

The Giver  
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### **UNIT 3 (Chapters 12-17)**

#### **Preview**

*Theme: Freedom versus Security*


A **theme** is a major idea that a book examines through its characters, plot, and moral dilemmas. There are many themes in *The Giver*, but one of the most important to the central conflict is the theme of **Freedom versus Security**.

In this section of the book, we learn more about why the Receiver is such an important person in Jonas' community. The Receiver must keep painful and traumatic memories so that the community doesn't have to. But, the Receiver also keeps pleasant memories and experiences, like close family connections, love, and even the simple breeze felt while on a sailboat.

Leaving the sole responsibility of memory keeping in the hands of the Receiver takes away great freedom from the citizens of Jonas' community. But is this restriction of freedom justified because it provides greater security to the community? As you read this section of the book, come back to this question and ponder it. Think about this question in terms of the real world as well. Are there countries or cultures where security is valued over freedom? Is this right?

#### **Vocabulary**

Horizon	The line in the distance where earth and sky appear to meet
Pebble	A small stone
Mutilate	To injure someone severely
Consciousness	Being awake and aware of one's surroundings
Seldom	Not often
Chaos	Disorder and confusion
Assimilate	To take in and understand fully; to become part of something different from oneself or one's culture
Bitter	Angry, hurt, or resentful because of one's bad experiences or a sense of injustice

Shrubbery	<p>Bushes, often outlining a garden</p>  <p><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrubbery#/media/File:Sheringham_Park_1.JPG">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shrubbery#/media/File:Sheringham_Park_1.JPG</a></p>
Agony	Extreme physical or mental suffering
Spasm	A sudden movement of the muscles that cannot be controlled
Tentative	Not certain or fixed
Obsolete	Not made or used anymore; lacking meaning
Optimistic	Hopeful, confident, and positive about the future