

As Jonas and Gabe were still racing downhill through the snowstorm, Jonas tried his best to stay focused on the lights in the distance. At this point the glow of the lights was the only thing that gave him motivation as they went through the snowstorm with the rushing cold air blasting against them. With hope and excitement Jonas tells Gabriel “We’re going to make it! We’re almost there Gabe!” Even with the sound of the sleigh carving its path through the snow and the sound of the wind rushing around them, Jonas could barely hear Gabe whimper just for a moment and could feel Gabe shuffle around in the blanket, which was being blasted with snow and was beginning to build a coat of snow. As the ride down the hill went on, it began to feel like an eternity to Jonas. Even though the lights looked as if they were still so far away, Jonas could see that they were getting closer because when he first saw the lights they almost looked like as if it were just a single light out there in the distance. Now he could see several lights that were spread out across the landscape, and as they went downhill, he could slowly but surely see more and more lights and saw how they spread out more and more also. Despite the agonizing pace and the frigid cold, he knew that there was obviously no other way to get through this situation other than to just keep going and brave through the storm.

At some point during the treacherous sleigh ride Jonas began to hear the music again coming from the same direction as the lights in the distance. Even though he wanted to concentrate on steering the sleigh and focus on the lights he couldn’t help but to notice the music. At the moment Jonas didn’t know what to think of it. He had never heard anything like it before until this night. A part of him was trying to make sense of it, the idea of sounds being made and being put together and then someone talking in a way that is not a normal, typical way, and somehow combining the sounds and words together is what is called “music”. The idea was very unusual and even bizarre to Jonas and he didn’t understand the idea of it. He did have trouble making out the words in the music, he had never heard anyone talking while there “sounds” playing in the background, so it made it hard for him to concentrate on the words. Even

though he had trouble with the words in the music, it had a satisfying quality to it. Jonas had an extremely hard time trying to think of the words that he could describe it with. In the midst of searching for the words, he realized that he actually liked the music. It even amazed him that something as simple as sounds being made correctly and saying words in a certain way could sound so nice and enjoyable. At this moment not only was the lights a source of motivation, now the music had become a source of motivation also. "Do you hear that Gabe?" Jonas asked Gabe "That's what music sounds like". Jonas didn't notice until now that Gabriel had fallen asleep. Gabriel must have been able to hear the music as well and it had a calming effect on him.

As Jonas was admiring the music, he noticed ahead of them they were approaching something, at first he didn't know what it was but he began to notice that whatever it was it spread completely across the landscape ahead of them, all he could see of it was that it was dark in contrast to the snow covered landscape. He looked all the way from the right all the way over to the left and there seemed to be no end to it. Almost right after this observation Jonas could see a large, big object slightly ahead of them. He had enough time to steer the sleigh out of the way and as they passed this object Jonas got a good look at it, he saw that it was just a tree. As soon as he looked back forward, he saw another tree but this time he barely had enough time to steer of the way, they were so close to it, Jonas would have sworn that he could hear the tree whoosh by as they passed it. Right after that tree Jonas saw two more trees ahead, this time since he was more vigilant and alert and he was able to maneuver around the trees without much trouble. Right after those trees he saw numerous trees, way too many to count at the time. At this point Jonas remembered the memory the Giver had given him that had the forest in it, that's when Jonas realized that they were heading straight into a dense forest. With how fast they were going on the sleigh, how dark it was, the snowstorm that was interfering with his visibility, and his hands and arms being mostly numb from the cold, Jonas knew that they were in real danger of crashing into a tree. Jonas got a better grip of the rope and gripped Gabe a little tighter. "This is going to get rough!"

Jonas told Gabe as they raced into the forest. The forest was packed with trees and Jonas was frantically steering the sleigh left and right like a madman trying to dodge the trees. His heart was racing and pounding, he had never had an experience as dangerous and suspenseful as this. At one point for a moment, Gabe began to whimper a little bit and sound slightly concerned but Jonas didn't let that distract him. As they were still racing through the forest Jonas could see ahead of them a bunch of trees that were too close together to make it through, any good paths that he saw were too far over to one side or the other. At first Jonas thought they would no choice but to crash, but Jonas saw two trees that had a gap big enough between them that they might be able to ride through it. Jonas quickly steered towards the gap and barely got over to the gap in time, the gap was so small that both of Jonas's arms grazed the trees. Soon after that, Jonas was still trying to make it through the forest and ahead of them he could see something that was elevated above the ground and couldn't figure out what it was. Suddenly he saw that it was a tree that had fallen over onto another tree, he turned sharply to miss it and was able to go under it, but he scraped his head on the fallen tree as they went through, which gave Jonas a nasty and painful cut on his upper forehead. Jonas did his best to ignore his new injury and was trying to put as much effort as possible into making it through the forest.

There was a spot in the forest that seemed as if there wasn't as many trees as what they had encountered before, so he had no trouble making his way through this part of the forest. "I think we're coming out of the forest" Jonas said to Gabe in a happy and grateful manner. As if to jinx himself, Jonas suddenly saw what looked like a row of trees ahead of them that conveniently had a nice, big gap straight ahead of them. As they got closer Jonas saw that it was not the nice, big gap at all. There was a tree that was laying down across the whole gap with no space anywhere to ride through. When Jonas saw this, he quickly started to look around to see if he could find another open spot to make it through and as far as he could see to both the left and right it was solid with tightly packed trees. Jonas realized that his best option was to try to roll off the sleigh before they crashed into the fallen tree ahead of

them. He quickly let go of the rope and got a good grip on Gabriel with both arms and leaned over and fell off the sleigh and was able to roll to a stop, besides Gabriel becoming very upset, both Gabriel and Jonas were not injured from this. Jonas got back up with Gabriel still in his arms and wrapped up in the blanket and walked over to the sleigh and see what damage had been done after it crashed into the tree. The sleigh crashed into the tree so hard that it almost broke it completely in half and both runners were obliterated. When Jonas saw this, he had the feeling of dread come over him, without the sleigh they would not make it through this. He also thought of how far they had gone and the hardships they had endured, just to see it end like this.

As Jonas stood there totally distraught, staring at the broken sleigh and holding Gabriel, who which was beginning to calm down, he suddenly heard the music again that he heard clear back before they came across the forest but it was much louder than before. Jonas looked up and could see not only the lights again, but he could actually see buildings now. Jonas had no idea that they had traveled that far while in the forest and immediately went from having the feeling of dread to the feeling of hope again. They were close enough now that he knew that they could make it on foot. Jonas climbed over the fallen over tree and began to make his way towards the buildings. It didn't take long before he reached the buildings, but the layout of this new place was very confusing to Jonas, it was different than the community that he had ran away from. He didn't get far through this new place before he was startled by two very bright lights that at first looked like they were floating in the air and moving along, as he watched the lights, he finally saw that the lights were actually on the front of a vehicle, but it looked and sounded different than the few that he had seen back in the community. As the vehicle came close to him, one of the windows slid down and Jonas could see two people inside and could vaguely hear what sounded like voices from a small speaker. One of the people inside the vehicle asked Jonas "Excuse me sir, what are you doing out this late at night and in this kind of weather by yourself?" Right then, the other person inside the vehicle in a surprised manner blurts out "Is that a baby under the blanket?!"