

There's No Going Back Once You Are Different

By Emily Cook

How do you hide who you really are when people all around you are the same? How do you share your feelings if you're the only one who has them? In *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, Jonas lives in a place where everyone is the same and nobody knows that there is more to life than what they have. During the ceremony of the twelve, each child gets a job. Jonas is chosen to be the special receiver. Only him and the Giver know what's really out there. Jonas has different rules than his family which includes his mom, dad, Gabriel, and Lily. Jonas thinks that everyone should have feelings like him and the Giver. He decides to change his community. He has a hard time hiding the differences he has from everyone in his surroundings but he finds that it is important for everyone to share their differences so that everyone's true self can be recognized.

When a distinctive part of Jonas shows, it is hard for him because he can't say anything. When Jonas notices something related to his training, he can't explain it to his friends. Jonas was going to play with his friends. They were playing a game he has grown up playing. "He has never recognized it as a game of war" (Lowry 167). Jonas and his friends play this game all the time. This was the first time after training that he has stepped back and watched it in action. This is the first time he saw it differently than just a game. When his friends asked what happened he could not explain because it was against the rules. He knows more than everyone else because he is the receiver. Even though Jonas wants people to know the memories of the past, he can't share it until he leaves on his secret adventure. He feels that everyone should know what all of these

memories mean and do whether they are good or bad. It may be difficult to hide what you can't articulate, but you will always find a way to show who you truly are.

Jonas is not scared of being different from everyone else. It's always scary to do something for the first time especially when it comes to being different. Jonas warms up to this very quickly. When I am in a new place it will take me a little while to get used to my new scenery. The same is for Jonas. "Jonas laughed, relaxing a little" (Lowry 93). The receiver before him was not able to handle all of this information, because she did not feel very comfortable in her surroundings after learning about terrible things and could not handle all of the information that she was given. From the quote above, it sounds like he is nervous at first but over the time he has been receiver, he felt comfortable where he was and what he is doing. Differences between things are a big part of who you are and what you do every day.. Being different is better than being the same as someone else so you can represent what you can do with yourself and the opportunities you have.

The council does not want people to have memories because of the past, but if they have a new start, it could turn out differently. The council of the community chooses everything and withholds all the information. They feel it is better to not have people choose for themselves. This is why the community is so organized. They do not tell anyone anything until it has already happened or it is in the moment. "I was notified by the speaker that she had gone directly to the chief elder and asked to be released" (Lowry 179). The community is against what Jonas wants to do: share the information he has. This is because of what happened when Rosemary, the previous receiver, was released. It has happened when Rosemary was released but it will be

harder to reverse it this time because Jonas holds more memories. Jonas wants his family and friends to know their true selves. Memories are all anyone knows and to know who you were will help you find yourself. When the memories are released everyone will know them. It may be breaking the sameness and rules that the community has, but sometimes breaking rules and doing what you think is right will work out ideally.

Sharing who you really are instead of being the same is what Jonas thinks is right. Even though Jonas can't share with everyone about being the receiver, it does not stop him from discussing his opinion. Jonas was the right person to pick for receiver because he can get used to things really quickly and not be shy of being different. The council is in charge, but when others know what is really out there, they are going to want to do something about it. If the council wanted to have full control they might have eliminated the memories or keep the memories with themselves. Jonas is like a new person at the end of the book. In the beginning he is not so sure about being different as for everyone in the community is the same. After he discovers things from the past by being the receiver, Jonas feels that they should not have sameness and bring back the memories to let people know what they really can do and know about themselves. In today's world, when people feel strongly about something they share it and most importantly like being different from others. It makes up who you are and who you are decides what you do throughout life.