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Dear Mrs. Lowry,

I read *The Giver* recently and it really changed my perspective of choices in my life. I found myself thinking about how we take every choice in our life for granted. Even the choice of what our favorite color is could be taken away from us as shown in your book. As I was reading, I thought of what I would be like with no choices at all. Then again, I really wouldn't be me anymore. Sometimes I'll compare your book with my life. The way sometimes people will try and control who you are. For example, in your book you have no choice of your husband, your job, or even the amount of kids you have! (But then, it *would* be nice to have weather control sometimes.) Even though I feel like I'm constantly controlled by my parents I hope I'll never have all my choices made for me.

One thing I especially like about your writing is how, in your book, you can make fantasy become reality, which is a gift a lot of people lack. When I think of Jonas and his burden of receiving memories, I'll sometimes wonder if being the receiver would be as hard if it were a normal person ( like you or me ) getting the memories, since we've been exposed to many of these things already. But one thing I especially question is how this imaginary society is willing to kill innocent children just because they aren't perfect. When Jonas first found out the truth about Release, I found myself crying with him over the fate of that poor baby. One of my mother's friends has adorable twin daughters. I feel sick just thinking about what would have happened to them if we lived in this strange futuristic community.

I was riveted when I was reading *The Giver*. It was unsettling and sad, but yet I couldn't set it down. When I read, I'm constantly looking for authors who can connect and make people really feel. If I were given a choice like Jonas's, I honestly don't think I could take that type of pain like he did. Some memories from just my own life are painful (or happy) enough. I hope many people will read *The Giver* because so many of us take our choices for granted, but they won't after they read *The Giver*.

Sincerely,

Chloe Schwarting

Chloe Schwarting 4/8/09