

August 16, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Next week, 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?

You are not required to purchase your own copy of the book. However, it might be helpful so that you are able to discuss and reread at home. There is a class set of books that we will be using to read during the school day, but students will not have a book to take home with them.

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

Sincerely,

Ms. Whittingham