

Literary Term: Euphemism

Name _____

When talking or writing about subjects that we find embarrassing or unpleasant, we often use euphemisms, an inoffensive expression that is substituted for one that is considered offensive. For example, rather than saying that somebody has died, we might say that he or she has “passed away.”

Lois Lowry uses several euphemisms in *The Giver*. For example, a Birthmother makes one think of a mother who gives birth to her child and cares for it. However, in *The Giver*, a Birthmother is a woman who is “assigned” to give birth to three children who are then given to families who have requested a child. The Birthmother gives the child up immediately and has no further connection to the child at all whatsoever. Review the terms below and write what they are euphemisms for.

1. Release _____

2. Nurturer _____

3. Stirrings _____

4. Assignment _____

5. Feelings _____

6. Elsewhere _____

