Remembering the memory

For countless years, scientists, as well as common people, have been wondering what separates us from animals. What makes the human race much more advanced in thinking and intelligence, so that no other animal comes even close? But now we know that it is our memory that we possess, along with the knowledge of history. American civil rights activist Malcolm X quotes, “History is a people’s memory, and without that, man is demoted to the lower animals.” Memories of history helps us with further progressions in technology and educates us to do ethical things, as seen with The Civil War, where people have to learn about this dreaded event in history, *The Giver*, where Jonas learns about pain and pleasure not present in his community, and our aging Earth, as we humans know about it in a short time but animals don’t.

To start, let’s go back in time, to a place where humans were humane, where the words “the United States” became almost meaningless, during the Civil War.  It was America’s bloodiest battle since over 600,000 soldiers died, more than any other war which the U.S was involved in.  Caused over a dispute of slavery, it created a split between the Northern and Southern United States. However, 200 years later, it is essential for our generation to gain the knowledge of this devastating war, so that we will learn from the mistakes, and if a similar conflict arises anywhere in the world, like with slaves in other nations, then we will take the right steps, with the help of learning about the Civil War.  To make good choices for the future, history can be a vital factor for being an example.

Similarly, in Lois Lowry’s award-winning novel *The Giver*, Jonas also deals with his community’s lack of knowledge on memories of history. The only way he knows these memories is because of the Giver, who transmits these pleasurable and painful memories. But his community has never felt sadness, anger, joy, or pain, and hasn’t been open to the real world. The  absence of memories on history makes the people almost inevident of any true emotions, and then are deprived from living a true life. Thus, we humans need memories to truly live a real life, like the quote says.

Last but not least, the Earth that we live on is 4.54 billion years old, yet Homo sapiens, also known as humans, have only been around for 30,000 years, but other animals, like salamanders and fish, have been around for millions of years. Yet we humans know more about this world in such a short span, unlike the rest of species, which would never even know what occurred a few years ago. How? Because we know information, and once it is in our brain, we use it, and eventually, apply it.  Memories and knowledge are the greatest gift man could ever receive, and that is what makes them move forward.

In essence, memories of history are extremely essential for humans to survive and thrive, as shown with learning from mistakes of the Civil War, how a world without memories is in *The Giver*, and how memories separate us from animals like wheat is separated from chaff.  Remember memories when you remember to do a common activity, like going to get groceries or doing your homework. One should remember memories forever, as well as Malcolm X when he stated “History is a people’s memory, and without that, man is demoted to the lower animals.”