The Giver Novel Final Projects

You may choose any project on this list. All projects that are writing based require one page of writing minimum. Projects that can be done in a group are indicated in the project description.

1. Character analysis: Choose one important character in the novel and write a character analysis for him or her. Include the following items in your analysis:
   - Appearance
   - Actions
   - Ideas (what the character thinks)
   - Manner (how the character acts)
   - Reactions of others to the character
   - Feelings of the character throughout the novel

   Answer each of the following questions:
   - Do the character’s feelings/ideals change? How so?
   - Why is he or she important to the novel?
   - Would you like this character if they were a real person? Explain.
   - Would you want to be this character? Explain.
   - How well does/would your character fit into a utopian society, a dystopian society, and our society?

2. Author’s Message: For this option please answer all facets of the following questions.
   - What message did you get from the book?
   - For whom was the novel written?
   - What point was the author making about utopian/dystopian societies?
   - Do you think the author was successful in getting this message across? Why?
   - What were the good and bad points about this novel?
   - Was this novel a realistic picture of a utopian/dystopian society?
   - Would this society be a utopia or a dystopia to you?
   - Reflect on and share your reaction to the novel as a whole.
   - How does Jonas’ society compare to our society today?
   - Could you ever see our society moving in the direction of Jonas’? Explain in what ways it could or already has.

3. Movie Review: Find a movie which deals with similar themes or subjects and write a review for it. Be sure to include the following in it:
   - A brief summary of the movie
   - A compare and contrast of the movie and The Giver
   - How the movie connects/relates to the novel
4. Novel Review: Find a novel which deals with similar themes or subjects and write a review for it. Be sure to include the following in it:
   - A brief summary of your choice novel
   - A compare and contrast of your choice novel and The Giver
   - How your choice novel connects/relates to The Giver

5. Musical Analysis: Write your own song lyrics and then explain them and how they relate to the novel. For bonus points you can write your own music to go with the song and perform it for the class.

6. Interview: Interview one of the characters from the novel. Do not use the question/answer format; use feature article technique. Pretend you are writing for a prestigious news magazine like Newsweek or Time. Do not make this a fluff piece, a la People or some other tabloid.

7. Autobiography: Write a brief autobiographical piece as one of the characters. Use first person. You may have to draw some inferences about family or background. Base your work on information given directly or indirectly in the novel.

8. Partner Project: You and your partner will be writing both a preface and an epilogue for The Giver. If you are the one writing the preface you need to do the following:
   - Discuss with your partner what long ago may have led the people in Jonas’ society to agree to live the way his community did, especially with sameness and the practice of release. How was perfection determined/defined and how was it agreed upon that release was the proper solution for imperfection?
   - Let the results of your discussion with your partner shape the preface you write. Be sure to answer all of the above questions in some way in your preface story.

   If you are the one writing the epilogue you need to do the following:
   - Discuss with your partner what you believe happened to Gabe and Jonas after the novel left off. Also discuss with your partner what you believe happened to Jonas’ community and the Giver after Jonas left and the memories came back to them.
   - Use the results of your discussion with your partner to shape the epilogue you write. Be sure to resolve what happens to both Jonas and Gabe, and the Community and the Giver in the epilogue story you write.

9. Hero: Throughout all of literature stories center around heroes. Most of the literary heroes from all over the world and across time are on the same type of journey. Whether it is literature as ancient as Greek mythology or literature as modern as The Giver, the pattern for the hero remains the same. In Greek mythology a pattern that never changes is known as an archetype. In most pieces of heroic literature the hero is marked from birth as different from everyone else, the hero’s real parents do not raise him, and then it becomes clear that the hero is destined for greatness. Next the hero’s special talents/abilities are discovered and developed under the guidance of a mentor. Ultimately the hero must prove himself by going on a dangerous quest on behalf of others. Usually the quest is extremely dangerous and only the hero’s special talent helps him complete it. Once the task is complete the hero must begin an extremely difficult journey home. When the hero makes it home, he is greatly rewarded. Jonas follows much of
this archetype in the story of The Giver. Think about the ways Jonas matches this archetype and explore the hero archetype by writing your own heroic story. Create a character with certain strengths and weaknesses, decide upon a quest, invent opponents and struggles, and help your hero towards eventual triumph.

10. Partner or Small Group Project: After learning about utopias and dystopias you and a group of peers will research other societies that attempted communal living or tried to live in a way that was very different from the norm in society. Look at for example how Amish, Mennonite, monastic, or cloistered communities organize their communities. After researching such communities you and your group of peers will design your own utopia. Make sure you cover the following information in your utopic design:

- Brief explanation of how you drew on the cultures you researched in your design
- Who is most important, the individual or the group?
- How is the government organized?
- How are people’s jobs organized and determined?
- How is a family unit organized or made up?
- Is there one specific organized religion or several?
- How is freedom of choice handled or monitored?
- What is the standard that every citizen is expected to uphold and follow?
- How is misbehavior handled?
- What happens to those who cannot meet the standard?
- How are issues of population, health, death, education, recreation, child care, food/agriculture, housing, wealth, aging, and weather/environment handled?

Your group will present this information in an oral presentation using a minimum of one visual aid.

11. Sketchbook: Jonas lives in a world without color, art, or music. How would you illustrate scenes from this part of his life? How would your illustrations develop as the story continued and Jonas’ perception of the world changed as he journeyed to Elsewhere? Complete ten or more high quality illustrations for the whole book. The pictures should reflect how Jonas’ view changed. An example would be starting in only black and white and then slowly changing to color illustrations where appropriate to Jonas’ journey. On the back of each picture briefly explain and analyze the picture and any art techniques you used to symbolize different parts of the story.