

## "The Giver," Vocabulary from Chapters 5-8



30 words

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

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### 1. **infraction**

1.

a crime less serious than a felony

NOTES:

"Disquieting" means "causing mental discomfort"—with an important position in the Department of Justice, Jonas's mother would know all the rules and be the one who scolds others for breaking them, which is why a dream like this would be disquieting to her.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jonas said the standard phrase automatically, and tried to pay better attention while his mother told of a dream fragment, a disquieting scene where she had been chastised for a rule **infraction** she didn't understand.*

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### 2. **reluctant**



not eager

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Together they agreed that it probably resulted from her feelings when she had reluctantly dealt punishment to the citizen who had broken the major rules a second time.*

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### 3. **interdependence**



a reciprocal relation between interdependent entities (objects or individuals or groups)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Fours, Fives, and Sixes all wore jackets that fastened down the back so that they would have to help each other dress and would learn **interdependence**.*

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### 4. **emblem**



a visible symbol representing an abstract idea

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The bicycle, at Nine, would be the powerful **emblem** of moving gradually out into the community, away from the protective family unit.*

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### 5. **reprieve**



a (temporary) relief from harm or discomfort

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He had been given an unusual and special **reprieve** from the committee, and granted an additional year of nurturing before his Naming and Placement.

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## 6. **inadequate**



**lacking the requisite qualities or resources to meet a task**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Normally such a newchild would be labeled **Inadequate** and released from the community.

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## 7. **relinquish**



**release, as from one's grip**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Each family member, including Lily, had been required to sign a pledge that they would not become attached to this little temporary guest, and that they would **relinquish** him without protest or appeal when he was assigned to his own family unit at next year's Ceremony.

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## 8. **accompany**



**go or travel along with**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But many came to the stage **accompanied** by another child beaming with pride to receive a little brother or sister, the way Jonas had when he was about to be a Five.

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## 9. **exuberant**



**joyously unrestrained**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The audience applause, which was enthusiastic at each Naming, rose in an **exuberant** swell when one parental pair, glowing with pride, took a male newchild and heard him named Caleb.

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## 10. **somber**



**grave or even gloomy in character**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The entire community had performed the Ceremony of Loss together, murmuring the name Caleb throughout an entire day, less and less frequently, softer in volume, as the long and **somber** day went on, so that the little Four seemed to fade away gradually from everyone's consciousness.

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## 11. **dutiful**



**willingly obedient out of a sense of duty and respect**

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Jonas could see them applauding dutifully as the Nines, one by one, wheeled their new bicycles, each with its gleaming name tag attached to the back, from the stage.

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## 12. transgression



the act of transgressing; the violation of a law or a duty or moral principle

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His **transgressions** were small ones, always: shoes on the wrong feet, schoolwork misplaced, failure to study adequately for a quiz.

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## 13. infringe



go against, as of rules and laws

NOTES:

"Infringe" (verb) and "infraction" (noun) both come from the Latin word "frangere" which means "to break." Within the verb "infringe" is the noun "fringe" which means "a marginal, peripheral or secondary part." Only The Receiver can live on the fringe of the community, is allowed to infringe on its rules, and is still highly respected.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But each such error reflected negatively on his parents' guidance and **infringed** on the community's sense of order and success.

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## 14. violation



a crime less serious than a felony

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But invariably the grinning Nines, who in technical **violation** of the rule had been practicing secretly for weeks, would mount and ride off in perfect balance, training wheels never touching the ground.

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## 15. distinguish



be a distinctive feature, attribute, or trait; sometimes in a very positive sense

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Jonas never found the Ceremony of Ten particularly interesting—only time-consuming, as each child's hair was snipped neatly into its **distinguishing** cut: females lost their braids at Ten, and males, too, relinquished their long childish hair and took on the more manly short style which exposed their ears.

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## 16. unaccustomed

not habituated to; unfamiliar with

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He saw the Tens stroking their new shortened hair, the females shaking their heads to feel the **unaccustomed** lightness without the heavy braids they had worn so long.

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## 17. meticulous



marked by extreme care in treatment of details

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The community was so meticulously ordered, the choices so carefully made.

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## 18. **correspond**



be compatible, similar or consistent; coincide in their characteristics

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*All of the factors—disposition, energy level, intelligence, and interests—had to **correspond** and to interact perfectly.*

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## 19. **scrupulous**



characterized by extreme care and great effort

NOTES:

"Scrupulous" when it's not synonymous with "meticulous" means "having ethical or moral principles"—this fits the description of the Committee of Elders, since they take extreme care to match assignments to each individual so that everyone would lead happy and productive lives that would contribute to the greater good of the community.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Like the Matching of Spouses and the Naming and Placement of newchildren, the Assignments were **scrupulously** thought through by the Committee of Elders.*

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## 20. **exasperated**



greatly annoyed; out of patience

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jonas always chuckled when he heard a parent, **exasperated**, call sharply to a whining toddler, "That's enough, Twenty-three!"*

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## 21. **solemnly**



in a grave and sedate manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Have you checked the rules, Jonas?" Pierre was always whispering **solemnly**. "I'm not sure that's within the rules."*

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## 22. **profound**



far-reaching and thoroughgoing in effect especially on the nature of something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The speech was much the same each year: recollection of the time of childhood and the period of preparation, the coming responsibilities of adult life, the **profound** importance of Assignment, the seriousness of training to come.*

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## 23. **impose**



compel to behave in a certain way

NOTES:

"Impose" also means "inflict something unpleasant"—this definition might've been intended by the author Lowry, but the example sentence is from the perspective of Jonas, who agrees with the Committee's choice. Although Inger would start off as "Birthmother" before switching, "Laborer" is a pun that could fit both parts of her assignment (to labor is to "undergo the effects of childbirth" or "work hard").

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

She would enjoy the three years of being pampered that would follow her brief training; she would give birth easily and well; and the task of Laborer that would follow would use her strength, keep her healthy, and **impose** self-discipline.

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## 24. **precision** ✓

the quality of being reproducible in amount or performance

NOTES:

"Precise" means "sharply exact or accurate" or "characterized by perfect conformity to fact or truth"—the given reason for language precision is "to ensure that unintentional lies were never uttered," but a hidden reason could be to limit and control the citizens' thoughts and actions. Precision is also a very difficult goal for small children who are just learning the language and wanting to experiment with the sounds and effects.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

And **precision** of language was one of the most important tasks of small children.

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## 25. **lapse** ✓

a mistake resulting from inattention

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He couldn't seem to stop, though for each **lapse** the discipline wand came again, escalating to a series of painful lashes that left marks on Asher's legs.

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## 26. **prompt** ✓

performed with little or no delay

NOTES:

The chosen definition describes the way most citizens give their corrections and apologies (because they've been trained that way since childhood), but another definition of "prompt" ("ready and willing") applies more specifically to Asher, because he has a good-humored, cheerful disposition that is well-known and appreciated.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

His corrections and apologies are very **prompt**.

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## 27. **attribute** ✓

a construct whereby objects or individuals can be distinguished

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Sometimes we worry that the one assigned might not develop, through training, every **attribute** necessary.

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## 28. **indolence** ✓

inactivity resulting from a dislike of work

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

What we observe as playfulness and patience—the requirements to become Nurturer—could, with maturity, be revealed as simply foolishness and **indolence**.

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## 29. **modified** ✓

changed in form or character

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the Receiver-in-training cannot be observed, cannot be **modified**.*

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30. **unanimous**



in complete agreement

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It must be a **unanimous** choice of the Committee.*

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