***The Giver* Demand Essay: Thematic Statement Practice**

**Potential Thematic Topics**

**\*\*\*NOTICE HOW THEY ALL SEEM TO BE SIMILAR VERSIONS OF THE SAME KEY IDEAS. USE THIS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.BE ABLE TO ANALYZE, WITH SPECIFIC EXAMPLES HOW EACH OF THESE THEMATIC TOPICS ARE EVIDENT IN *THE GIVER*.\*\*\***

Class activity:

Turn these topics into statements! Hint: You may want to combine some of these ideas to create a stronger thesis. ☺

1. Power (memories, books, given to Jonas by the Giver, influence/control – Jonas effects the community in both positive and negative ways through the return of the memories, obstacles to overcome – escaping, understanding his society, isolation from family and friends…)
   1. True power is achieved through obtaining knowledge.
   2. Power is achieved by overcoming obstacles.
   3. Great power comes with great responsibility.
   4. When gifted with power, one must sacrifice of themselves in order to create a better world.
   5. Power should be shared.
2. Knowledge/Wisdom (memories, books, Knowledge = facts, Wisdom = using facts to make change, Jonas and The Giver, knowledge is both pleasurable and painful, social interaction is sacrificed – loneliness/isolation, …)
   1. In order to possess wisdom we must make sacrifices.
   2. Possessing wisdom requires us to overcome challenges.
   3. Knowledge must be shared for the benefit of all.
   4. Knowledge is a burden/presents a challenge that we must overcome with courage.
   5. Access to knowledge comes with great responsibility.
3. Courage/Sacrifice (Who has courage? What does courage look like in the novel? How is courage demonstrated specifically in the novel? Who lacks courage (in what way)? Why is the community so afraid of diversity? Who suffers/benefits from the sacrifices that are made? Is sacrifice easy? What is shown about the characters who are willing to sacrifice themselves?)
   1. True courage is shown when one is willing to sacrifice of themselves for the betterment of others.
   2. Courage is found in the unlikely people/places.
   3. True courage is found when faced with the task of overcoming obstacles.
   4. Courage is found when one is willing to embrace diversity.
   5. Courage is found when one recognizes and uses their power to benefit others.
4. Challenges/Overcoming Obstacles (Escape to Elsewhere, Jonas overcame: pain, social isolation, anger towards father/society, The Giver: struggled with Rosemary’s death, social isolation, giving up all positive memories, Jonas’ struggles with his reality/life as he knew it being destroyed)
5. The greatest challenge in life is accepting/embracing change.
6. The greatest challenge in life is learning to change who you are.
7. The greatest challenge in life is accepting one’s responsibilities.
8. The greatest challenge in life is maturing.
9. The most rewarding challenges are those which require the most courage.
10. Diversity vs. Sameness (focus on differences, sameness = lack of individuality, Sameness is shown through the society – rules, assigned jobs, ritual of telling feelings/dreams, application for children/marriage, diversity allows for emotions and choices, why convert to sameness? Who made the decision to convert to sameness? Why fight for diversity?)
    1. To achieve diversity, one must overcome the challenge of fear.
    2. Individuality is found through diversity.
    3. Individuality is worth fighting for/ Individuality is worthy of sacrifice.
    4. Lack of diversity leads to lack of growth/progress (as individuals and society as a whole).
    5. Diversity allows for a fulfilled life.
11. Maturity/Responsibility (What responsibilities? Who has responsibilities? How does the character live up to/fail those responsibilities? What does the process of maturing entail/require? Who does Jonas’ maturity benefit?)
    1. With great power comes great responsibility.
    2. Maturity is developed through recognition of diversity.
    3. Maturity is developed through showing courage in difficult situations.
    4. Maturity develops when we begin to reflect on ourselves /the world around us.

\*\*\***IT IS YOUR TASK TO LOOK AT THESE THEMATIC STATEMENTS YOU HAVE CREATED AND DETERMINE WHICH ONES YOU CAN DISCUSS IN THE GREATEST DETAIL WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCES FROM THE NOVEL. LOOK FOR ANY OVERLAP IN THE STATEMENTS, AND FEEL FREE TO SHORTEN THE LIST AS YOU SEE FIT. REMEMBER THOUGH, YOUR TEST QUESTION WILL BE CREATED AROUND SOME COMBINATION OF THE CONCEPTS OF KNOWLEDGE, HEROISM/COURAGE, MATURITY, DIVERSITY, CHALLENGES, AND/OR POWER.\*\*\***