

Gathering Blue (Lowry)

[Summary](#) | [Author Bio](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Discussion Questions](#) | [Full Version](#) | [Print](#)



http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0547995687/ref=as_li_qf_sp_asin_il?ie=UTF8&camp=1789&creative=9325&creativeASIN=0547995687&linkCode=as2&tag=litl-20

Gathering Blue (The Giver Quartet, 2)

Lois Lowry, 2000

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

256 pp.

ISBN-13: 9780547995687

Summary

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians.

Lame and suddenly orphaned, Kira is mysteriously removed from her squalid village to live in the palatial Council Edifice, where she is expected to use her gifts as a weaver to do the bidding of the all-powerful Guardians. *(From the publisher.)*

[Prev](#) [Next >>](#)

Gathering Blue (Lowry)

[Summary](#) | [Author Bio](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Discussion Questions](#) | [Full Version](#) | [Print](#)

Author Bio

- Birth—March 20, 1937
- Where—Hawaii, USA
- Education—B.A., M.F.A., University of Southern Maine
- Awards—Newbery Medal (2)
- Currently—lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts

Lois Lowry is an American author of children's literature. She began her career as a photographer and a freelance journalist during the early 1970s. Her work as a journalist drew the attention of Houghton Mifflin and they encouraged her to write her first children's book, *A Summer to Die*, which was published in 1977 (when Lowry was 40 years old). She has since written more than 30 books for children and published an autobiography. Two of her works have been awarded the prestigious Newbery Medal: *Number the Stars* in 1990, and *The Giver* in 1993.

As an author, Lowry is known for writing about difficult subject matters within her works for children. She has explored such complex issues as racism, terminal illness, murder, and the Holocaust among other challenging topics. She has also explored very controversial issues of questioning authority such as in *The Giver* quartet. Her writing on such matters has brought her both praise and criticism. In particular, her work *The Giver* has been met with a diversity of reactions from schools in America, some of which have adopted her book as a part of the mandatory curriculum, while others have prohibited the book's inclusion in classroom studies. (*Adapted from Wikipedia.*)

<< [Prev](#) [Next](#) >>

Gathering Blue (Lowry)

[Summary](#) | [Author Bio](#) | [Book Reviews](#) | [Discussion Questions](#) | [Full Version](#) | [Print](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss what gave Katrina, Kira's mother, the courage to stand up to the people of the village and spare Kira's life, when the custom in Kira's society was to destroy babies born with birth defects. Do you think Katrina was aware of her daughter's gift? Katrina never created the color blue. Do you think she knew that her daughter would someday find the secret of creating blue?
2. At the beginning of the novel, Katrina dies and Kira is left homeless. Kira is fearful, especially when Vandara, a vicious and angry woman, tells her that she is worthless. Discuss the strength Kira displays when she faces the Council of Guardians. How does Kira show strength and courage throughout the novel?
3. Discuss the way children are treated in Kira's society. What is the difference between abuse and neglect? How is Matt both abused and neglected? What is his role in the story? How does Matt contribute to Kira's growth as a person and an artist?
4. Vandara is known throughout the village. "People whispered about her. She was known, and respected. Or feared." (p. 15) How can someone who is feared be respected? Discuss whether the women of the village fear Vandara more than they respect her. How do you know that they don't really agree with Vandara regarding Kira's fate?
5. What qualities determine the difference between skill and art? Debate whether Katrina was a skilled weaver or an artist. At what point in the novel does Kira display the true qualities of an artist?
6. Why is the history of the people called the Ruin Song? The scenes on the Singer's Robe represent Ruin, Rebuilding, Ruin Again, and Regrowth. How does this symbolize the history of our world?
7. Kira has always been told that beasts killed her father. When Kira tells Jamison that Annabella says there are no beasts, he replies, "She's very old. It's dangerous for her to speak that way." (p. 128) Do you think Annabella knows the truth about Kira's father? Discuss whether Jamison is responsible for Annabella's death.
8. Matt is concerned that Kira might be held captive at the Council Edifice. How is it that he has a better understanding of the meaning of captivity than Kira does? Debate whether Kira and Thomas, the young carver, are indeed held captive even though they are allowed to roam. At what point does Kira realize that she isn't really

free?


9. What do Kira, Thomas, and Jo have in common? Interpret the following statement: "They were forcing the children to describe the future they wanted, not the one that could be." (p. 212)

10. At the end of the novel, Matt brings Christopher, Kira's blind father, to meet her. How does meeting her father alter Kira's concept of her purpose in life and her contribution to her society's future?

(Questions courtesy of Pat Scales, author, former Director of Library Services, South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, Greenville.)

top of page (summary)

<< **Prev** Next

Site by **BOOM** (<http://www.boomsuper.com>)  (<http://www>

Lois Lowry

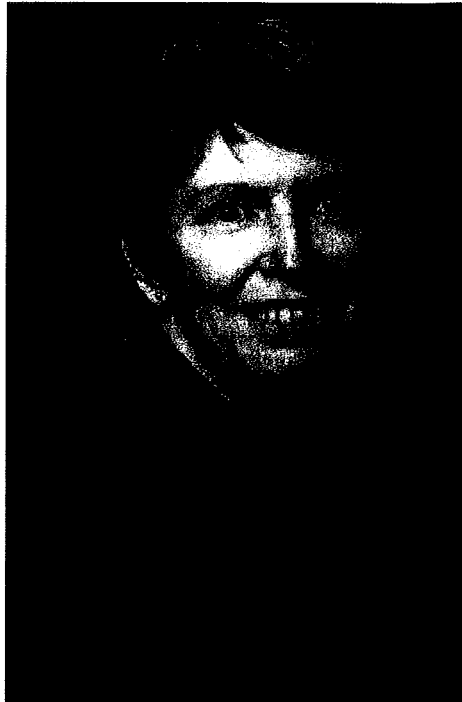


Photo: © Bachrach

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Whether she's writing comedy, adventure, or poignant, powerful drama—from *Attaboy, Sam!* and *Anastasia Krupnik* to *Number the Stars* and *The Giver*—**Lois Lowry's** appeal is as broad as her subject matter and as deep as her desire to affect an eager generation of readers. An author who is “fast becoming the Beverly Cleary for the upper middle grades” (*The Horn Book Magazine*), Lois Lowry has written more than 20 books for young adults and is a two-time Newbery Medal winner.

Lowry was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and attended junior high school in Tokyo, Japan. Her father was a dentist for the U.S. Army and his job entailed a lot of traveling. She still likes to travel. At the age of 17, Lowry attended Brown University and majored in writing. She left school at 19, got married, and had four children before her 25th birthday. After some time, she returned to college and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Maine. Lowry didn't

start writing professionally until she was in her mid-30s. Now she spends time writing every single day. Before she begins a book, she usually knows the beginning and end of her story.

When she's not writing, Lowry enjoys gardening during the spring and summer and knitting during the winter. One of her other hobbies is photography, and her own photos grace the covers of *Number the Stars*, *The Giver*, and *Gathering Blue*. Lois Lowry has four children and two grandchildren. She lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts.