**Characters**- Pick a paragraph or a page which describes the way another character treats the main character.  Would you treat the character the same way?  Find an incident in your own life which is similar and explain why you treated someone the way you did.  Have you changed from that experience?  How would you treat that person now?

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Title: The Giver

Author: Lois Lowry

In ch. 17 of The Giver something very strange happens: an unscheduled holiday takes place and all citizens are relieved of their regular duties. Jonas is excited like everyone else and finds his friends playing in a field. It takes him a while to figure out what game they are playing, but when he does, he realizes that they are playing a game of war. Jonas immediately re-lives his memory of war and is very upset. He ends up spoiling the game for everyone else and all of the children leave, except for Fiona and Asher. Both of Jonas’ friends are confused by his actions, but it is Asher’s reaction that I will focus on in this reading journal.

Asher is very angry with Jonas. He accuses Jonas of ruining the game and says, “I’m the one who is training for Assistant Recreation Director. Games aren’t *your* area of expertness. You can’t say what we play, even if you *are* going to be the new receiver.” (p.134)

Asher’s words are harsh and I don’t think he realizes how hurtful they are to Jonas. Asher displays a jealousy towards Jonas in this scene that we have not seen before. I would hope that if I was in a similar situation, that I would not be so unkind, but I fear that I would. It is hard for Asher because he is ignorant to all of the new truths that Jonas has access to. He doesn’t know or understand that war is a horrible thing. All he knows is that Jonas ruined a “fun” game. He also sees everyone treating Jonas differently and with respect, and I’m sure that would be hard.

There have been times in my life when I have been jealous when a friend or sibling was getting more attention or recognition than I was. I think it is human nature to feel this way. The important thing that I have learned over the years, is that jealousy is a completely wasted emotion. Things always work out in the end, and hard work and dedication pay off eventually.