

August 11, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

On September 12, 2022, your child will begin reading Lois Lowry's Newbery Award-winning novel *The Giver*. This book is on the district approved novels list for students in the 6th grade. This is a futuristic tale of a seemingly utopian society where pain, hunger, and war do not exist. In this novel, we will be discussing the sacrifices made to live in a world free from pain, hunger, war- and even pleasure. Narrated by a 12 year old boy whose newly appointed job is essential for the survival of this utopian society, *The Giver* is a modern science-fiction narrative. Your child is about to embark on a journey of thought provoking themes- such as conformity, free will, and euthanasia.

It is imperative that you monitor your child's progress and understanding at home. I strongly encourage you to ask your child questions to ensure their understanding of the text. Some sample questions you could ask your child are:

- What makes a society ideal?
- How much should the government be able to control your individual rights for the better of your society?
- How can you balance individualism with community responsibility?
- What feelings did Jonas experience in your chapters today? How did he handle this?

We ask that all parents please purchase a personal copy of the book for your student to use at home and during school if possible. There is a class set of books that we will be using to read during the school day, but students will not be able to take a book home with them. Paperback books can be purchased on [Amazon at this link](#).

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,  
Ms. Whittingham