

## "The Giver," Vocabulary from Chapters 9-13



30 words

September 26, 2013 By [Vocabulary.com](#) (NY)

As you read Lois Lowry's "The Giver," learn this word list that focuses on training. 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. exempt

1.

grant relief or an exemption from a rule or requirement to

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From this moment you are **exempted** from rules governing rudeness.*

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### 2. prohibited



forbidden by law

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*From this moment you are **prohibited** from dream-telling.*

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### 3. dismayed



struck with fear, dread, or consternation

NOTES:

Jonas might be feeling dread or consternation ("fear resulting from the awareness of danger") about his upcoming training as a Receiver, especially since the Chief Elder had warned him about the indescribable pain. But these feelings are not the same as the discouraging sense of disappointment at discovering that his new schedule would leave him no time to play.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But he was a little **dismayed** that his schedule left no time, apparently, for recreation.*

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### 4. compel



force somebody to do something

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Reading it again, however, he realized that it didn't **compel** him to be rude; it simply allowed him the option.*

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### 5. restriction



an act of limiting or restricting (as by regulation)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The **restriction** of medication unnerved him.*

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## 6. comprehension



an ability to understand the meaning or importance of something (or the knowledge acquired as a result)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jonas swallowed hard, trying without success to imagine what such pain might be like, with no medication at all. But it was beyond his **comprehension**.*

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## 7. conceivably

within the realm of possibility

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Now, empowered to ask questions of utmost rudeness—and promised answers—he could, **conceivably** (though it was almost unimaginable), ask someone, some adult, his father perhaps: "Do you lie?"*

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## 8. intricate



having many complexly arranged elements; elaborate

NOTES:

The intricate designs on the cloth represent the complex memories that Jonas will receive; the designs were embroidered into the cloth with a needle, which parallels the painstaking transfers of the memories through the Receiver's hands into Jonas's body and mind. Just as the cloth contains the intricacies for the functional bed underneath, the Receiver holds the complex memories so that the rest of the community can work and sleep more easily.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The bed, in an alcove at the far end of the room, was draped with a splendid cloth embroidered over its entire surface with **intricate** designs.*

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## 9. conspicuous



obvious to the eye or mind

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But the most **conspicuous** difference was the books.*

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## 10. diminish



decrease in size, extent, or range

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*The failure of the previous selection was ten years ago, and my energy is starting to **diminish**.*

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## 11. successor



a person who inherits some title or office

NOTES:

The phrase "I failed" turns the word "successor" into a pun ("success" and "successor" come from the same Latin words "sub" which means "after" and "cedere" which means "to go"). The Giver was unsuccessful in training his successor, who's supposed to come after him and replace him as the Receiver. Even though one can inherit the trait of light eyes that enables perception and reception, s/he must be chosen and trained for the title and office of Receiver.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

But that does not mean I am perfect, and when I tried before to train a **successor**, I failed.

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12. **transmit** ✓

transfer to another

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

"Simply stated," he said, "although it's not really simple at all, my job is to **transmit** to you all the memories I have within me.

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13. **deft** ✓

skillful in physical movements; especially of the hands

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

This one had a switch, which the man **deftly** snapped to the end that said OFF.

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14. **disgrace** ✓

bring shame or dishonor upon

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The room was absolutely silent, and for a moment Jonas feared that he might **disgrace** himself now, on the first day of his training, by falling asleep.

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15. **torrent** ✓

an overwhelming number or amount

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

He could see a bright, whirling **torrent** of crystals in the air around him, and he could see them gather on the backs of his hands, like cold fur.

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16. **exhilarating** ✓

making lively and joyful

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

The snow was piled now around it, and he pushed with his body, moving it forward, not wanting the **exhilarating** ride to end.

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17. **tentative** ✓

unsettled in mind or opinion

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

Tentatively he opened his eyes—not his snow-hill-sled eyes, for they had been open throughout the strange ride.

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18. **obsolete** ✓

no longer in use

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*It wasn't a practical thing, so it became **obsolete** when we went to Sameness.*

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19. **perceive** ✓

to become aware of through the senses

NOTES:

Almost everyone in the community has dark eyes, which represent their inability to see beyond the present. But Jonas, Gabe, and the Giver all have different, lighter eyes, which enable them to perceive and receive the world in all its forms and colors throughout history.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*You should be able to **perceive** the name without being told.*

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20. **quizzically**

in a quizzical and questioning manner

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"The Chief Elder told me—she told everyone—and you told me, too, that it would be painful. So I was a little scared. But it didn't hurt at all. I really enjoyed it." He looked **quizzically** at the old man.*

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21. **weary** ✓

physically and mentally fatigued

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He seemed terribly **weary**.*

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22. **admonition** ✓

cautionary advice about something imminent (especially imminent danger or other unpleasantness)

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He was very aware of his own **admonition** not to discuss his training.*

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23. **fleeting** ✓

lasting for a markedly brief time

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*This time it was not a **fleeting** impression. This time the sled had—and continued to have, as he blinked, and stared at it again—that same mysterious quality that the apple had had so briefly.*

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24. **wry** ✓

humorously sarcastic or mocking

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Then he smiled wryly. "You've come very quickly to that conclusion," he said. "It took me many years. Maybe your wisdom will come much more quickly than mine."*

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## 25. **frustration**



the feeling that accompanies an experience of being thwarted in attaining your goals

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*But when the conversation turned to other things, Jonas was left, still, with a feeling of **frustration** that he didn't understand.*

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## 26. **irrational**



not consistent with or using reason

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He found that he was often angry, now, irrationally angry at his groupmates, that they were satisfied with their lives which had none of the vibrance his own was taking on.*

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## 27. **astounding**



so surprisingly impressive as to stun or overwhelm

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*Jonas glanced around at the **astounding** array of volumes. From time to time, now, he could see their colors.*

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## 28. **assimilate**



take up mentally

NOTES:

"Assimilate" also means "make alike" or "become like one's environment" (Latin "similis" means "like"), which would be a desirable action in a community that "went to Sameness." The Giver is not exactly sure what happened to the memories when they were released, and he doesn't explain how they got assimilated. They couldn't go back to him, so they could have somehow just slowly blended into space and into the people's minds so that they were no longer shockingly different images and emotions.

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"They really suffered for a while. Finally it subsided as the memories were **assimilated**. But it certainly made them aware of how they need a Receiver to contain all that pain. And knowledge."*

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## 29. **embedded**



enclosed firmly in a surrounding mass

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*He watched the landscape for glimpses of the green that he knew was **embedded** in the shrubbery; when it came flickering into his consciousness, he focused upon it, keeping it there, darkening it, holding it in his vision as long as possible until his head hurt and he let it fade away.*

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## 30. **eventually**



after an unspecified period of time or an especially long delay

EXAMPLE SENTENCE:

*"Lie down," he said. "It's time, I suppose. I can't shield you forever. You'll have to take it all on **eventually**."*

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