

Chapters Thirteen–Fourteen
Standards Focus: Conflict

Conflict results from two opposing forces in a story. Four common types of conflict are:

Man vs. himself—a character experiences conflict between forces within him/herself

Man vs. man—a character experiences a conflict with another person

Man vs. nature—a character struggles to overcome forces of nature

Man vs. society—a character struggles with elements of his/her society

Directions: Read each passage from Chapters 13-14. Identify which type of conflict it exemplifies and explain it.

Ex. “Well . . .” Jonas had to stop and think it through. “If everything’s the same, then there aren’t any choices! I want to wake up in the morning and *decide* things! A blue tunic, or a red one?”

He looked down at himself, at the colorless fabric of his clothing. “But it’s all the same, always.” (pg. 97)

Type of conflict: man vs. society

Explanation: Jonas is frustrated with the restrictions and lack of choices placed on his life by the community’s structure.

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

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. And he was angry at himself, that he could not change that for them. (pg. 99)

Type of conflict: _____

Explanation: _____

2. Jonas went and sat beside them while his father untied Lily’s hair ribbons and combed her hair. He placed one hand on each of their shoulders. With all of his being he tried to give each of them a piece of the memory . . .

But his father had continued to comb Lily’s long hair, and Lily, impatient, had finally wiggled under her brother’s touch. “Jonas,” she said, “you’re *hurting* me with your hand.” (pg. 101)

Type of conflict: _____

Explanation: _____

3. “When you become the official Receiver, when we’re finished here, you’ll be given a whole new set of rules. Those are the rules that I obey. And it won’t surprise you that I

Name _____ Period _____

am forbidden to talk about my work to anyone except the new Receiver. That's you, of course." (pg. 103)

Type of conflict: _____

Explanation: _____

4. By himself, he (Jonas) tested his own developing memory. 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. (pg. 106)

Type of conflict: _____

Explanation: _____

5. The sled moved forward, and Jonas grinned with delight, looking forward to the breathtaking slide down through the invigorating air.
But the runners, this time, couldn't slice through the frozen expanse as they had on the other, snow-cushioned hill. They skittered sideways and the sled gathered speed. Jonas pulled at the rope, trying to steer, but the steepness and speed took control from his hands and he was no longer enjoying the feeling of freedom but instead, terrified, was at the mercy of the wild acceleration downward over the ice. (pg. 108)

Type of conflict: _____

Explanation: _____

6. "I knew that there had been times in the past—terrible times—when people had destroyed others in haste, in fear, and had brought about their own destruction." (pg. 112)

Type of conflict: _____

Explanation: _____

7. He wondered, though, if he should confess to The Giver that he had given a memory away. He was not yet qualified to be a Giver himself; nor had Gabriel been selected to be a Receiver.

That he had this power frightened him. He decided not to tell. (pg. 117)

Type of conflict: _____

Explanation: _____