

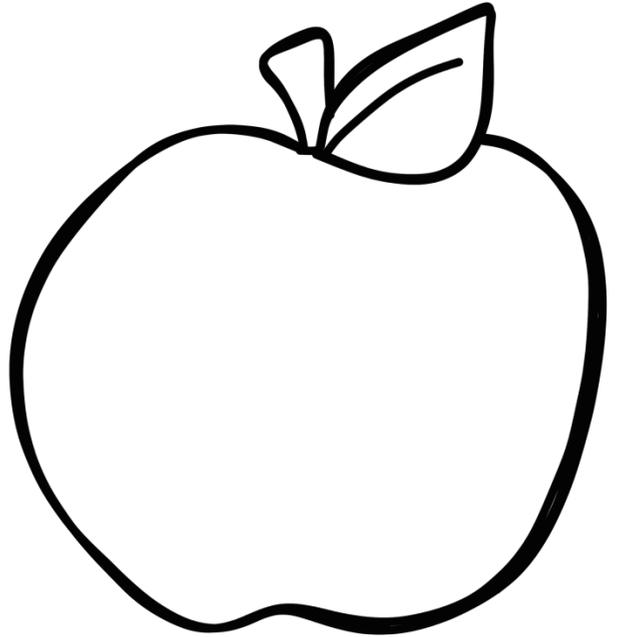
The Giver

Interactive Notebook Activity on Symbols

Instructions for Using the Printables

- Print the three pages.
- Have students cut out the cards.
- Fold the cards in half on the dotted lines.
- Have students write what each symbol means inside the card. An answer key can be found on page 5.
- Students can glue these into an interactive notebook.

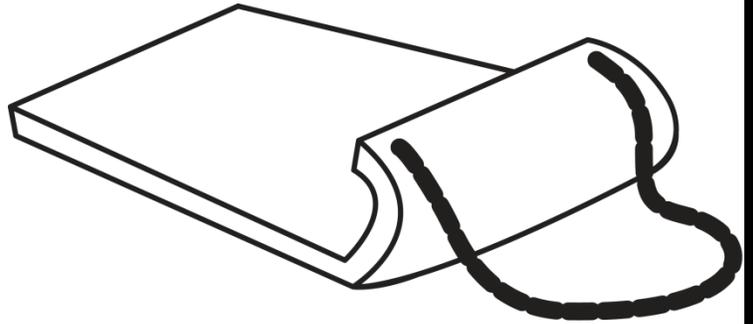
THE COLOR RED



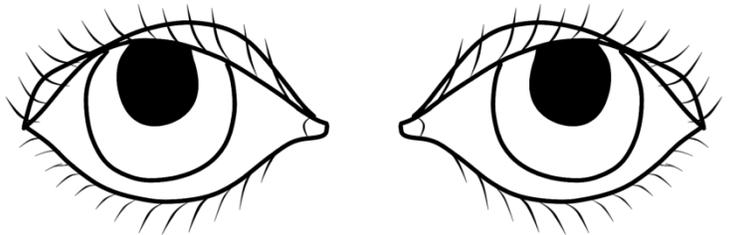
GABRIEL



THE SLED



LIGHT COLORED EYES



THE RIVER



THE GIVER



Answer Key

The Color Red

Jonas first sees the red apple. Next he sees Fiona's red hair. Later Jonas notices the red color in the cheeks of the people around him when they were excited.

Red is an intense color. It is a symbol for strong emotions such as danger and excitement.

Gabriel

Gabriel is a newchild who according to Jonas's father may need to be released because he doesn't sleep through the night. Jonas's father brings him home from the nurturing center at night in hopes of changing this. Jonas becomes very attached to Gabriel partly because Gabriel has light colored eyes like Jonas, a rarity in the community. Because he doesn't want Gabriel to be released, Jonas transfers pleasant memories to Gabriel causing him to sleep peacefully.

Gabriel is too young to understand the rigid rules of the community. His innocence is a symbol of hope. He stands for a brighter future, a way to change the society.

The Sled

In Chapter 11, the Giver transfers the first memory to Jonas. He wants to make sure he doesn't overwhelm Jonas when they first begin Jonas's training, so the memory is a happy one. In this exciting memory, Jonas enjoys a downhill ride on a sled. This is like nothing he has ever experienced before. Later in Chapter 14, Jonas takes another ride on the sled. This time the sled doesn't stop by snow clogging up the runners, but tips over. Jonas breaks his leg. The Giver refuses to give Jonas pain medication, and he limps home from the physical pain of the memory.

In the memories, the sled symbolizes both pleasure and pain. In the end, Jonas finds a real sled which he rides into his new life. This time the sled symbolizes freedom from the past and entry into a new world.

Light Colored Eyes

Jonas is born with light colored eyes (blue). When Jonas's father brings Gabriel home, Jonas discovers that Gabriel has light colored eyes just like himself. This is a rarity in the society. In Chapter 10, the reader learns that the Giver also has the same eyes. The reader assumes that blue eyes are a requirement to be a giver or receiver of memories.

The author could have selected any physical feature to be different, yet she selected eyes. This is most likely because people associate eyes as a way of seeing inside a person.

The River

On days when Jonas was worried and disappointed, he would go for walks beside the river. It was a place where he could be alone with his thoughts. The river was also a dangerous place. The first child Caleb died there. Later Jonas fakes his own death at the river.

The river symbolizes many things. It can be a border between the community and Elsewhere. It is a peaceful place to meditate. The river can also be dangerous and destructive. All-in-all the river is a boundary or a dividing line between the society and freedom and life and death.

The Giver

The Giver carries around all the memories of the past. He alone remembers what the world was like before the society turned to "Sameness." He tells Jonas it is an honor to be selected as the Receiver of these memories. After Jonas begins his training, he tells the Giver that he could help the community bear the burden and pain of past memories.

The Giver symbolizes choice and freedom to the community by releasing the memories to everyone.

[The Giver Book Unit](#) contains graphic organizers for an interactive notebook and game activities covering vocabulary, comprehension questions, constructive response writing, and skill practice.

