

**Chapters Five–Six**  
**Standards Focus: Symbolism**

In literature, authors frequently use **symbols** to demonstrate meanings in a story. Just as blooming flowers represent spring and changing leaves illustrate fall, an author utilizes **symbolism** to add depth to his/her writing. In *The Giver*, Lois Lowry connects each year of a child’s life with a different symbol to represent his/her changing status in the community.

**Directions:** List the changes that each child experiences by year given in Chapters One-Six. Also indicate what each change symbolizes for the child’s growth and maturity. Once you have completed the chart below, complete the chart on page 39.

Age	Changes	Symbolism
Ones		
Fours-Sixes	Jacket that buttons in the back	
Sevens		
Eights		
Nines		
Tens		
Elevens		
Twelves		No longer a child, but a contributing member of the community

In the novel, Gabriel is becoming a part of Jonas’s family unit. In the Bible, Gabriel is the angel who predicted Jesus’s birth. What clue may this give the reader about Gabriel’s role in *The Giver*?

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

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*Even in our society, we have rituals and events that mark important milestones of life. Complete the chart below with examples of changes, and the symbolism of these events, that are important within our society.*

<b>Age</b>	<b>Changes</b>	<b>Symbolism</b>
Birth		
Four or Five		
Thirteen		
Fifteen or Sixteen		
Eighteen		
Twenty-One		

What is your impression of the difference in milestones in Jonas's society and ours? Explain the drawbacks and benefits of each.

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