



Activity One

Career Search

It must have been very difficult for Jonas to have had his “career” decided for him at such a young age. For most people in our society, career decisions do not have to be made until a much later age than twelve. Despite this, you may have already given some serious thought to your own “career choice.” Few decisions are of more importance than this because it often means several years of specific schooling/training.

Your task is to investigate a career that is currently of interest to you. This can be an occupation that requires much in the way of preparation or one that requires very little.

Your first task is to choose a career/occupation and provide a rationale for your choice. What is there about this career/occupation that attracted you to it?

Secondly, investigate some of the particulars about this occupation. Details might include:

- required training/education
- salary/other benefits
- sacrifices required to pursue such a career (i.e. disadvantages to this occupation)
- long term advantages/disadvantages for this career choice (i.e. pension; danger)

As a final requirement: Make a concluding statement confirming your choice of career and the reason(s) for your choice.

It's not what you achieve,
it's what you overcome.
That's what defines your career.

—Carleton Fisk



Activity Two

Casting Director

- **This activity can be done with students working in small groups.**

Imagine you are the casting director for a movie company planning to do a film version of this novel. You are to cast all of the major roles for the movie and must choose one of the following two scenarios:

- a)** For the list of characters in the box below, choose an appropriate Hollywood actor to fill each role and write a brief explanation as to why you chose this particular actor.

OR

- b)** For the list of characters below, choose an appropriate person from your own school to fill each role and write a brief explanation as to why you chose this particular person. For this assignment, you might choose fellow students (including yourself), teachers, principal, custodian, etc.

Roles

- **Jonas**
- **Asher**
- **the Giver**
- **Jonas' mother**
- **Jonas' father**
- **Lily**
- **Fiona**
- **Rosemary**
- **additional characters**

NAME: _____



Activity Three

Put it on Film

- **To be done in groups of four or more**
- (For this Activity, video equipment is necessary.)

One of the fascinating things about putting book to film is in the many different interpretations of a scene that are possible. To illustrate this, you may wish to check out a number of student-made clips of scenes from ***The Giver***, which are posted on *YouTube*.

The task of your production team is to recreate a particular scene from this novel. Choose your scene carefully. Factors to consider:

- **length** (2–3 minutes ~ 2–3 pages is advised)
- **number of characters** (i.e. the Assignment ceremony would be impractical because of the large number of people involved)
- **setting** (i.e. Jonas sliding down the hill on the sled would be difficult because it involves snow and a hill)
- **dialogue** (i.e. too much can be difficult to memorize for the actors; too little might make the scene a bit boring)

Your task is to create a short scene from the novel and present it to the class on film. A script must be written before filming; roles assigned; rehearsals scheduled. You may wish to present the film in Readers Theater format.

Be sure that when you are presenting your finished project to the class, it is your best effort. Don't be afraid to do multiple takes until most of the rough edges are removed.

Have fun!

NAME: _____



Activity Four

Assignment Brochure

Chapters 7 and 8 are quite suspenseful in that they describe how Jonas and the other Twelves receive their Assignments. Jonas and his friends have absolutely no say in which Assignment they receive from the Council of Elders, but imagine for a moment how it might look if they did actually have some choice in this matter. What if they could decide for themselves what Assignment they would receive?

If the Twelves of Jonas' community were able to decide for themselves as to which Assignment they would perform for the remainder of their lives, those responsible for the different Assignments would have to be more creative in attracting people to their occupation or profession. If this were the case, a tool they might use in order to attract people would be a brochure advertising their particular Assignment.

Imagine you are on the hiring committee for one of the Assignments in Jonas' community. Such an Assignment might include:

- Fish Hatchery Attendant
- Birthmother
- Instructor of Sixes
- Child Care Specialist
- *or another from the novel*

Your task is to create a **brochure** designed to attract Twelves to your area of responsibility. A good starting point might be to study a few brochures and collect some ideas regarding layout, and what brochures typically include. Next, rough out some ideas (a picture or two, pertinent information, etc.).

Your final product should be professional-looking, include at least one picture, and feature a number of reasons that should draw people to your Assignment.



Activity Five

An Alternate Ending

- **This activity can be done individually or in small groups.**

The conclusion of *The Giver* is unforgettable. Not only does it tie-up a few loose ends (i.e. the sled and the family celebrating a holiday), but it is very moving and dramatic as well. The conclusion also leaves the reader wondering about other issues (i.e. who will Jonas meet in the house; will Gabriel survive; how will Jonas and Gabriel cope in this new world; will they ever return to their community?).

What if Lois Lowry had woken up on the wrong side of the bed on the day she wrote the novel's concluding chapters? What if it didn't end the way it is described in these pages, but had taken another *turn in the road*? What if things had not gone so well with Jonas during his escape? What if he had been captured, or met some hostile people along the way?

Although we will never know the answers to these questions, you will be given the opportunity of putting your imagination to work in coming up with what might have happened if the author's imagination had worked its way in an entirely different direction.

Working with a group or alone, brainstorm possible alternative endings to the novel. Remember to consider all of the principal characters. From your list of ideas, choose one ending to present to the class. Write a detailed synopsis of your alternate conclusion, presenting as much detail as possible. After presenting it to the class, you may wish to get their input as to additional changes that might be made to further improve your alternative ending.

Have fun!



Activity Six

Up for Review

There have been a number of memorable books and movies made whose theme deals with the future, for this has always been a fascinating topic.

With the approval of your teacher, your task will be to select one of the books or movies from the lists below (or one not listed but approved by your teacher), then write a review of this book or movie. Your review should describe the characters, setting and plot, as well as making a comparison to **The Giver**. (Please don't give away the ending.) You may wish to post your finished product on a website such as www.amazon.com.

Possible Books:

Andre Norton, *Moonsinger*
Madeleine L'Engle, *A Wrinkle in Time*
Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*
William Sleator, *Singularity*
Willo Davis Roberts, *The Girl With the Silver Eyes*
Sylvia Engdahl, *Enchantress From the Stars*
Alan E. Nourse, *Scavengers in Space*

Possible Movies:

- A Wrinkle in Time
- The Truman Show
 - Pleasantville
 - Wall-E
- E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial
 - Mio min Mio
- Back to the Future II