

Sample response of a reading question for *The Giver*

1. Describe one effect of Jonas' assignment as The Receiver.

For the past twelve years of Jonas's life, his parents and his instructors have taught him the importance of being part of the group and of the community, but upon being named as The Receiver, Jonas becomes isolated from his community and friends. During the ceremony of the Elevens, Jonas is singled out when he is "skipped" as the Chief Elder moves from Eighteen to Twenty. Finally, after all the Elevens have received their assignments, Jonas is told that he has not been assigned rather he has been selected, and his "selection is very, very rare" (60). The very act of honoring him is the first indicator of Jonas's future solitude, since no other position in the community is said to be more important than others. Jonas learns from the Chief Elder that his new position will force him to be alone and apart (61). We immediately see the effects of his selection as Receiver when he is leaving the auditorium and all eyes are on him (65). He asks his friend, Asher, to ride back home with him and Jonas feels that for a moment, Asher is uncertain. Jonas realizes that "there [is] just a moment when things [aren't] quite the same, [aren't] quite as they [have] always been through the long friendship" (66). Even the rules and instructions connected to his assignment create seclusion. That night as he opens his folder, he learns that he will have no time for his friends, for he is to meet with The Giver immediately after school and go immediately home after meeting with The Giver. It bothers him that he will no longer have recreation time (69). The next school day, Jonas also feels the effect of his assignment when all his groupmates are busy discussing their first day of training, but Jonas can only listen because one of the rules forbids him discussing his training with anyone, including his family (68). For a boy who enjoys being around people, being segregated from all he know seems to be the most challenging consequence Jonas faces.

The response above is an example of how your response should be written with parenthetical end notes (page number). Your response may not be as lengthy as the one above, but it must show complete understanding of the question and text in order to receive full credit. It also shows how specific evidence taken from the book was incorporated into the response. The response above clearly answers the question (main idea) and then supports it with specific textual evidence from the book. Although this sample is typed, your responses must be handwritten using your best penmanship.

Rubric for Summer Reading Questions for The Giver by Lois Lowry

- *****Evaluation: making a judgment supported by reasons, data, textual support, etc.
- ****Synthesis: putting together a unique creation or invention
- ***Analysis: taking a text apart, comparing and contrasting
- **Application: using information to solve a problem in a new situation
- *Comprehension: understanding, translating
- *Knowledge: recalling, memorizing, stating facts

Score 4	<p>Overall: The response clearly demonstrates an understanding of the question and provides an insightful explanation or opinion of the text, or extends aspects of the text.</p> <p>Specifically: The response is well constructed and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a topic sentence that directly answers the question • well-chosen supporting details, points and direct quotes that are integrated cohesively • consistently correct citation of evidence 	Comments:
Score 3	<p>Overall: The response demonstrates an understanding of the question and provides some explanation or opinion using situations or ideas from the text as support.</p> <p>Specifically: The response is fairly constructed and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a topic sentence that answers the question • supporting details and points that are somewhat integrated • somewhat correct citation of evidence 	Comments:
Score 2	<p>Overall: The response may address the question but demonstrates only a partial understanding of the text and uses text incorrectly or with limited success resulting in an inconsistent or flawed explanation.</p> <p>Specifically: The response shows some awareness of proper paragraph construction with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a vague topic sentence • some poorly chosen supporting details that do not clearly support the answer • some incorrect citation of evidence 	Comments:
Score 1	<p>Overall: The response demonstrates minimal understanding of the question and provides only a vague reference to, or no use of, the text.</p> <p>Specifically: The response shows little awareness of proper paragraph construction with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an unfocused topic sentence that fails to address the question • little to no supporting details • mostly incorrect or missing citation of evidence 	Comments:
Score 0	<p>Overall: The response is completely irrelevant or off-topic.</p>	Comments: