**LEARNING ABOUT LOIS LOWRY**



BIOGRAPHY

Lois Lowry was born March 20, 1937 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. Lowry still likes to travel.

At the age of 17, Lowry attended Brown University and majored in writing. She left school at19, 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. Lois Lowry didn’t start writing professionally until she was in her mid-30s.

Now she spends time writing every single day. Before she begins writing 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.

**ABOUT HER WRITING**

Lois Lowry, author of over 20 novels and winner of the Newbery Medal twice, is a woman to be taken seriously. This native of Hawaii has become a favorite of both children and young adults. She has tackled a number of topics in her literature including adoption, mental illness, cancer, the Holocaust and futuristic societies. Whatever the theme, Lowry portrays realistic life experiences to her audience.

In her books, Lois Lowry throws her characters and readers into many thought-provoking situations. The contemporary young adult reader is compelled to confront society with all of its imperfections. Lois Lowry told *Contemporary Authors* that she measures her success as an author by her ability to "help adolescents answer their own questions about life, identity and human relationships."

Her website: **http://www.loislowry.com/**

**GENRE**



**Science Fiction** novels are a form of *fantasy* in which the action takes place on **another planet**, in the **future**, or in **another dimension**.

Utopia

(Greek for nowhere): a place of happiness and prosperity where inhabitants share values and consent to social control, they are free and have transcended social problems.

Dystopia

Often begins as a utopia wherein the government takes control with the consent of inhabitants irrelevant; there is often chaos.

1. Brainstorm some ideas of what a perfect world might look like vs. a chaotic world.
2. Read chapter 1 of the novel. What is the setting for The Giver? Provide evidence from the novel to support your opinion.