

"The Giver," Vocabulary from Chapters 1-4



30 words

September 26, 2013 By Vocabulary.com (NY)

As you read Lois Lowry's "The Giver," learn this word list that focuses on feelings. Here are links to our lists for the novel: [Chapters 1-4](#), [Chapters 5-8](#), [Chapters 9-13](#), [Chapters 14-18](#), [Chapters 19-23](#)

intrigue

1.

cause to be interested or curious

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Occasionally, when supplies were delivered by cargo planes to the landing field across the river, the children rode their bicycles to the riverbank and watched, **intrigued**, the unloading and then the takeoff directed to the west, always away from the community.*

2. jeer



laugh at with contempt and derision

NOTES:

The children would also be scolded for showing any feelings of contempt or derision (synonyms that mean "open disrespect for a person or thing"). In this community that relies on cooperation, cheering happens more often than jeering.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Even the children were scolded if they used the term lightly at play, **jeering** at a teammate who missed a catch or stumbled in a race.*

3. palpable



capable of being perceived; especially capable of being handled or touched or felt

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, thinking about the feeling of fear as he pedaled home along the river path, he remembered that moment of **palpable**, stomach-sinking terror when the aircraft had streaked above.*

4. distraught



deeply agitated especially from emotion

NOTES:

Here, Asher is using the wrong word to describe his feeling, since he wasn't upset but distracted with salmon-watching. This sentence would be more fitting if it had been Jonas describing his feeling in watching an airplane streak twice above the community; it could also foreshadow a later scene involving Jonas and airplanes.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I guess I just got **distraught**, watching them.*

5. wheedle



influence or urge by gentle urging, caressing, or flattering

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But like all parents—all adults—they didn't fight and **wheedle** for their turn.*

6. complicated



difficult to analyze or understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*His feelings were too **complicated** this evening.*

7. sift



check and sort carefully

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He wanted to share them, but he wasn't eager to begin the process of **sifting** through his own complicated emotions, even with the help that he knew his parents could give.*

8. defiant



boldly resisting authority or an opposing force

NOTES:

The family could smile at Lily's defiant gesture because she is only a Seven whose clenched fist is not opposing but supporting the community, since it is directed at a visiting Seven who didn't obey the rules. Even so, the family helps Lily to resolve her anger, and she apologizes for making the fist. This scene can be contrasted with Jonas's later acts of defiance, which increasingly require more boldness.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*She held up a clenched fist and the rest of the family smiled at her small **defiant** gesture.*

9. resolve



understand the meaning of

NOTES:

"Resolve" also means "reach a conclusion after a discussion or deliberation"—both definitions fit the purpose of the "evening telling of feelings" ritual; this sounds like a healthy way for families to bond, but as Jonas is discovering, it is also uncomfortably forced, since feelings can be too complicated or private to resolve in an after-dinner discussion.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Lily's feelings were always straightforward, fairly simple, usually easy to **resolve**.*

10. sympathetic



expressing or feeling or resulting from sympathy or compassion or friendly fellow feelings; disposed toward

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Oh, no," Mother murmured sympathetically. "I know how sad that must make you feel."
Jonas and Lily both nodded sympathetically as well.*

11. **capacity**



capability to perform or produce

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Most of the people on the night crew had not even been given spouses because they lacked, somehow, the essential **capacity** to connect to others, which was required for the creation of a family unit.*

12. **overwhelming**



very intense

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*To see him brought before her a second time caused her **overwhelming** feelings of frustration and anger. And even guilt, that she hadn't made a difference in his life.*

13. **soothe**



cause to feel better

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Soon she smiled, thanked them, and murmured that she felt **soothed**.*

14. **apprehensive**



mentally upset over possible misfortune or danger etc

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"I'm feeling **apprehensive**," he confessed, glad that the appropriate descriptive word had finally come to him.*

15. **fortunate**



having unexpected good fortune

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I felt very **fortunate**.*

16. **envy**



be envious of; set one's heart on

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*And he didn't **envy** Laborers at all.*

17. **reassured**

having confidence restored; freed from anxiety

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Though he had been **reassured** by the talk with his parents, he hadn't the slightest idea what Assignment the Elders would be selecting for his future, or how he might feel about it when the day came.*

18. chastisement



verbal punishment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Lily, he decided, would have to learn that soon, or she would be called in for **chastisement** because of her insensitive chatter.*

19. self-conscious



excessively and uncomfortably conscious of your appearance or behavior

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He felt **self-conscious**, realizing that he, too, had that look.*

20. petulant



easily irritated or annoyed

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*I think I'd like that," Lily said **petulantly**.*

21. humiliation



strong feelings of embarrassment

NOTES:

"Humiliation" also means "state of disgrace or loss of self-respect"—both definitions fit because Jonas knew he'd done something wrong, everyone had known he'd done something wrong, and the public announcement called attention to the fact that he'd done something wrong.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Everyone had known, he remembered with **humiliation**, that the announcement attention, this is a reminder TO MALE ELEVENS THAT OBJECTS ARE NOT TO BE REMOVED FROM THE RECREATION AREA AND THAT SNACKS are TO BE eaten, not hoarded had been specifically directed at him, the day last month that he had taken an apple home.*

22. remorse



a feeling of deep regret (usually for some misdeed)

NOTES:

The role the apple plays here could be compared to the fruit in the story of Eve in the Garden of Eden: both knew the rule, yet were tempted to break it by the possibility of a strange knowledge; both experienced feelings of shame and disgrace. Unlike Jonas, no amount of remorse or apologizing could help Eve regain her place; unlike Eve, Jonas soon discovers that his place is not paradise.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*No one had mentioned it, not even his parents, because the public announcement had been sufficient to produce the appropriate **remorse**.*

23. bewilderment



confusion resulting from failure to understand

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He probably should have brought up his feeling of **bewilderment** that very evening when the family unit had shared their feelings of the day.

24. **mystified**

totally perplexed and mixed up

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Jonas had been completely **mystified**.

25. **reflective** ✓

deeply or seriously thoughtful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The evening proceeded as all evenings did in the family unit, in the dwelling, in the community: quiet, **reflective**, a time for renewal and preparation for the day to come.

26. **awkward** ✓

hard to deal with; especially causing pain or embarrassment

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He knew him, of course, since they had always been groupmates, but they had never talked about the boys' accomplishments because such a conversation would have been **awkward** for Benjamin.

27. **serene** ✓

not agitated; without losing self-possession

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

It was a **serene** and slow-paced place, unlike the busy centers of manufacture and distribution where the daily work of the community occurred.

28. **mischievous** ✓

naughtily or annoyingly playful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But to be honest," she whispered with a **mischievous** look, "some of the tellings are a little boring.

29. **fond** ✓

(followed by `of' or `to') having a strong preference or liking for

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

I've never been **fond** of public speaking.

30. **chortle** ✓

laugh quietly or with restraint

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Maybe they'd study it," Jonas said slyly, and Larissa **chortled** with laughter.
