

Chapters Three—Four

Standards Focus: Point of View

Point of view is the viewpoint, or perspective, from which a story is told. The point of view influences how a reader understands a story and how he reacts to the characters and their actions.

A novel may be told from the point of view of one of the book's characters or from the point of view of a narrator who is not part of the novel.

Even though *The Giver* is not written in first person with Jonas using the pronoun "I" to refer to himself, the novel is written from Jonas's point of view and focuses on his thoughts and feelings. This point of view is called *Third Person Limited*.

Directions: Use your knowledge of the novel to answer the following questions in complete sentences. Include specific details from the text in your answers.

1. From Jonas's point of view, Lily is too talkative. What comments from Chapters 3-4 does Jonas make that allows the reader to draw this conclusion?

2. Read the following passage:

"Three years,' Mother told her firmly. 'Three births, and that's all. After that they are Laborers for the rest of their adult lives, until the day that they enter the House of the Old. Is that what you want, Lily? Three lazy years, and then hard physical labor until you are old?'" (pg.22)

It is obvious that Mother does not value the Assignment of Birthmother. How do you think a Birthmother feels about her Assignment? Would she think it is or is not important? Why or why not?

3. Read the following passage:

"There was absolutely nothing remarkable about that apple. He had tossed it back and forth between his hands a few times, then thrown it again to Asher. And again—in the air, for an instant only—it had changed.

Jonas had been completely mystified.

'Ash?' he had called. 'Does anything seem strange to you? About the apple?'

Name _____ Period _____

‘Yes,’ Asher called back, laughing. ‘It jumps out of my hand onto the ground!’ Asher had just dropped it once again.” (pg. 24)

While playing catch with Asher, Jonas notices something different about an apple and later takes it home. A) What was Jonas’s reason for taking it home? From Jonas’s point of view his actions were justified, but Asher probably saw Jonas’s actions as strange. B) Think about situation in which you felt your words and/or actions were appropriate for the situation, but others did not. Write about the situation.

A) _____

B) _____

4. Read the following passage:

“It was against the rules for children or adults to look at another’s nakedness; but the rule did not apply to newchildren or the Old. Jonas was glad. It was a nuisance to keep oneself covered while changing for games, and the required apology if one had by mistake glimpsed another’s body was always awkward. He couldn’t see why it was necessary. He liked the feeling of safety here in this warm and quiet room; he liked the expression of trust on the woman’s face as she lay in the water unprotected, exposed, and free.” (pg. 30)

Jonas enjoys being in the bathing room at the House of the Old because he views it as relaxing and safe. Since the story is basically told from Jonas’s point of view, we can only speculate about the feelings of some of the other characters. How do you think Larissa feels about being bathed by Jonas? Do you think she feels safe? Why or why not?

5. Since *The Giver* is written from the point of view of a citizen of the community, the community’s rules and rituals are presented as a normal part of life. If you visited the community, what would you think of the community’s rules and rituals? Which ones would you find particularly odd?
