Speaking and Listening – Level 8

Sample 1 Group discussion: Life lessons in *The Giver* by Lois Lowry’s

Extract 1

Note: Students have been numbered left to right from 1 to 6.

STUDENT 4 Our next life lesson that we’ve done, which is …

STUDENT 3 The differences of living and surviving.

So, like, in Jonas’s community, the way they’re growing up, they don’t really have any meaning to how they’re living. There’s no, um, feeling of fulfilment. You know?

So, um, it just … It’s … Similarly, it’s just like eating without a sense of taste. You can … It … You know, it helps you to survive, but there’s still not that same flavour that we, like, enjoy and crave for in our society today.

So, it shows how ... Because they’re rid of all these things that brings them hobbies and brings them, um, you know, enjoyment, there’s no actual reason for them to live, other than to just work as one part of a society.

STUDENT 4 That’s exactly right, and it’s very systematic. As <name redacted> said in his summary, they don’t get to choose their job, they don’t get to choose who they love, and so they will never experience the downfall of choosing a wrong choice or the heartbreak or developing love, feelings for somebody. They will never experience that because they’re trapped in their own mind.

STUDENT 3 Yeah, they’re enslaved to this sort of thinking because this is the only thing they’ve ever known in their life.