

## Plot summary - The Giver

protagonist

setting

Sometime in the future, an 11-year-old boy named **Jonas** lives in a seemingly perfect community in which there is little pain and little crime. People are polite. Everyone belongs to a supportive family. But this harmony comes at a price. There is also no choice, and real emotions are nonexistent. Life is dictated by strict rules. A committee of elders matches spouses and assigns them children born from women whose only job is to give birth. The committee names all babies and chooses every person's career. Sex and love are prohibited, being different is shameful, and families are dissolved when the children are grown. Everyone looks similar in skin color and dress. Everything serves a purely practical purpose—to serve the common good of the community and minimize conflict. The old and the sick are "released," which the community believes means sent to live "Elsewhere," outside the community.

antagonist

introducing the conflict

During family time, Jonas shares his uneasiness about the upcoming ceremony, where he will be assigned his job. **Jonas's father**, a Nurturer who cares for newborns, shares his concern over a baby to be named **Gabriel** who is not growing fast enough. When Jonas's father brings the baby home, Jonas notices that Gabriel has pale eyes like him, an unusual trait.

rising action

The next day Jonas does required volunteer hours with his friends **Asher** and **Fiona** at the House of the Old. A woman named **Larissa** tells him an old man was recently released in a beautiful ceremony. Jonas asks what happens when someone is released, but no one knows. That night, Jonas has a dream about bathing naked with Fiona. When he tells his parents, his **mother** says they are natural feelings called **Stirrings**, and that Jonas must take a pill to stifle them.

A few weeks later, at the annual ceremony, Jonas's friends are assigned jobs that seem to fit them perfectly. But the **Chief Elder** skips Jonas's name. After everyone else has been assigned, the Elder announces that **Jonas has been selected for the great honor of being the next Receiver**. She says **Jonas has the Capacity to See Beyond**, which explains the strange changes happening to his vision.

Climax

The next day Jonas meets the current Receiver, who is now an old man. He tells Jonas his job is to transmit the memories he holds, which are all the memories in the world, to Jonas. He tells Jonas to

call him **The Giver**. He then lays his hands on Jonas's back and gives him the memory of sledding in the snow. Jonas realizes there are hundreds of wonderful memories no one in the community has ever experienced.

Over the next year, from The Giver's memories, Jonas learns about color, nature, beauty, pleasure, love, and family. (For Jonas, the Capacity to See Beyond means that he can see in color, while everyone else sees in black and white). Jonas is also given painful

explains the conflict of the world memories of loss, loneliness, poverty, injury, war, and death. The Giver explains that the community is founded on the principle of Sameness, which requires the stability of a world without deep emotion or memory. But he adds that the memories give the Receiver the true wisdom needed to guide the committee on their decisions.

Meanwhile, in his efforts to help Gabriel avoid being released, Jonas also secretly learns that he has the power to transmit memories to Gabriel. While asking questions about release, Jonas learns from The Giver that ten years earlier, his previous trainee (later revealed to be his daughter) couldn't bear the pain of being The Receiver and asked for release. All her memories were traumatically released to the community. Later, at Jonas's request, The Giver shows Jonas a release ceremony Jonas's father is performing on an identical twin baby. Jonas realizes with horror that to be "released" means to be killed. He convinces The Giver to create a plan in which Jonas will escape from the community and release all his memories to the community members, to stop them from living such numb and ignorant lives. The Giver will stay behind to help the people cope with their new memories.

resolution When Jonas learns that Gabriel is to be released the next day, he rushes forward with the plan: he takes Gabriel, crosses the river, and flees the community by bicycle. On the road he encounters beautiful things from his memories like rain and birds, but he also encounters hunger and cold. As he is growing weak, and despairs about being able to protect Gabriel, he sees a snow-covered **hill** from his first memory from The Giver. At the top of the hill, they find a sled and sled down, where they hear music at the bottom of the hill and see colored lights in the windows of houses in the distance.

denouement

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Extract Focus: Narrative Structure (Conflict, Rising Action, Climax, Resolution) Year Level: 9

Proficiency Tier: Standard

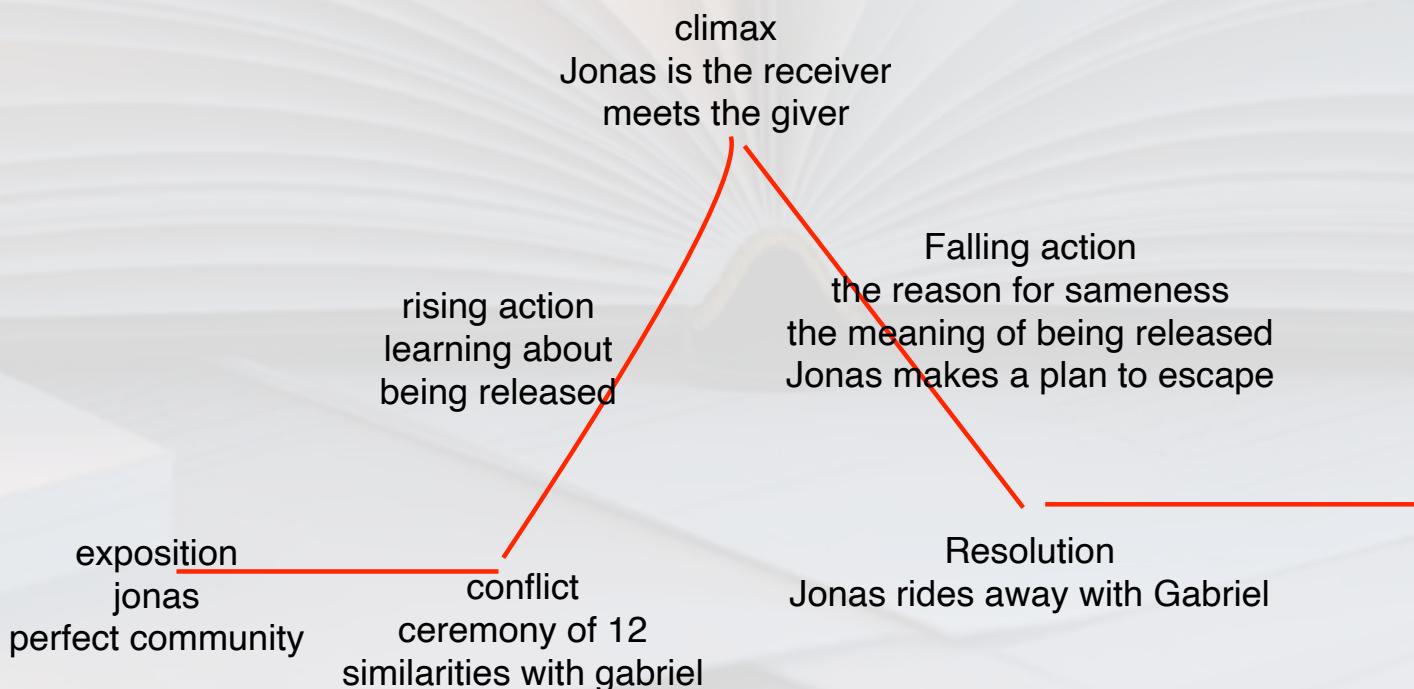
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Read through the plot summary of *The Giver* and underline words or phrases that relate to:

- Conflict or tension between Jonas and the community
- Events that build toward a major turning point
- The most intense or important moment in the story
- How the story ends

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Create a timeline with 5-7 key events from *The Giver*, showing how the story develops from beginning to end. Include:



## SECTION 2: DEVICE ANALYSIS

### DEVICE 1: Conflict (Person vs. Society)

#### Step 1: DEFINITION

##### Conflict (Person vs. Society) is:

A struggle between an individual character and the rules, expectations, or values of their society or community. This type of conflict shows a character challenging or being challenged by the world around them.

##### Example from a different text:

In *The Hunger Games*, Katniss conflicts with the Capitol's oppressive system when she volunteers to take her sister's place and later defies their rules by threatening to eat the poisonous berries.

#### Step 2: FIND THE TOPIC

Your Turn: Find an example of conflict between Jonas and his society in the extract. Write it below:

Jonas thinks people shouldnt be the same and have different memories.

Jonas begins to question society after receiving memories.

He feels frustrated people dont understand feelings.

Jonas thinks and acts differently but the society is about sameness and being perfect.

#### Step 3: IDENTIFY THE OBJECT

##### What does this conflict DO in this story? What is its purpose or function?

- A) Shows how different Jonas is from other community members in appearance
- B) Reveals the community's control over emotions, memories, and individual choice
- C) Demonstrates Jonas's relationship with his family members
- D) Explains why the community has strict rules about politeness

Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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Jonas is angry at the committee of elders because they are holding memories back and dont let people experience feelings for themselves. No genuine connection between people. No trust.

## Step 6: CATEGORIZE THE EFFECT

### Part A: Sort ALL the effects into categories

#### Effects to Sort:

1. Makes readers question whether safety is worth giving up freedom and emotion
2. Creates tension as Jonas becomes increasingly isolated from his community
3. Helps readers understand what Jonas is fighting against
4. Makes readers feel sympathetic toward Jonas's situation
5. Reveals the dark truth hidden beneath the community's perfect surface
6. Connects to themes about the importance of memory and human experience

**1** Reader Response — feeling

Effect #: 4

Effect #: 2

**2** Meaning Creation — understanding the meaning of the story

Effect #: 3

Effect #: 5

**3** Thematic Impact bigger ideas

Effect #: 6

Effect #: 1

### Part B: Now identify which applies to YOUR device

Which category best describes how the conflict works in THIS story?

Which specific effect from that category best fits? \_\_\_\_\_

## DEVICE 2: Rising Action

### Step 1: DEFINITION

#### Rising Action is:

The series of events in a story that build tension and complications, moving the plot forward from the beginning toward the climax. These events make the conflict more intense and raise the stakes for the main character.

#### Example from a different text:

In *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, the rising action includes Harry learning about the mysterious package in Gringotts, discovering Fluffy the three-headed dog, learning about Nicolas Flamel, and suspecting Snape of evil intentions.

### Step 2: FIND THE TOPIC

Your Turn: Find examples of events that build tension in Jonas's story. Write them below:

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### Step 3: IDENTIFY THE OBJECT

What does the rising action DO in this story? What is its purpose or function?

- A) Introduces all the characters and explains their jobs in the community
- B) Builds tension by giving Jonas increasingly painful and disturbing memories
- C) Shows Jonas traveling to different places outside the community
- D) Describes the history of how the community was created

Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 4: ANALYZE IT

Put these details in order to show HOW tension builds in the story:

- A) Jonas receives painful memories of war, starvation, and death from The Giver
- B) Jonas learns to see color and experiences pleasant memories like sledding and sunshine
- C) Jonas asks questions about "release" and discovers his previous trainee asked to be released

Your Answer: 1\_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_, 3\_\_\_\_\_

## Step 5: WRITE THE DETAIL

Now that you understand HOW the rising action works, write the specific detail from the extract that best shows this.

Use this format: "shown through [specific detail/example from text]"

Your Detail:

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## Step 6: CATEGORIZE THE EFFECT

Part A: Sort ALL the effects into categories

1. Keeps readers engaged and wanting to know what will happen next
2. Creates anticipation as the story moves toward a major turning point
3. Shows how Jonas's understanding of his world changes and deepens
4. Makes readers increasingly worried about Jonas and Gabriel
5. Reveals more about the community's dark secrets gradually
6. Connects to themes about the price of knowledge and awareness

### Reader Response

1

Effect #:

Effect #:

### Meaning Creation

2

Effect #:

Effect #:

### Thematic Impact

3

Effect #:

Effect #:

Which category best describes how rising action works in THIS story?

Which specific effect from that category best fits?

## DEVICE 3: Climax

### Step 1: DEFINITION

**Climax is:**

The turning point or most intense moment in a story, where the main conflict reaches its peak. This is usually when the main character must make a crucial decision or face their greatest challenge.

### Example from a different text:

In *The Lion King*, the climax occurs when Simba returns to Pride Rock and confronts Scar, finally accepting his responsibility and fighting for his rightful place as king.

### Step 2: FIND THE TOPIC

Your Turn: Identify the most intense, important moment in Jonas's story. Write it below:

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### Step 3: IDENTIFY THE OBJECT

**What does the climax DO in this story? What is its purpose or function?**

- A) Shows Jonas completing his training with The Giver successfully
- B) Reveals that Jonas can transmit memories to Gabriel
- C) Forces Jonas to completely lose trust in his father and community when he witnesses the murder
- D) Describes Jonas's daily routine as the Receiver of Memory

Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 4: ANALYZE IT

**Put these details in order to show HOW the climax unfolds:**

- A) Jonas realizes "release" means killing people, not sending them Elsewhere
- B) Jonas asks The Giver to show him what happens during a release ceremony
- C) Jonas watches his father inject the smaller twin baby and place it in a box

Your Answer: 1\_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_, 3\_\_\_\_\_

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## Step 5: WRITE THE DETAIL

Now that you understand HOW the climax works, write the specific detail from the extract that best shows this.

Use this format: "shown through [specific detail/example from text]"

Your Detail:

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## Step 6: CATEGORIZE THE EFFECT

### Part A: Sort ALL the effects into categories

Effects to Sort:

1. Shocks readers with the horrifying truth about release
2. Creates the moment when everything changes for Jonas
3. Shows the complete contrast between appearances and reality in the community
4. Makes readers feel Jonas's horror and betrayal
5. Reveals the ultimate evil hidden in the seemingly perfect community
6. Connects to themes about the danger of ignorance and conformity

Reader Response

Meaning Creation

Thematic Impact

Effect #:

Effect #:

Effect #:

Effect #:

Effect #:

Effect #:

### Part B: Now identify which applies to YOUR device

Which category best describes how the climax works in THIS story?

Which specific effect from that category best fits?

## DEVICE 4: Resolution

### Step 1: DEFINITION

**Resolution is:**

The conclusion of a story where the conflict is resolved or settled, showing what happens to the characters after the climax. The resolution may provide complete closure or leave some questions unanswered.

### Example from a different text:

In *Charlotte's Web*, the resolution occurs when Wilbur lives through the winter, Charlotte's babies are born, and some stay with Wilbur while others leave—showing life continuing after Charlotte's death.

### Step 2: FIND THE TOPIC

Your Turn: Find how Jonas's conflict ends in the story. Write it below:

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### Step 3: IDENTIFY THE OBJECT

What does the resolution DO in this story? What is its purpose or function?

- A) Clearly explains that Jonas and Gabriel survive and live happily ever after
- B) Shows Jonas returning to the community and becoming the new Giver
- C) Leaves Jonas's fate uncertain through an ambiguous ending with the sled and lights
- D) Describes what happens to all the community members after Jonas leaves

Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

### Step 4: ANALYZE IT

**Put these details in order to show HOW the resolution unfolds:**

- A) Jonas sees colored lights in windows and hears music, suggesting a real community
- B) Jonas takes Gabriel and escapes the community, facing hunger and cold
- C) Jonas finds the hill from his first memory and sleds down with Gabriel

Your Answer: 1\_\_\_\_\_, 2\_\_\_\_\_, 3\_\_\_\_\_

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## Step 5: WRITE THE DETAIL

Now that you understand HOW the resolution works, write the specific detail from the extract that best shows this.

Use this format: "shown through [specific detail/example from text]"

Your Detail:

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## Step 6: CATEGORIZE THE EFFECT

Part A: Sort ALL the effects into categories

1. Leaves readers debating whether Jonas and Gabriel survive or die
2. Creates an open-ended conclusion that invites interpretation
3. Shows that escape from the community is possible but uncertain
4. Makes readers feel both hopeful and anxious about Jonas's fate
5. Suggests there are other communities beyond Jonas's world
6. Connects to themes about freedom, sacrifice, and the unknown

### Reader Response

1

Effect #:

Effect #:

### Meaning Creation

2

Effect #:

Effect #:

### Thematic Impact

3

Effect #:

Effect #:

Which category best describes how the resolution works in THIS story?

Which specific effect from that category best fits?



## TVODE CONNECTION

You now have the building blocks for your analytical sentences:

For each device, you identified:

- **Topic:** The device name (Conflict, Rising Action, Climax, Resolution)
- **Object:** What it does (from Step 3)
- **Detail:** How it's shown (from Step 5)
- **Effect:** The impact (from Step 6)

**Next Step:** In the TVODE Sentence Construction Worksheet, you will combine these components with a connecting VERB to create complete analytical sentences about narrative structure in *The Giver*.

# Week 3 - Narrative Structure - Plot summary -

## TVODE Sentence Construction Worksheet

# The Giver by Lois Lowry

**Extract Focus:** Narrative Structure (Conflict, Rising Action, Climax, Resolution)

**Year Level:** 9

**Proficiency Tier:** Standard

**Target Sentence Length:** 15-18 words

## PURPOSE

This worksheet helps you construct analytical TOPIC SENTENCES using the TVODE structure (Topic-Verb-Object-Detail-Effect). These sentences become the foundation for analytical paragraphs about how Lois Lowry uses narrative structure in *The Giver*.

## MODEL SENTENCE ANALYSIS

**Example Topic Sentence:**



"Lowry uses conflict to reveal the community's control over emotions and memories, shown through Jonas's discovery of color, feelings, and the truth about release."

## TVODE Deconstruction:

Component	Identified Text from Model	Function
Topic	Lowry uses conflict	Identifies the device being analyzed
Verb	uses / to reveal	Connects the device to its function
Object	the community's control over emotions and memories	What the device accomplishes
Detail	Jonas's discovery of color, feelings, and the truth about release	Specific textual evidence
Effect	(embedded in Object - "reveal")	The impact on meaning

**Word Count:** 17 words

## ACTIVITY 1: MATCH TOPIC FRAMES

**Instructions:** Match each device to the correct TOPIC FRAME by writing the frame in the space provided.

**Topic Frame Options:**

- Lowry uses [Device]
- [Device] in *The Giver*
- Through [Device], Lowry

1

**Device 1: Conflict (person vs. society)**

**My Topic Frame:**

Jonas is...

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The society is...

The conflict is...

3

**Device 3: Climax**

**My Topic Frame:**

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2

**Device 2: Rising action**

**My Topic Frame:**

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4

**Device 4: Resolution**

**My Topic Frame:**

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## ACTIVITY 2: MATCH OBJECTS

**Instructions:** Match each Topic+Device to the correct OBJECT (what the device does in THIS story). Write the letter of the correct object in the space provided.

### Object Bank:

- **Object A:** builds tension through Jonas's increasingly painful and disturbing memories of war, death, and suffering
- **Object B:** resolves Jonas's escape ambiguously through his sled ride toward lights and music
- **Object C:** reveals the community's control over emotions, color, and human memory through their elimination of choice
- **Object D:** occurs when Jonas witnesses his father killing the newborn twin, which shatters his trust in the community

Topic + Device	Object
<b>Device 1:</b> Lowry uses conflict (person vs. society)	↙
<b>Device 2:</b> Rising action in The Giver	↗
<b>Device 3:</b> Through the climax, Lowry	○
<b>Device 4:</b> Lowry uses resolution	↪

## ACTIVITY 3: INSERT VERB

**Instructions:** Choose the best VERB to connect your Topic to your Object. The verb should show how the device creates meaning. Write the verb in the blank space.

 **Verb Bank:**

demonstrates • reveals • creates • employs • uses • shows • highlights • emphasizes • builds

Complete these sentences:

**Device 1 (Conflict):**

Lowry uses conflict (person vs. society) \_\_\_\_\_ the community's control over emotions, color, and human memory through their elimination of choice.

**Device 2 (Rising Action):**

Rising action in The Giver \_\_\_\_\_ tension through Jonas's increasingly painful and disturbing memories of war, death, and suffering.

**Device 3 (Climax):**

Through the climax, Lowry \_\_\_\_\_ the moment when Jonas witnesses his father killing the newborn twin, which shatters his trust in the community.

**Device 4 (Resolution):**

Lowry uses resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Jonas's escape ambiguously through his sled ride toward lights and music.

## ACTIVITY 4: DETAIL AND EFFECT BANKS

**Instructions:** Below are the DETAIL and EFFECT options for each device. You will use these in Activity 5 to write your summary paragraphs.

### Detail Bank (specific textual references):

- **Detail A (Conflict):** Jonas's realization that the community has eliminated color, genuine emotions, and true family bonds in favor of Sameness and control
- **Detail B (Rising Action):** the progression from pleasant memories of sledding and sunshine to traumatic memories of war, starvation, and loneliness
- **Detail C (Climax):** Jonas watching the release ceremony video and seeing his father inject the identical twin baby before placing it in a box
- **Detail D (Resolution):** Jonas's weakening body finding the snow-covered hill from his first memory and sledding down toward colored lights and music

### Effect Bank (impact on meaning/reader):

- **Effect A (Conflict):** making readers question whether safety and stability are worth sacrificing freedom, emotion, and memory
- **Effect B (Rising Action):** creating mounting suspense as readers anticipate Jonas's inevitable confrontation with the truth about his society
- **Effect C (Climax):** forcing readers to confront the horrifying reality that the community systematically murders people under the guise of "release"
- **Effect D (Resolution):** leaving readers uncertain whether Jonas and Gabriel survive or die, inviting interpretation and debate about hope and sacrifice

#### Connector Menu (to link Detail and Effect):

, which [Effect] · , creating [Effect] · , shown through [Detail] · to reveal [Effect] · , deepening [Effect] · , evidenced by [Detail]

## ACTIVITY 5: DEVICE SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

**Instructions:** Using your T+V+O sentence from Activity 3 and the Detail and Effect banks from Activity 4, write a 3-5 sentence paragraph explaining how each device works in *The Giver*.

How to build your paragraph:

1. Start with your T+V+O sentence from Activity 3
2. Add the Detail from the Detail Bank using a connector (shown through, evidenced by, etc.)
3. Add the Effect from the Effect Bank using a connector (which, creating, to reveal)
4. Expand with 1-2 more sentences explaining HOW the device works

### Scaffold Option - Sentence Starters:

- In this novel, Lowry...
- This is shown when...
- The effect of this is...
- This helps readers understand...
- Overall, the use of [Device]...
- By the end of the story...

in this novel lowry uses conflict to show the  
committee's control over the community's knowledge and memory  
Jonas as receiver when he experiences change, feelings and discovery  
of what getting released really means

The effect... it makes the readers feel/think, the author can demonstrate the theme...

use of conflict reveals dark truth...  
~~makes the reader question... therefore...~~

jonas growing feeling  
~~the terrifying concept of release adds external~~

The conflict of the narrative is... The narrative's conflict...

