



Boys and Girls,

I would like to introduce a book which may inspire you to think about your life, your world and your choice. After reading it, you will have a lot of questions in your mind. For example, what would the world be if there were no wars, no discrimination, no inequality, no bullying, no sadness or no pain? Does it sound like a utopia, a perfect world, to you? If it does, have you ever thought that it is uncomfortably unnatural and strange as well? From another perspective, it implies that it is a world of sameness, lifelessness and dullness. So what I would like to share with you today is a thought-provoking book, called 'The Giver'. The story is about a boy, Jonas, who lives in a world of sameness, a 'perfect' world before he is given a chance to be the receiver of memories, or you may say he is chosen as Giver-to-be, the next in line to be the giver.

Let me tell you some more details about the story. In this world, everything is in control. Every year, there are celebration ceremonies to celebrate their growth. Among all these ceremonies, the ceremony for the twelve-year-old is the most significant because it is the time to determine their future careers and fate. They may be assigned to be engineers, birthmothers, labourers, caretakers, teachers, nurturers and so on. For Jonas, the main character, in his twelve-year-old ceremony, he is not assigned, but chosen to be the receiver of memories, who will succeed the existing Giver after his death.

What is so special about this role? The Giver is the only person who can have personal thinking, feelings and memories in this community. This makes the giver so different from others. Superficially, it is a role with the greatest honor. Don't forget, a coin has two sides. After receiving the memories or training from the Giver, Jonas starts to see things differently from what he has perceived before. The more the memories he receives, the more disturbing he becomes. He starts to doubt about many things like the rules, the relationship and the operation of this utopian community. He experiences a big change and struggle that he has never thought of before. In the end, he is determined to change what is arranged for him. For details of the story, I will leave it to you to explore.

When reading this book, you will be pushed to think of many questions: what is free will? What is freedom? What is the value of choice? Why are they so valuable? We always say they are important but how important they are. Or are they really that important? I hope you can find out the answers after reading this book. It is definitely a story of bravery, discovery and determination.

This book was awarded the John Newbery Medal in 1994 and has accompanied the growth of many British ten-graders after its publication. According to the comment given by the New York Times, “The Giver’ is a powerful and provocative novel.’ Good news for you! The story will be brought to the silver screen a few months later and Taylor Swift will take a role in it. And the trailer is now available online. I suggest you read the book before watching this film. If you like reading Hunger Games, Twilight or Divergent, ‘The Giver’ is definitely another book you should never miss.

A post-sharing note: The following is the trailer of the upcoming film, the Giver 2014. If interested, please click on the following link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYZxZups06w>
