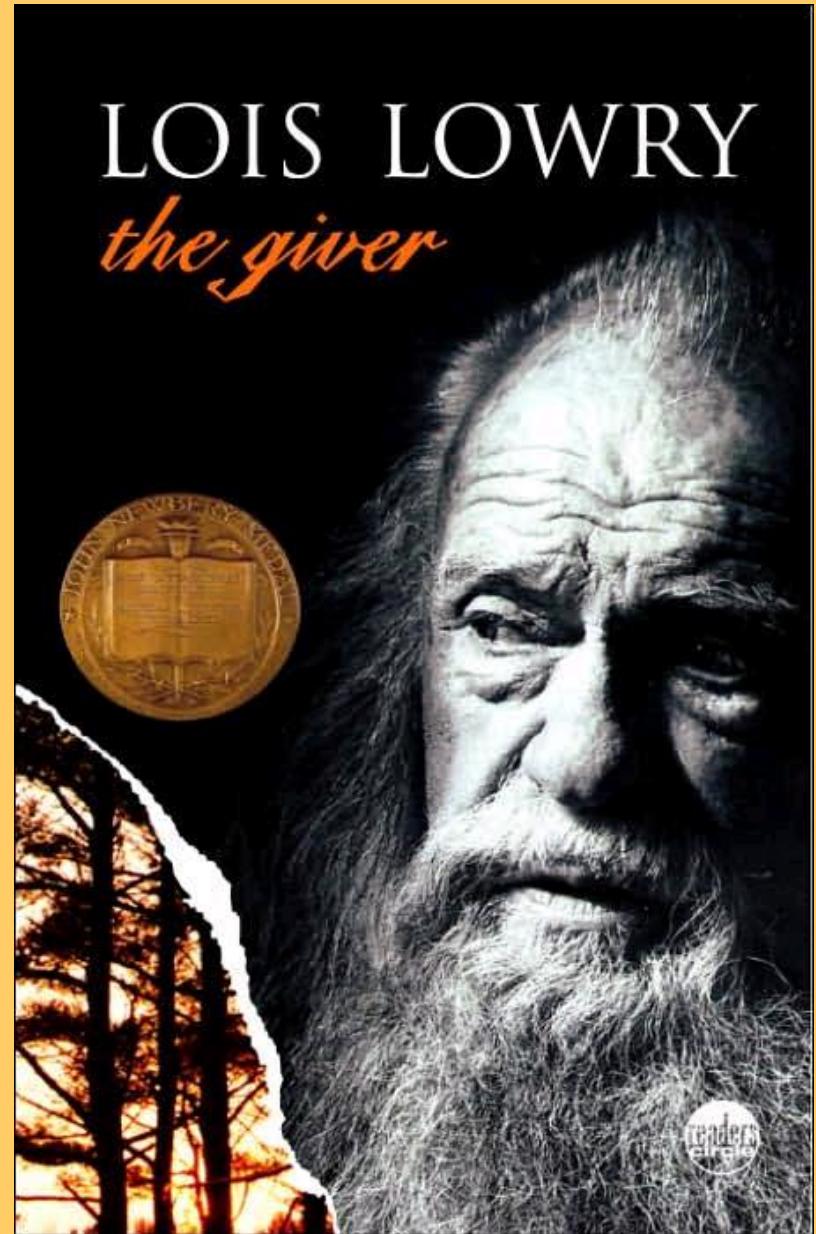


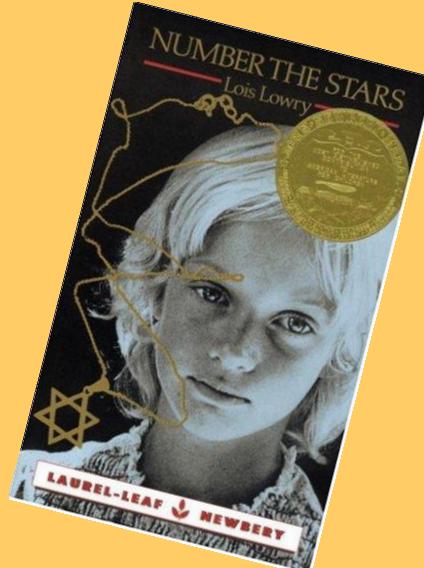
# The Giver

By Lois Lowry



# *The Giver*

- Where did she get the idea for *The Giver*?
  - Nursing home visit with her father
  - Letters about *Number the Stars*
  - Scopolamine – a commonly used drug in the 40s, 50s, and 60s for mothers in labor



# Essential Questions

- What if there were a scopolamine for the soul?
- What if our society decided to prescribe it for itself?
- Would that be wrong?
- What would we sacrifice by doing so?
- What price would we pay?



# About the author

- Lowry moved around quite a bit as a child because **her father was in the Army**. She lived in numerous foreign countries, perhaps where she got her desire to write about **sameness** and **differences** in the unique way she does in the book.

# About the Book

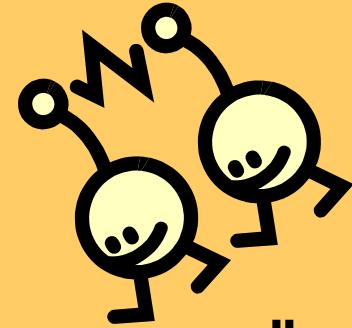
- Written in 1994
- Won the Newberry Medal
- Does not necessarily answer any of the questions that Lowry asked herself when she came up with the concept for the book.
- Unlike most books on this topic (*1984* by Orwell), this book has a more optimistic ending but a much less realistic take on the subject.



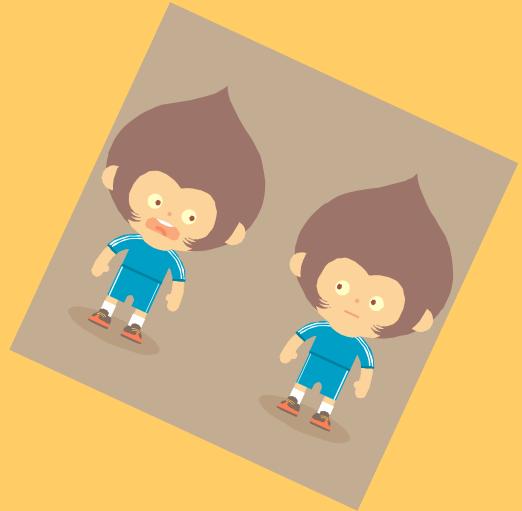
# About the Book

- Main Character – **Jonas**, a 12-year-old boy
- Setting – a future **dystopia**, literally meaning “**bad place**”
  - What is a utopia?

# Know This:



- Lois Lowry takes the idea of “**sameness**” to the extreme in this book so we can see how **harmful** it can be.
- Think about the Holocaust
  - What was the goal?
  - What was the method?
  - What was the end result?



# Know This:

- Lowry stated that because both of her parents were dying when she wrote this book, “...the topic of ‘memories’ and the **transferring** of the memories from one **generation** to the next was very much on [her] mind.”

# Food for thought...

- This book address many VERY controversial issues in our society today.
- We will respect each other's thoughts and feelings and likely agree to disagree on some topics. We will NOT be inconsiderate of each other's feelings or believe that Lowry is trying to tell us this is the way society SHOULD be. She's not. If you think this, reread! If you have questions, ASK!