**Is Love too Strong a Word?** Resource 5.2B

Directions: In your groups. Take turns reading the excerpt from the Giver (pages 159-160). Together come up with a reasonable conclusion to answer the questions, in an essay format. Follow the template below for full credit.

**Template**

**Title**

Group Member 1 Response:

Group Member 2 Response:

Group Member 3 Response:

Group Member 4 Response:

Whole group conclusion:

**When could too many choices be problematic? Alternately, if no one in the society has choices, would it still be unfair not to have choices?** Jonas feels compelled to ask his parents if they love him. Consider the following excerpt from the book:

“Father? Mother?” Jonas asked tentatively after the evening meal. “I have a question I want to ask you.”

“What is it, Jonas?” his father asked.

He made himself say the words, though he felt flushed with embarrassment. He had rehearsed them in his mind all the way home from the Annex.

“Do you love me?”

There was an awkward silence for a moment. Then Father gave a little chuckle.

“Jonas. You, of all people. Precision of language, please!”

“What do you mean?” Jonas asked. Amusement was not at all what he had anticipated.

“Your father means that you used a very generalized word, so meaningless that it’s become almost obsolete,” his mother explained carefully.

Jonas stared at them. Meaningless? He had never before felt anything as meaningful as the memory.

“And of course our community can’t function smoothly if people don’t use precise language.

You could ask, ‘Do you enjoy me?’ The answer is ‘Yes,’” his mother said.

“Or,” his father suggested, “‘Do you take pride in my accomplishments? And the answer is wholeheartedly ‘Yes.’”

“Do you understand why it’s inappropriate to use a word like ‘love?’” Mother asked.

Jonas nodded. “Yes, thank you, I do,” he replied slowly.

C cvccf This leads to an awkward moment for the whole family. How do Father and Mother’s responses make Jonas feel? How does Jonas’s question make his parents feel? What significance does the absence of love have on the Community as a whole? On its individual members?