

## The Giver – Hamish Gaze working notes

- The Giver has main ideas as follows – freedom and individuality vs security and “Sameness”. Sameness means everything must be the same and that people should not be different from one another. It's when things are not the same that creates problems.
- The Community is made out to be **Utopia** – everyone lives in nice neighbourhoods, everyone has a similar standard of living. No one is different or ambitious compared to other people.
- People in the community chose Sameness and it is extremely rude to talk about things that are different. People do not see colour – everything has the same colour, i.e. none
- However the environment of the Community is also **Dystopia**. There is a lot of control and order to ensure the people in the Community do what they are told to do. They all obey instructions that are broadcast throughout the Community.
- Everyone in the Community lives by rules contained in the Book of Rules. There is a feeling that bad things will happen to people if they leave the Community. Anything that feels like freedom is actually controlled.
- Jonas is uneasy about the Community and about his assigned lifelong career that he will get at the Ceremony of Twelve (when he becomes a Twelve). This is discussed with his mother at the end of Chapter 2.
- My visual text shows a tree and apples as a central theme. There are references to this in The Giver. In Chapters 3, Jonas breaks a rule and takes an apple from the Recreation Area to use as a ball. He gets in trouble and has to say sorry to the Recreation Director. When he is playing ball, he suddenly sees the apple change. Jonas knows this strange thing is different. He starts to feel he might be different from others in the Community.
- Because of this, the Chief Elder thinks that Jonas has an ability that is the Capacity to See Beyond. This means seeing things that other people in the Community can't see, because they do not have the memories and no longer have the ability.
- This made Jonas see the apple change when they were playing ball. Also, when he is onstage during the Ceremony of Twelve, he also sees the faces in the audience change. One day he also sees Fiona's hair change to red.
- The importance of this is that then the Community chose Sameness, the people gave up colour. The scientists in the Community work to remove all the colour that exists in people and where they live to make things all look the same.

### Arguments for **Utopia** vs **Dystopia**

- I think the Community is dystopia because the people are being watched, controlled and released.
- The problem is that the people only see black and white and no colour. The reason this is happening is because every day the people have to go to a place and have an injection that makes people not feel emotions.
- This is why the people in the Community think they live in utopia, but it's because they don't know any better. They can't see the reality behind their world. They do not realise that in fact their world is a dystopia.