The Giver: ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Mora 3/17/14

Value: 15 points

Due: end of class on Monday, March 17, 2014

Directions: You will choose 1 out of the 14 prompts provided and respond to it in the form of an essay no less than 3 paragraphs in length. Your response has the following requirements:

- The number of the prompt chosen will be written next to our entry.
- Your writing should have a title
- The main point of your essay will be underlined
- An excerpt from the novel will be used to support your writing
 - → When excerpting from the book, use quotation marks and write down the page number.

You must work independently. You may (should) use the book and notes from your learning log to help develop answers. *Organize your thoughts and brainstorm before you write down your final response!*

GOOD LUCK! Don't stress out but give it your full effort! This is good practice, <u>painful</u> though it may be! :)

1.	"Memory is not just the imprint of the past upon us; it is the keeper of what is meaningful for our deepest hopes and fears Rollo May
	How does this quote relate to the way memory is treated in <u>The Giver</u> ? How are books and memory connected?
2.	Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson said, "Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."
	What do you think he meant? Would the Giver agree? Do you?
3.	In Jonas's community, every person's experiences are nearly the same. The climate is controlled, and competition and individuality have been eliminated in favor of a community where everyone works only for the common good and not for himself/herself. What advantages might "Sameness" bring for communities in today's world? Is it worth sacrificing diversity and choice for the benefits of sameness?
4.	Explain how the capacity to feel pain is a gift of great value.
5.	What is one thing you learned from Jonas's experience that you will apply to your own life? (Example: maybe it has affected how you will treat your family or if you will decide to comply with the rules and regulations of society?)
6.	The Giver tells Jonas, "Life here is so orderly so predictable - so painless." Jonas says, "We really have to protect people from wrong choices." Is this reasoning a good defense or justification for their society? Since everyone is the same in the community is there equality?
7.	What does freedom mean to Jonas? What are the differences between personal freedom and societal freedom? What can our memories teach us about the value of freedom?
8.	Why is the relationship between Jonas and the Giver dangerous, and what does this danger suggest about the nature of love? What is involved in loving someone?

9.	"He who controls the present controls the past. He who controls the past controls the future." George Orwell
	Explain what is meant by this statement and connect it to the novel.
10.	One of the more controversial topics that Lowry touches upon is euthanasia, or the practice of ending someone's life to ease their suffering. Jonas's community practices euthanasia on very old citizens as well as upon unhealthy newchildren. Jonas's horror at this practice motivates him to take drastic measures, and yet many people in our own society consider euthanasia to be a compassionate practice that should be available to all citizens. Does the novel condemn, promote, or conditionally accept the practice?
11.	Despite the community's emphasis on precise language, language is often used as a tool for social control in <i>The Giver</i> . Choose two or three words/terms used in the society (examples are "release", "stirrings", replacement child) that distort or conceal the meaning of the words we use now in order to promote the rules and conventions of the community, and describe how their use affects the behavior and attitudes of the people in the community.
12.	What is it that gives Jonas a purpose for living? What gives his life meaning and keeps him going when he would rather quit? What general comment is the author trying to communicate to the reader through Jonas's discovery?
13.	The ending of <i>The Giver</i> is ambiguous and can be interpreted in many different ways. Perhaps Jonas is merely remembering the transmitted memory of Christmas while he and Gabriel are actually freezing to death, falling into a dreamlike coma in the snow. Or maybe, Jonas really does hear music and perceives a warm house where people are waiting to greet him. In her acceptance speech for the Newbery Award, Lois Lowry mentions both possibilities but does not choose one as correct. Give your interpretation of the ending and provide evidence that supports your explanation. (Stay inline with the novel - nothing too farfetched.)
14.	Who are the Givers and Receivers in our society? Is such an exchange necessary in order for a community to survive? Explain its importance and significance.