

Activity 2

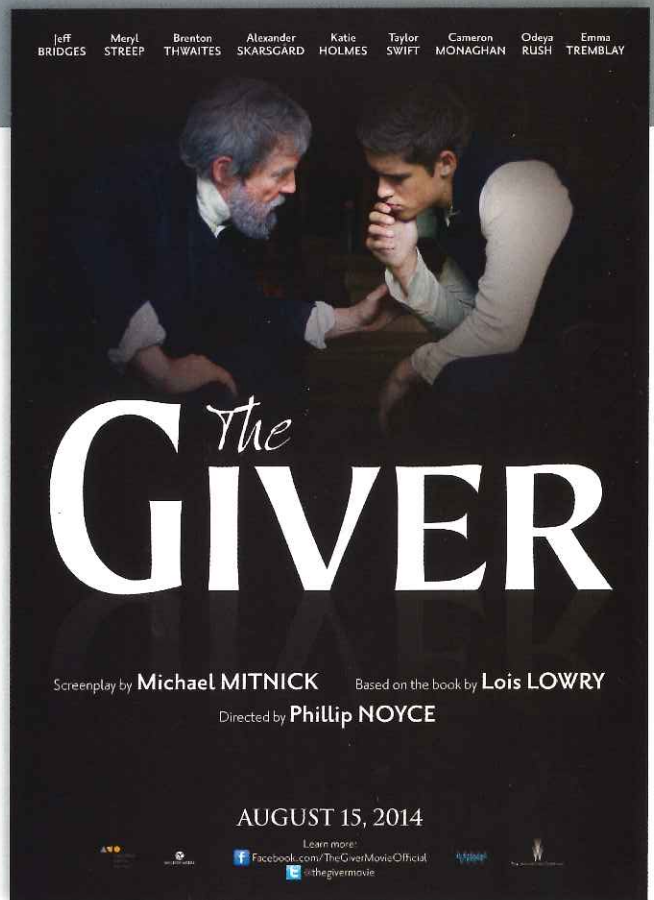
The World of *The Giver*: From Words on a Page to Images on the Screen

Author Lois Lowry's words create powerful images in the mind of the reader. In the movie version of *The Giver*, Lowry's words are turned into compelling images by some of the most talented artists in filmmaking today. Use this activity to guide your students as they explore how words "move" from book to screen by comparing a scene from the book with the same scene from the movie script.

Class Discussion:

Photocopy and hand out the reproducible on the facing page featuring an excerpt from the book next to an excerpt from the script. Once students have read through both selections, invite them to discuss the following:

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



Class Activity:

Before your students see the movie, ask them to imagine and then draw a picture or series of pictures of what this scene from the movie script will look like on-screen. Once your students have seen the movie, ask them to compare their drawings with what they saw on the screen. How is the room similar to what they expected? How is it different?



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Activity 2 Handout

This activity will help you explore how words “move” from book to screen by comparing a scene from the book with the same scene from the movie script.

A scene from *The Giver* movie script.

Description of Jonas entering the Giver’s living area for the first time.

(FROM *THE GIVER*: HARDCOVER EDITION, CHAPTER 10, PAGES 93-94)

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.”

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 grand.

A LARGE WINDOW at the rear reveals only the MIST... JONAS is so in awe of his surroundings that he doesn’t see the GIVER, 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.



Excerpts from *THE GIVER* by Lois Lowry. Copyright © 1993 by Lois Lowry. Used by permission of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.

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