

Chapters Eighteen—Twenty
Assessment Preparation: Precise Word Choice

Authors carefully select the words they use when writing. Using a specific word can subtly change the mood, strength, and meaning of a text.

Directions: Below are excerpts from the novel that include precise language. Rewrite each sentence substituting a similar, but less specific, word for the word in bold print. Then explain why the bold-print word more effectively conveys the author’s meaning. An example has been completed for you. Use your definitions list or a dictionary for help.

Ex. “Me,” Jonas said in a **dejected** voice. He was not looking forward to the end of the training, when he would become the new Receiver.

- a. Rewrite Sentence: “Me,” Jonas said in a depressed voice. He was not looking forward to the end of the training, when he would become the new Receiver.
- b. Explanation: Dejected conveys the depth of Jonas’s sadness, and that he does not want to be the new Receiver. Depressed just tells the reader that Jonas is sad.

1. The Giver hesitated painfully, as if saying the name aloud might be **excruciating**. “Her name was Rosemary,” he told Jonas, finally.

a. Rewrite Sentence: _____

b. Explanation: _____

2. “I [Giver] couldn’t bring myself to **inflict** physical pain on her [Rosemary].”

a. Rewrite Sentence: _____

b. Explanation: _____

3. “I wish I could watch,” he [Jonas] added, as an **afterthought**.

a. Rewrite Sentence: _____

b. Explanation: _____

4. “I [Giver] do know that I sat here numb with horror. **Wretched** with helplessness.”

a. Rewrite Sentence: _____

b. Explanation: _____

5. “I [Giver] am **empowered** to lie. But I have never lied to you [Jonas].”

a. Rewrite Sentence: _____

b. Explanation: _____

6. “I [Giver] think that they [citizens] can, and that they will **acquire** some wisdom.”

a. Rewrite Sentence: _____

b. Explanation: _____

7. Confronted by a situation which they [citizens] had never faced before, and having no memories from which to find either **solace** or wisdom, they would not know what to do and would seek his [Giver’s] advice.

a. Rewrite Sentence: _____

b. Explanation: _____
