events; 6(C,D): support inferences, summary; 1(D): student-led discussion.
Learning intention	We are learning to explain how Jonas’s growing awareness reveals a theme about memory, choice, and individuality.
Success criteria	I bring one open question, cite two details with chapter (paraphrased), respond to a peer, and name how my thinking changed.

Reading map & calendar

Chunk	Read through	Meeting date · leader
<i>1</i>	<i>Ch. 1–7: the community, the Ceremony, and Jonas chosen as Receiver.</i>	<i>Wk 1 · Leader: Jonah</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Ch. 8–15: training with the Giver — memories of color, pain, and love.</i>	<i>Wk 2 · Leader: Ari</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Ch. 16–23: learning what “release” means, and the escape with Gabriel.</i>	<i>Wk 3 · Leader: Sana</i>

Members & first-meeting jobs (p. 7 roles)

Member	First job	Rotates to (next meeting)
<i>Jonah</i>	<i>Questioner</i>	<i>Summarizer</i>
<i>Ari</i>	<i>Summarizer</i>	<i>Clarifier</i>
<i>Sana</i>	<i>Clarifier</i>	<i>Evidence tracker</i>
<i>Cruz</i>	<i>Predictor</i>	<i>Questioner</i>

Text-specific discussion questions (open — more than one answer)

- **Predict:** Jonas is chosen for a unique, “honored” role — what might the community be hiding behind Sameness?
- **Question:** Why might the community trade memory and color for “Sameness”?
- **Clarify:** What does “release” turn out to mean, and how does it change Jonas?
- **Summarize:** Trace what Jonas gains and loses as he receives memories, without opinion.
- **Interpret the theme:** How does Jonas’s awakening reveal a theme about memory and choice? Use two details (paraphrase).

Optional Jigsaw lenses (p. 4): *Character* (Jonas and the Giver) · *Setting* (the engineered community) · *Theme* (memory/individuality vs. Sameness) · *Plot* (the decision to leave) · *Symbol* (color and the sled).

Sample 3–2–1 notes: Sana, theme lens

Name: Sana · Home group: Jonah's group · Period ___ · Meetings ___ & ___ · Section: "The Giver," Chunk 2 · Expert lens: Theme

What a finished prep looks like. Kit section 6 / Organizer A completed for one reader, so students can compare their notes to a strong model. Paraphrase and short references only — no long copying. Paraphrase only — no quotations; verify details against the book.

Questions <i>Is a painless life worth the loss of choice?</i> <i>Why must Jonas leave to change anything?</i>	3 · Important ideas <i>1. The community removes pain by removing memory and choice.</i> <i>2. The Giver transfers memories that bring both joy and suffering.</i> <i>3. Jonas decides that freedom is worth the risk of pain.</i>
Vocabulary <i>Sameness = the community's erasure of difference.</i> <i>Receiver = the one who holds the community's memories.</i>	2 · Supporting details <i>1. Jonas first perceives color where others see none (early training). → Suppressed individuality. (Verify against the text.)</i> <i>2. Jonas learns that "release" means death (later). → The hidden cost of a painless society. (Verify against the text.)</i>

1 · Summary in my own words

Jonas discovers that his community's comfort depends on erasing memory and choice, and he leaves to restore them.

Bring to the circle

My interpretation: *A life without pain or memory is also a life without love or real choice.*

Synthesis (two lenses): *Jonas (character) enacts the theme: his awakening shows that memory and choice, though painful, are what make us human. Text points (paraphrased): first color (Chunk 2) and learning of "release" (Chunk 3).*

After discussion: *My thinking became clearer once the group compared evidence.*

TEKS evidence: 6(C,D) supported inference; 7(A) theme through characters/events; 1(D) response to a peer.