

Activity 4

“It is how wisdom comes.” The Giver as Teacher

The Giver has two “jobs”: transmitting memories to Jonas and offering Jonas the wisdom contained in the memories that are transmitted. In this activity, invite your students to explore some important memories transmitted from the Giver to Jonas. As students act them out, encourage them to think about the lessons the Giver offers Jonas through those memories.

Class Discussion:

Read the excerpt below from *The Giver* and invite your students to discuss the following:

- Why is it so important for Jonas to understand that wisdom comes through each memory?
- 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?

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... And 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)

Class Activity:

Write the following memories on index cards and invite students to pull a card and act out the memory shared by the Giver. As a class, describe what Jonas learns about each memory and the “wisdom” contained within those memories.

SUNSHINE
(CHAPTER II, PAGES 107-109)

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

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

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

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

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

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