

File 3 Family life in the future

Dominante :
compréhension de l'écrit

A What's family?

'Family isn't blood. It's the people who love you.'

Cassandra Clarke, *City of Heavenly Fire*, 2014.

Read and write

1. What does this sentence mean?
2. Do you agree with it?

B A family unit

It was one of the rituals, the evening telling of feelings. Sometimes Jonas and his sister, Lily, argued over turns, over who would get to go first. [...]

He listened politely, though not very attentively, while his father took
5 his turn, describing a feeling of worry that he'd had that day at work: a concern about one of the new children who wasn't doing well. Jonas's father's title was Nurturer. He and the other Nurturers were responsible for all the physical and emotional needs of every new child during its earliest life. [...]

10 "What gender is it?" Lily asked.

"Male," Father said. "He's a sweet little male with a lovely disposition. But he isn't growing as fast as he should, and he doesn't sleep soundly. We have him in the extra care section for supplementary nurturing, but the committee's beginning to talk about releasing him." [...]

15 Jonas and Lily both nodded sympathetically as well. Release of newchildren was always sad, because they hadn't had a chance to enjoy life within the community yet. And they hadn't done anything wrong. There were only two occasions of release which were not punishment.

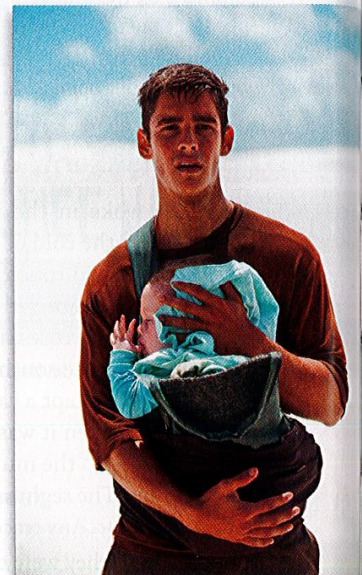
20 Release of the elderly, which was a time of celebration for a life well and fully lived; and release of a newchild, which always brought a sense of what-could-we-have-done. [...]

"Well," Father said, "I'm going to keep trying. I may ask the committee for permission to bring him here at night, if you don't mind. You know what the night-crew Nurturers are like. I think this little guy needs something extra."

25 "Of course," Mother said, and Jonas and Lily nodded. They had heard Father complain about the night crew before. [...] Most of the people on the night crew had not even been given spouses because they lacked, somehow, the essential capacity to connect to others, which was required for the creation of a family unit.

"Maybe we could even keep him," Lily suggested sweetly, trying to look innocent. The look was fake, Jonas knew; they all knew.

30 "Lily," Mother reminded her, smiling, "you know the rules." Two children — one male, one female — to each family unit. It was written very clearly in the rules.



Lois Lowry, *The Giver*, 1993.

Read and write

1. List all the characters; say how they are related.
2. What's the problem with the new child? What solutions are offered?
3. What's special about family in this society?
4. What possible development does the photo suggest? Give your opinion.

Toolbox

- mirror = reflect, represent
- bond = connection
- close ≠ distant
- strictly controlled = totalitarian
- care for = love
- look after = take care of
- put down = euthanize
- start over = begin a new life
- break away from = escape
- put up a fight = stand up against