

**Lois Lowry Giver
Series: The Giver,
Messenger,
Gathering Blue**

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Chapters: The Giver, Messenger, Gathering Blue. Source: Wikipedia. Pages: 22. Not illustrated. Free updates online. Purchase includes a free trial membership in the publisher's book club where you can select from more than a million books without charge. Excerpt: The Giver is a 1993 soft science fiction novel by Lois Lowry. It is set in a future society which is at first presented as a utopian society and gradually appears more and more dystopian; therefore, it could be considered anti-utopian. The novel follows a boy named Jonas through the twelfth year of his life. The society has eliminated pain and strife by converting to "Sameness," a plan which has also eradicated emotional depth from their lives. Jonas is selected to inherit the position of "Receiver of Memory," the person who stores all the memories of the time before Sameness, in case they are ever needed to aid in decisions that others lack the experience to make. When Jonas meets the Giver, he is confused in many ways. The Giver is also able to break some rules, such as turning off the speaker and locking his door. As Jonas receives the memories from the previous receiver the "Giver" he discovers the power of knowledge. The people in his community are happy because they don't know of a better life but with the knowledge of what they are missing out on it could create chaos. He faces a dilemma: Should he stay with the community, his family living a shallow life without love, color, sound and knowledge or should he run away to where he can live a full life? Despite controversy and criticism that the book's subject material is inappropriate for young children, The Giver won the 1994 Newbery Medal and has sold more than 5.3 million copies. In Australia, the United States and Canada, it is a part of many middle school reading lists, but it is also on many banned book lists and appeared on the American Library Association's list of the most challenged books of the 1990's....More: <http://booksllc.net/?id=19993>

Lois Lowry Giver Series: The Giver, Messenger, Gathering Blue Details

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Christy says

As someone who loved "The Giver" many years ago, I was thrilled to find out there were two more books. I was slightly confused after reading the second one - yes, it was about another Utopian society, but how did it relate to "Giver"? I found the connection in the third book. Well-written with a great message, I am thrilled that this became a series. I only wish that there was a book that covered the same period of time as "Gathering Blue" that took place in Village.

Elisa Sinnett says

I think these are great books, I'm not the intended audience, but I love dystopian/imagined communities and these are a treat. Christian themed, close narration, vivid, midwives and weavers, messengers and carpenters. A little unsatisfying---what happens to the characters. But I think I'm alright with that, because it gives me hope as a writer. It doesn't have to be perfect to be engaging. The Giver is the classic of course.

Christin Petrosino says

One of the best series I've ever read.

Beth says

I thought this book was interesting and a fantastic sequel to the Giver. I highly suggest this book to young adults and teens. The book after to come in the series is Son, I have read that one and it is very exciting!

Crystal Lay says

I read The Giver years ago and didn't realize it was part of a series of books until recently. I am a fan of utopian themes that run through a story and loved The Giver so knew I had to read the rest of the series. In the beginning of the second book I was struggling to figure out a connection to The Giver, but as I continued through the series the connections became more clear. The main characters in each book grip your heart from the start and you become emotionally invested in their futures. The last book brings the story full circle and the characters stay with you long after you finish reading their stories. Yet another example that there is no perfect world....every utopian creation is a dystopian society in disguise.

Kayla Satterly says

The book *The Giver* is about a boy named Jonas. When Jonas is 12 years old he is chosen to be the "Receiver of Memory" to preserve previous knowledge. The village he lives in does not have any deep depth emotion and is a little naïve. When the giver, the previous receiver of memory begins to tell Jonas the secrets and the knowledge, he realizes that the giver can lie to the people of the village about what he knows and what else is really out there. Jonas has to decide if he wants to run away and live the life he now knows about or stay and keep all of his knowledge and secrets from the village.

The book *The Messenger* is about a boy named Matty. He is the village messenger because he is the only one who is able to enter the forest without being killed by the plants and trees. He tries to be perfect at his job because he wants his name to eventually be "The Messenger". Throughout the book Matty has to go into the forest to put up warning signs that the village will be closed off due to the people becoming rude and selfish. He also embarks on the journey to bring back the Seer's daughter Kira.

Mary Drayer says

Yes I am behind the times; but I really enjoyed this award winning series! Together they are a quick read but some of the endings are abrupt. Take the time and read them...I am now on number 4, the Son.

Dori says

After reading "The Giver" three times, I was excited to learn more of the story in "The Messenger" and "Gathering Blue." I was never satisfied with the ending of "The Giver." I especially wasn't satisfied that it was truly the end of the story and always chose to believe there was more. Then I discovered these books. Lowry's vision of the future is intriguing and her characters are interesting and well-developed. If you've read "The Giver" you will want to slip back into the future a couple more times to read these books.

Diego Vargas says

The Giver

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One of the best books I have ever read. A very good book with a plot line that makes sense. I read this with wight nuckles and big eyes. A must read.I really can go in to the unnatural world that Jonas lives in

Gathering Blue

I have seen a lot of bad rating for this book because people think that it is a sequel to The Giver. It's not. The 3rd book is a sequel to Gathering Blue and tells a very basic story of what happened to Jonas and Gabe. Beware... the next thing I will tell you comes from the Messenger and Gathering Blue and I need to make sure you have read them before you see what is next.(view spoiler)
Anyway I think that Gathering Blue is very good even if it is not as good as the Giver...

Messenger

I like this book a lot really ties together Gathering Blue. Very good book. A lot of people said that they had wanted Gathering Blue from Matt's perspective so this book is sort of like that.

I give The Giver a 5 star rating
Gathering Blue a 4 star rating
And Messenger a 4 1/2 star rating

By the way for those who like the Giver and Messenger Lois Lowry came out with the final book and from what I have heard the story is about (view spoiler)

Megan says

I just reread The Giver and Gathering Blue in anticipation of reading the fourth and final book in the series, The Son. It was written 20 years after, The Giver, which was amazing as ever. I don't know how many times I've read it but this time was my favorite for sure. Having children in my home changes my entire perspective of the book. The "release" and "thank you for your childhood" are so hard to think about. This was my second time reading, Gathering Blue, and first time reading, Messenger, which are both good but not nearly as powerful to me as, The Giver. I can't wait until the ends are all tied up with, The Son.

Jennifer Phelps says

I missed these when I was an adolescent (think they came out when I was in college). LOVED the series as an adult...but then again, I do enjoy a good dystopia.

Not sure I'll see the movie. The book was so wonderful, I am not sure I want to touch it.

Stephanie Steinberg says

I recently reread this series along with my two children (ages 8 and 11). While the first two books are excellent, the third book was tedious at times with certain characters in perilous circumstances for many long chapters and lots of gore is described. Still a very interesting way to link the first and second books which read like they are not related at all. There is a fourth book which we also read and liked better than the third but not as much as the first and second. It is a rare thing to find children's books that are smart enough to keep the interest of an adult while not being too complex for a child to follow and enjoy. All in all a great series for kids (5th-6th grade reading level) and adults alike.

Gillian says

A dystopia society that seems to be caught in the past or are they in the future? Perhaps their way of life is better than modern day? You will have to decide for yourself. May seem slow at the beginning but keep reading. At first the 2nd book seems unrelated and then bam your suck in to the seminally everyday tasks of the protagonist. The author does an amazing job weaving the stories together and keeping you engage in the characters lives.

Ice Bear says

The Giver

For me this is a classic 'must read' book for young adults and upwards, hence my choice of bookshelf. In my view it deals with the balance in Society between freedom and control, comfort and fear. It makes us aware that life is not risk free no matter what Health & Safety Officers might tell us.

Gathering Blue

To my understanding, this short book deals with rejection and acceptance. About our ability to see beneath skin deep. The characters are believable, and the subtle hints of magical abilities add to the storyline.

Messenger

Taking up from Gathering Blue, this story deals with health, pain & sacrifice despite its title. I felt the book needed another chapter to fully develop the ending, but it seems the author's intention to let us reflect and add the missing detail. It links in lightly to The Giver.

However neither of these two later books have the power of the The Giver and thus have shaded the rating down from a 5.

Rema says

I read "The Giver" because I had heard so much about it, but couldn't figure out the end of the book since it certainly wasn't the end of the story. As much as I had enjoyed the story, the lack of closure killed the book for me. I was so happy when the librarian told me it was part of a series. I liked Gathering Blue the best of the three, as it explains so well the mentality of the society in The Giver and the biggest problem with engineering a worry-free society...a worry-free society is also a loveless society because with love comes risk. Overall, a very well-written, thought-provoking series exploring the concepts of love, greed, control, freedom, and society and the trade-offs that must be made with each.
