The Giver, List 4

1. [successor](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/successor)

a person who inherits some title or office

But that does not mean I am perfect, and when I tried before to train a **successor**, I failed.

The phrase "I failed" turns the word "successor" into a pun ("success" and "successor" come from the same Latin words "sub" which means "after" and "cedere" which means "to go"). The Giver was unsuccessful in training his successor, who's supposed to come after him and replace him as the Receiver. Even though one can inherit the trait of light eyes that enables perception and reception, s/he must be chosen and trained for the title and office of Receiver.

1. [transmit](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/transmit)

transfer to another

“Simply stated,” he said, “although it’s not really simple at all, my job is to **transmit** to you all the memories I have within me.

1. [deft](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/deft)

skillful in physical movements; especially of the hands

This one had a switch, which the man deftly snapped to the end that said OFF.

1. [disgrace](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/disgrace)

bring shame or dishonor upon

The room was absolutely silent, and for a moment Jonas feared that he might **disgrace** himself now, on the first day of his training, by falling asleep.

1. [torrent](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/torrent)

an overwhelming number or amount

He could see a bright, whirling **torrent** of crystals in the air around him, and he could see them gather on the backs of his hands, like cold fur.

1. [exhilarating](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/exhilarating)

making lively and joyful

The snow was piled now around it, and he pushed with his body, moving it forward, not wanting the **exhilarating** ride to end.

1. [tentative](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/tentative)

unsettled in mind or opinion

Tentatively he opened his eyes—not his snow-hill-sled eyes, for they had been open throughout the strange ride.

1. [obsolete](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/obsolete)

no longer in use

It wasn’t a practical thing, so it became **obsolete** when we went to Sameness.

1. [perceive](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/perceive)

to become aware of through the senses

You should be able to **perceive** the name without being told.

Almost everyone in the community has dark eyes, which represent their inability to see beyond the present. But Jonas, Gabe, and the Giver all have different, lighter eyes, which enable them to perceive and receive the world in all its forms and colors throughout history.

1. [quizzically](https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/quizzically)

in a questioning manner

“The Chief Elder told me—she told everyone—and you told me, too, that it would be painful. So I was a little scared. But it didn’t hurt at all. I really enjoyed it.” He looked **quizzically** at the old man.