

Catching Fire Study Guide

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins

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Plot Summary

Catching Fire by Suzanne Collins is the second in the Hunger Games series. Catching Fire begins several months after the end of the Hunger Games, where Katniss pulled out a handful of poison berries, threatening suicide along with Peeta, the other tribute from District 12, and forced the Capitol to hold to their original deal of allowing two tributes to win the annual games—a fight to the death. Katniss now finds herself in a difficult situation, forced to choose between the two boys she loves in order to protect her family and friends from the wrath of the Capitol. Katniss plays by the rules, but soon discovers that even this is not good enough to appease the iron fist of the president. When Katniss learns that she will once again be forced to be a participant in the games, she decides it is time to play by her own rules. Catching Fire is an intense novel of courage and strength in the face of impossible odds.

Katniss returns home from hunting when she discovers the president himself has come to see her. The president tells Katniss that her act of defiance during the games has caused rebellions in some of the district. The president says that if Katniss wants her family and friends to survive the next few months, she will have to convince the districts that her act was one of love and not defiance. Katniss agrees, and as she and Peeta, the other winner of her games and her self-confessed lover, go on their Victory Tour, Katniss does all she can to promote the idea that she and Peeta are deeply in love, even allowing herself to become publicly engaged to him.

At the end of the Victory Tour, Katniss comes to the conclusion that she did not do enough to appease the president. Katniss begins to make plans to run away. Katniss begs Gale, her childhood friend and potential lover, into running with her. At first he agrees, but later backs down when he realizes that Katniss wants to bring Peeta along as well. Katniss changes her mind as well when Gale is whipped by the new Head Peacekeeper. Katniss realizes that running away will not change anything. Instead, they must fight, rebelling against the Capital.

For several weeks, Katniss falls into something of a depression as she watches the new Head Peacekeeper turn her district upside down, burning down the Hob and putting many people out of work, enforcing laws the district had forgotten, and abandoning people to starvation. One day, unable to take the emptiness of her days any longer, Katniss sneaks under the fence and escapes into the woods.

Katniss goes to an old lake her father once took her to. However, instead of finding it deserted as she normally would, Katniss runs into two women from District 8. These women tell Katniss they escaped from District 8 shortly after their clothing factory was destroyed out of retaliation for a rebellion plotted and carried out there. These women are on their way to District 13, a district thought to have been destroyed many years before. At first Katniss does not believe this, but as she thinks about it, she begins to think it might have merit. Katniss tries to talk to Haymitch about District 13 and her desire to rebel, but Haymitch forces her to realize that there are not enough people in



District 12 to successfully stand up against the Peacekeepers and to take the chance that District 13 still exists.

As Katniss struggles with her desire to force change, she learns that she and Peeta will be forced to fight again in the Games because of a special game held once every twenty-five years called the Quarter Quell. Katniss, Peeta, and twenty-two other victors will have to fight it out in the arena once again. Katniss makes the choice to save Peeta this time, hoping that by ensuring his survival he will be able to rise up and be the voice of a rebellion. However, Katniss does not realize that others are plotting to be sure she survives because her actions in the previous games have sparked rebellions throughout the world and her face has become the face of that rebellion. Katniss is rescued from the arena. However, Peeta is captured by the Capitol and District 12 is destroyed.



Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 1-3

Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 1-3 Summary

Catching Fire is the second in the Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins. The books are set in the fictional world of Panem, a post-apocalyptic world in which each year is held an event known as the Hunger Games. The Hunger Games takes two participants, or tributes, from each of twelve districts and forces them to compete in a deadly game in which there can only be one winner as punishment against the world's citizens for a rebellion that took place nearly seventy-five years before. Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark both win the seventy-fourth games when Katniss threatens to commit suicide with a handful of poison berries.

In chapter one, Katniss has slipped under the fence that encloses her district, District 12, to go hunting. The food is important to the Hawthorne family, Katniss's best friends, because despite the extra food everyone in the district gets because of Katniss and Peeta's victory in the hunger games, there is still a need for more. Katniss goes first to the Hawthorne home and then to the Hob, a black market, where she buys supplies for her mother and sister before having a bowl of soup. Katniss slowly makes her way to the Victor's village, where she now lives with her mother and sister in a house next to Haymitch Abernathy, winner of the fiftieth games, and Peeta. Katniss stops at Haymitch's house to wake him because today is the start of the Victory Tour. Peeta arrives with loaves of bread to help rouse Haymitch. There is tension between them, and Katniss quickly makes her exit. At home, however, Katniss is shocked to discover that President Snow has come himself to see her.

In chapter two, President Snow tells Katniss there have been rumblings of uprisings since her act of defiance in the arena at the previous games. President Snow tells Katniss that she must convince the people of Panem that her act was not one of defiance, but one of love, referring to Peeta's confession of love for Katniss at the beginning of the previous games. President Snow tells Katniss if she cannot convince Panem of this and uprisings result, he will kill Gale Hawthorne. Gale is Katniss's best friend and a boy with whom she shared a passionate kiss after surviving the games, something the president appears to be aware of.

In chapter three, Katniss is in the bath when her prep team arrives. They complain about the state of her nails and hair, but quickly go to work to make her look presentable for the cameras. Cinna arrives, Katniss' dresser, with a grouping of clothing he designed but which they plan to tell Panem that Katniss designed as part of her talent. Katniss' mother gives her the mockingjay pin that was her good luck piece during the games. Katniss then unites with Peeta in a great show of affection and is whisked off to the waiting train. When they first stop for fuel, Katniss takes Haymitch for a walk and tells him of her visit from the president. Haymitch warns Katniss to play the game, telling her she must give up Gale and face a future with Peeta.



Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 1-3 Analysis

These opening chapters introduce the reader to the background of this book, including a recap of the previous book in the sequence, as well as the main characters. Katniss is the main character, a sixteen-year-old girl who lives in the post-apocalyptic world of Panem and has just returned from the Hunger Games, a game in which she was forced to kill all but her fellow District 12 tribute, Peeta. Katniss committed an act of defiance by threatening to commit suicide if the game makers did not allow both her and Peeta to survive as they had previously promised. This act is the catalyst for this novel's plot because this act has sparked defiance in some of the other districts, causing the president to visit Katniss personally and instruct her to make everyone believe she acted not out of defiance, but rather out of love for Peeta. This presents a quandary for Katniss because she is not in love with Peeta, although she pretended she was for the purpose of the games. Instead, Katniss is in love with Gale, her childhood friend.

As Peeta and Katniss begin the Victory Tour that will take them to all the districts to celebrate their win, Katniss confesses the demands of the president to Haymitch, her mentor during the games. Haymitch tells Katniss that she should accept the fact that she has already chosen her path when she played along with Peeta's declaration of love the night before the previous games. Katniss realizes she must accept that she and Peeta will have to marry. Katniss must give up Gale completely in order to save his, his family, and her family's lives.



Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 4-6

Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 4-6 Summary

In chapter four, Katniss spends the first full day on the train having hair removed from every inch of her body. This gives Katniss too much time to think about her future, including a fear that she will have to watch her own children fight in the games. Not only this, but Katniss is unhappy that the first district they will visit, District 11, is the home of two tributes whom she befriended during the previous games. Peeta and Katniss talk after breakfast and agree to a truce of sorts, to be friends. Peeta shows Katniss his paintings, his talent, and she discovers he has painted the games. The paintings frighten and awe Katniss at the same time. Later, they watch out the windows as the train moves through the large expanse of District 11.

When they arrive at the train station, they are quickly loaded into military trucks and taken to the Justice Building. During the ceremony, Peeta and Katniss are expected to make a few remarks. Katniss cannot think of anything appropriate to say about Rue and Thresh, so at first she allows Peeta to speak for them both. Peeta shocks everyone by pledging one month of his and Katniss' earnings to each family every year. Before leaving, however, Katniss decides to say a few things, thanking the people of District 11 for Rue and Thresh and for the bread their sponsors sent to them during the games. When Katniss finishes speaking a man in the crowd begins to whistle a mockingjay tune Rue would whistle. Then the entire crowd offers Katniss the sign for goodbye from District 12. Katniss and Peeta are rushed off the stage then, but Katniss turns back to retrieve her flowers. As she does, Katniss sees a Peacekeeper shoot the man who whistled in the head .

In chapter five, Peeta and Katniss are quickly rushed into the Justice Building, where they learn the feed of the ceremony was cut off the moment Katniss stopped speaking. Haymitch takes Peeta and Katniss into the dome of the building and makes Katniss tell Peeta about her visit from the president. Peeta becomes angry and demands that there be no more secrets. Haymitch quickly agrees. Afterward, they attend the ceremonial dinner and are rushed off to the train for their next visit. For several weeks, they rush through ceremonies at all the districts, living on the train and pretending deep love for one another in front of the cameras. In private, Peeta begins spending his nights in Katniss' bed to help her through the nightmares that have plagued her since the games. When they reach the Capitol, Peeta makes a very public marriage proposal. However, a slight shake of the head reveals to Katniss that it was not enough to save Gale.

In chapter six, President Snow announces that he will throw Katniss and Peeta a wedding. Katniss plays along, playing the perfect lover to Peeta through the interviews and the celebration dinner. At the dinner, Katniss is shocked by the waste of food while people in her own district are starving to death. Peeta is just as outraged, but he calms Katniss before she can do something they all regret. Then Plutarch Heavensbee asks to dance with her. Katniss does not want to dance with the new Head Gamemaker, but



knows she is still being watched closely. As they dance, Heavensbee shows Katniss his pocket watch, running his thumb over the face and causing a mockingjay to appear momentarily. Katniss is not surprised by this because many people have shown her similar pieces of jewelry. However, something about the intensity of Heavensbee's words cause her to wonder. A short time later, Katniss and Peeta are ushered back on to the train where they arrive back in District 12 for the Harvest Festival. Katniss and Peeta are required to dress in the mayor's house for the ceremonies. While there, Katniss sees an alert on the mayor's television that is clearly meant only for him that shows an uprising in District 8.

Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 4-6 Analysis

Katniss is saddened as she begins the Victory Tour because she has suddenly come to realize that the only way she can protect those she loves is to submit to her fictional love affair with Peeta for the rest of her life. This means marriage and children who could also be forced into the games as tributes. Katniss has never even considered marriage, even with her feelings for Gale. For this reason, Katniss feels as though she has lost all control over her own life.

Katniss and her group arrive in District 11, where she and Peeta make impassioned speeches about the two tributes from that district who participated in their games. At the end of the speeches, the crowd makes a passionate signal to Katniss in appreciation for what she did for one of the tributes, Rue. However, this signal causes the deaths of at least three people in the crowd, forcing Katniss to realize the president's threats are real. For this reason Katniss puts her all into convincing everyone on Panum that she and Peeta are truly in love, but it does not work, not even the marriage proposal that ends the Victory Tour. Katniss learns that there has been an uprising in District 8.

Not only is it important for the reader to see that Katniss' act of defiance during the games has led to this uprising, but it is also important to note the symbolism of her mockingjay pin. Everywhere they go Katniss sees people wearing the symbol, especially in the Capitol. This includes a watch owned by the new Head Gamemaker. The Head Gamemaker shows Katniss his watch, tells her it starts at midnight, and shows her a mockingjay that disappears on the face of his watch. Katniss finds this odd. The reader should see that the Head Gamemaker is trying to tell her something without actually saying it.



Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 7-9

Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 7-9 Summary

In chapter seven, Katniss leaves a sign for Gale and walks out to the lake her father once took her to to wait for him. When he arrives, Katniss quickly tells Gale about the president's threats against him and her desire to run away with both his family and hers. Gale quickly agrees and then confesses his love to her. Katniss refuses to respond to this declaration. Then she tells Gale that she plans to ask Haymitch and Peeta to come along as well. Gale gets angry and suggests that Katniss would do more good if she sparked an uprising. After Gale rushes off in anger, Katniss returns to the village and finds Peeta walking into town to have lunch with his family. Katniss tells him of her plan to run away and he quickly agrees. However, before they can discuss it fully, they hear odd sounds in the village square. When they arrive, Katniss discovers that Gale is being whipped by a new Head Peacekeeper.

In chapter eight, Katniss moves between the Peacekeeper and Gale, causing herself to be hit in the face with the whip. Haymitch arrives and convinces the Peacekeeper to leave Katniss alone because of her position as victor. Another Peacekeeper comes and convinces the new Head Peacekeeper that Gale has received more than enough lashes for his crime. Katniss, Peeta, Haymitch, and a couple of miners carry Gale to Katniss's house where her mother takes charge of his care. Haymitch tells Katniss that Gale was beaten for poaching a turkey, something he has done for years because the previous Head Peacekeeper failed to enforce the laws. All night Katniss waits for the Peacekeepers to come arrest her or Gale, but no one except Madge comes with some medicine for Gale. Then a snowstorm buries the entire district. As Katniss sits with Gale, she decides to stay and fight rather than run away.

In chapter nine, Katniss thinks about all she will place at risk by fighting the Capitol, but then she realizes all they have already taken from her. For several days Katniss is trapped by the storm in her house with her thoughts. When she is finally able to leave the house, she and Peeta drag Haymitch out for a walk into town. Katniss tells Haymitch she wants to start an uprising, but Haymitch only laughs, pointing out that there are too few people in District 12 to fight the large number of Peacekeepers that would be sent to quell their rebellion. Then they arrive in town and discover that the new Head Peacekeeper has installed whipping posts and stockades. They also discover that the Hob has been burned to the ground. They visit Gale's mother and learn that not only does her youngest child have the measles, but that no one will use her laundry services any longer. Katniss is now treated like a pariah because people are afraid of being punished if seen speaking with her. Finally Katniss feels penned in and decides to sneak out to her father's lake. When she does, Katniss finds herself facing a woman in a Peacekeeper's suit. However, this woman is holding a piece of bread with a mockingjay in the center.



Part 1, The Spark: Chapters 7-9 Analysis

Katniss wants to leave the district and take her chances out in the wild, but Gale refuses to go when he realizes that Katniss will not go without Peeta. Gale is in love with Katniss and deeply jealous of her relationship with Peeta, even though Katniss keeps insisting that it is only fictional for the public. However, even the reader is growing a little confused as to which boy Katniss truly does love, if not both.

Katniss changes her mind about running away when Gale is whipped for poaching a turkey off of forbidden lands. There is a new Head Peacekeeper in District 12 and he is determined to enforce laws that have not been enforced in many years. This reminder of what life in Panem is really like causes Katniss to become devoted to the idea of destroying the current government. However, an uprising in District 12 is clearly not the way to go. Katniss is at a loss as to what she should do next, but determined to do something, when she runs into a woman in the woods who has her mockingjay symbol on a piece of bread. This has come up before, people eager to show Katniss the symbol, but Katniss still has no idea what it means, but the reader suspects she will soon find out.



Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 10-12

Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 10-12 Summary

In chapter ten, Katniss is confronted by two women who claim to be refugees from District 8. Aware of the uprising there, Katniss believes their story of escape. The women tell her that they worked together in a factory that made the Peacekeeper suits and that most of the uprising was planned in the factory. After the uprising, the factory was bombed and the two women escaped because of a blockage on the road that made them late. They quickly dressed in the Peacekeeper suits the older woman had previously stolen to escape the district with her husband, who is now dead. They plan to go to District 13 to seek help from those who somehow have survived the destruction of their district. Katniss does not believe that District 13 still exists, but she helps the women by teaching them how to survive in the woods and by giving them food. Katniss leaves them in the little house by the lake and returns to the fence only to discover it has been electrified.

In chapter eleven, Katniss walks along the outside of the fence until she finds a tree with a branch long enough to get over the fence. When Katniss jumps, she can feel that she has injured both her heel and her tailbone, but she must pretend to be unharmed in order to create an alibi. Katniss walks through the shops, buying several items she knows her mother needs and her sister will want. When she arrives home, Katniss finds two Peacekeepers waiting for her. Katniss tells a story of getting lost while searching for a goat keeper her sister wanted to arrange the impregnation of her goat with. The Peacekeepers seem to accept her story and leave. Katniss' mother quickly tends to her injuries and sends her to bed. For the next few weeks, Katniss works with Peeta on a book of plants while she heels. One afternoon Katniss watches the television and sees a report supposedly from District 13 and realizes the footage is old, suggesting that District 13 might really have survived somehow.

In chapter twelve, Katniss' prep team arrives unexpectedly one morning to prepare her for a photo shoot in six wedding dresses the president has chosen for her. The next day Katniss talks to Haymitch about District 13, but he shoots holes in her arguments. That night, there is a mandatory television program. Katniss and her family watch as the pictures of her photo shoot are displayed during a program that encourages viewers to vote on their favorite. When the program comes to an end, the president arrives and announces that it is time to reveal the special rules for the Quarter Quell. Every twenty-five years the rules of the games are altered slightly to remind the people of the districts of the Dark Days from which the games were born. At the twenty-fifth anniversary, the districts had to vote on their own tributes. At the fifty year anniversary, there were twice as many tributes. At this anniversary, seventy-five years, the tributes will be drawn from existing victors. This means Katniss will have to return to the games with either Peeta or Haymitch.



Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 10-12 Analysis

Katniss learns that the escapees from District 8 believe that District 13, a district that once had mined graphite but was rumored to have also built nuclear weapons and was destroyed many years before, is still functioning. Katniss doubts this at first, but comes to believe it is possible. However, this revelation changes nothing in Haymitch's mind, making it impossible for Katniss to find the support she needs to stage some kind of rebellion.

Katniss is injured when she sneaks back into District 12 and is convinced that she will be arrested at any time, but she is not. Instead, Katniss learns that she will have to appear in the games again because of the special rules for the Quarter Quell. The reader must suspect that this has happened because the president hopes that Katniss' death in the arena, as it should have happened a year ago, will end the uprisings that continue to spread throughout Panem. The reader suspects, however, that this plan might backfire on the president because Katniss is such a stubborn, determined girl and her previous defiance has already caused such an uproar.



Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 13-15

Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 13-15 Summary

In chapter thirteen, Katniss runs out of the house and ends up hiding in the basement of an empty Victor's house. When she finally has control of her feelings, Katniss goes to see Haymitch. Haymitch accuses Katniss of coming to beg him to be the tribute to save Peeta, but instead Katniss asks for a drink. They drink together until Katniss becomes very drunk and returns home to find Gale waiting for her, regretting they did not run away when she wanted to. Gale takes Katniss to bed and she sleeps late. Katniss wakes with a terrible hangover. Katniss returns to Haymitch's house and finds Peeta there, throwing out all the alcohol and refuses to allow either of them to drink ever again. Peeta insists they must begin training. Over the next few weeks they train hard, even enlisting the help of Gale to teach them snares. Finally the day of the reaping arrives. Haymitch is chosen, but Peeta volunteers to take his place. Peeta, Katniss, Haymitch, and Effie are all rushed to the train, refused the right to say goodbye to their families before leaving.

In chapter fourteen, on the train, Peeta, Katniss, and the others watch the reaping recap so that they might know who they are to face. Peeta and Katniss have studied the tapes of all the winners they might face; therefore, they are familiar with each chosen tribute. Late that night, Katniss wakes from a nightmare and goes back to the lounge where Peeta continues to study the games of the victors they will face this time in the games. Katniss finds the tape of Haymitch's win in the box and asks to watch it. In those games, Katniss watches as Haymitch teams up with a childhood friend of her mother's before using the force field at the edge of the arena to win the games. This makes Katniss realize that Haymitch has a defiant streak like hers and they might be able to utilize it to save Peeta.

In chapter fifteen, the prep team cries through their preparation of Katniss for arrival at the Capitol. Katniss complains to Cinna and he promises to take care of it. Cinna dresses Katniss for the opening ceremonies in which each pair of tributes will be driven in a chariot through the city wearing a costume that is related to the industry in their district. Cinna has dressed Katniss in a suit that glows like a burning piece of coal. Katniss goes outside to wait for it to be time to go. As she stands with the horses driving her chariot, Finnick Odair comes up and makes a pass at her. Peeta's arrival scares Finnick away. Soon it is time for the procession. Katniss and Peeta ride side by side, holding hands and ignoring the crowd. Soon it is over and they return to the Training Center where one of the tributes from District 7 disrobes and rides with them in the elevator naked. When she is gone, Peeta laughs and tells her that everyone is so taken with her innocence that they are trying to tease her. This makes Katniss angry, but her anger quickly disappears when the elevator stops on their floor and she finds herself face to face with Darius, a kind Peacekeeper from District 12, who has been tortured and mutilated to become an Avox, a speechless servant.



Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 13-15 Analysis

Katniss is emotional when she learns that she will have to go back to the games and acts like any other teenager might do in such a circumstance—she drinks. However, Peeta proves himself to be the most mature and responsible of the group when he throws out all the alcohol and refuses to allow Katniss or Haymitch to drink while they are training for the games. Normally they would not be allowed to train, but this time Katniss and Peeta have the advantage of knowing they will be the two chosen to represent their district; therefore, they feel free to train.

The revelation that Haymitch won his games by using the force field designed to keep them inside the parameters of the arena against his opponent is interesting because it appears to be yet another act of defiance, though a mild one. This suggests to the reader, and to Katniss, that Haymitch is as willing to defy the Capitol as she is. Haymitch could prove to be a good partner as Katniss searches for a way to protect Peeta and to further the uprisings that have sprung up all over Panem. However, Katniss cannot ignore the fact that she must once again face the games and sure death. Not only this, but the appearance of the Avox who was once a kind Peacekeeper, the one Peacekeeper who tried to help Gale during his whipping, shows that the president has decided to play hardball against her. Katniss is beginning to come to terms with the fact that she will not survive the week, but she is determined to see that Peeta does. How this will impact the games and her strategy the reader is unsure, but will soon find out.



Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 16-18

Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 16-18 Summary

In chapter sixteen, Katniss is deeply upset by the appearance of Darius as an Avox, but knows there is little she can do about it. Katniss has nightmares and feels rebellious in the morning, purposely avoiding a meeting before training. However, Haymitch still drags her to the dining room and instructs her to make friends and find groups to ally herself with during the games. Katniss tries to refuse, but Haymitch makes an argument she cannot deny. During training, Katniss moves from station to station, beginning with a knot tying station in which Finnick Odair shows her a difficult knot, to the fire station. At the fire station Katniss talks with the tributes from District 3, Beetee and Wiress. They show her a distortion on the refreshment table above them where the Gamemakers watch. It is a flaw in the force field they have placed around themselves. At lunch, Katniss is forced to sit with the entire group and finds herself starting to like these people whom she knows she will soon have to kill.

On the final day of training, each tribute is taken into the training room and encouraged to show some skill to the Gamemakers. Katniss is last to go. When Katniss enters the room, she finds a much different atmosphere than the year before. Katniss is not sure what to do, but spontaneously she hangs a dummy and writes the name of last Head Gamemaker on it.

In chapter seventeen, Haymitch is not happy when he learns what Katniss did in her interview with the Gamemakers, and equally unhappy to learn that Peeta created a picture in dyes of Rue after Katniss had covered her with flowers in the games the year before. Haymitch is not surprised, however, when Peeta and Katniss get perfect scores for their actions. Haymitch claims the Gamemakers did this to encourage the other tributes to target them.

The next day Peeta and Katniss are given a free day to themselves. They spend it having a long picnic on the roof of the training center. The next morning they are prepared for the interviews. The president himself has requested that Katniss be dressed in the wedding dress she would have worn at her wedding. Katniss listens to the interviews, which are mostly filled with the unfairness of having the past victors as tributes this year. When it is her turn, Katniss expresses regret that she will not be able to have a wedding. Then Katniss spins with her arms in the air to show off the beautiful dress. As she spins, smoke begins to rise and Katniss' dress turns into a mockingjay-inspired gown.

In chapter eighteen, the crowd is shocked and heartbroken by Katniss' dress and all it symbolizes. Katniss returns to her seat and Peeta stands to talk. Peeta tells the crowd that in their hearts he and Katniss are already married, having privately acted out the traditional marriage rites of their district. Peeta then continues to tell the crowd that Katniss is expecting his child. The interviews end and the twenty-four tributes stand.



One by one they take hands and stand united before the crowd. Katniss learns that everyone not directly involved in the games has been sent home because of the outrage of the crowd. The next morning Katniss is alone with Cinna when she is dressed and placed in the tube that will take her into the arena. Before it launches, however, Katniss is forced to watch as Cinna is beaten by several Peacekeepers and dragged away. When the tube does launch, Katniss finds herself in the middle of a large body of water.

Part 2, The Quell: Chapters 16-18 Analysis

Katniss is angry by the mental games the president is trying to play with her. This anger is focused everywhere but where it ought to be. Katniss is angry with Haymitch's suggestion they find allies, with Peeta for laughing when the others teased her, and with the Gamemakers for playing games with her life. All this comes out in words of anger and in the demonstration in the training room when Katniss hangs the previous Head Gamemaker in a reproduction of reality. This only appears to serve to make Katniss and Peeta more of a target to the other tributes.

However, when she attempts to make friends, Katniss does learn information that might be helpful later. Recalling the importance of the force field in Haymitch's time, the reader finds it very interesting when the tributes from District 3 show Katniss how to spot a force field by its weak spots. This could prove quite helpful later in the games.

At the interviews, Peeta has been known to make insane announcements, like announcing his undying love for Katniss during the previous year's interviews. This time Peeta announces that Katniss is pregnant. This phantom pregnancy causes an uproar in the crowd, turning the crowd for a time on the president. This gives the tributes some hope, but not a lot. Katniss feels no hope at all, however, when she watches her stylist beaten and dragged away the following morning as she is being launched into the arena where she more than likely face her death.



Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 19-20

Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 19-20 Summary

In chapter nineteen, when the bell rings announcing the beginning of the games, Katniss quickly dives into the water and swims to one of twelve land arms that spread out from the Cornucopia that holds the only weapons and supplies the tributes have access to. Katniss arrives at the mouth of the Cornucopia in seconds, but finds that Finnick has also arrived quickly. Finnick, however, is wearing a gold bracelet that appears to be the same one Haymitch was wearing a few days earlier and claims to be her ally. Finnick kills the man from District 5 to save Katniss. Katniss quickly gathers a bow and arrows and helps Finnick fend off several more tributes that have arrived. They quickly assess their situation and realize there is nothing but weapons at the Cornucopia. Katniss quickly takes several knives and another set of bow and arrows before following Finnick around the side of the Cornucopia. They see Peeta still standing on his plate, unable to swim. Finnick goes out to retrieve Peeta while Katniss watches his back. Mags, the woman from Finnick's district, comes toward Katniss. Finnick snatches her up and instructs everyone to follow him. They move high into the jungle that surrounds the outer ring of the water. Katniss climbs a tree to check the location of the others. It appears several tributes have died on the island where the Cornucopia sits. Katniss and the others continue up the jungle in hopes of finding fresh water. Instead, Peeta walks straight into a force field.

In chapter twenty, Finnick uses CPR to bring Peeta back to life, an act that shocks and surprises Katniss. They discuss what they should do next. Everyone agrees they should keep moving in hopes of finding water, despite Peeta's weakened state. Finnick asks Katniss how she knew the force field was there because she was about to yell out a warning when Peeta hit it. Katniss claims she could hear it with the ear the Capitol doctors fixed for her after last year's games. When the group fails to find water along the edge of the force field, they begin making their way back down the slope. They finally decide to call it a day and make camp. Thirsty, Katniss goes out on her own to search for water. Instead, Katniss finds a rat-like creature in a tree. When Katniss notices its mouth is wet, she searches all around for a source of water, but finds nothing.

Katniss returns to camp and finds that Finnick and Mags have created a lean-to of sorts out of woven grass. Katniss gives the rat-like creature to Peeta and he cooks it using the force field. The sky brightens with the day's announcement of the dead. Eight have died on the first day, leaving sixteen. A short time later, a silver parachute falls from the sky bringing them a gift from a sponsor. At first no one can figure out what the gift is. Finally Katniss realizes it is a spile, a device used to get sap from trees. With Peeta and Finnick's help, Katniss taps a tree and is happy to find warm water flowing from it. It soon gets dark and Finnick takes the first watch. Katniss wakes when she hears a loud bong that issues over and over, twelve times. Katniss takes over the watch and allows Finnick to sleep. However, a short time later a fog begins to float over their camp, blistering Katniss's skin.



Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 19-20 Analysis

Katniss finds herself in the beginning moments of the games. Only those who can swim will get to the Cornucopia that holds all their supplies first. Katniss is among the first, thanks to her father taking her to the lake outside their district, and Finnick a second because he lives in a fishing district. If not for the gold bracelet on Finnick's wrist and his claims of an alliance, Katniss might not have made it past the first few seconds of the games. However, Finnick proves himself a strong ally when he saves first Katniss from another tribute and Peeta from the water.

The arena is circular and includes the central Cornucopia on an island with twelve spokes of land stretching out from it. The spokes connect to land that consists of beach and a dense jungle that ends at a deadly force field. Katniss is able to identify the force field because of the weakness the pair from District 3 showed her, but she lies in case this information proves valuable later in the games. This point is important and the reader should note it because it will play an important part in the final moments of the games.

Fresh water is difficult to come by, forcing the group to continue moving all day in search of it. They finally get a gift from a sponsor that helps them tap the water in the trees, most likely saving them from the harshness of dehydration. However, the jungle proves to have more hazards, as Katniss discovers at the end of this section when a deadly fog descends on them.



Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 21-23

Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 21-23 Summary

In chapter twenty-one, Katniss and the others run from the fog, but they soon realize that it has some chemical properties that are worse than the blisters. Soon their nerves are affected, making it impossible for them to control their limbs. Finnick carries Peeta, who is badly affected, and Katniss carries Mags. However, Katniss cannot hold Mags long and finally collapses. Finnick must choose between Mags and Peeta. Mags turns and walks into the fog rather than force Finnick to make the choice. Finally they reach the water's edge just as the fog begins to recede. Katniss discovers that when she goes into the salt water, the poison from the fog leaves her blisters and she begins to feel better. Katniss shows this to Peeta. Finnick is badly afflicted. Katniss takes the water to him with Peeta's help, but finally they decide they must drag him into the water. Soon they all realize that they feel much better after soaking in the water. Peeta gets out and goes into the jungle to tap another tree. As he does, the monkeys in the trees begin to gather in large numbers. Katniss tries to call Peeta back, but his movement seems to agitate the monkeys. The monkeys attack. Katniss runs out of arrows and calls to Peeta to throw her some more. Letting go of his knife, Peeta becomes vulnerable to attack. However, the girl from District 6 suddenly comes out of the jungle and throws herself in the path of the monkey.

In chapter twenty-two, the monkeys soon retreat. Peeta and Katniss try to help the girl from District 6, but her wounds are too devastating. Katniss holds her hand and Peeta talks quietly to her until she dies. It is still night when everything settles down. Katniss offers to stand guard, but Finnick insists and Katniss can see he wants to be alone to grieve for Mags. In the morning, Katniss wakes to the intense itching of her blisters. Katniss calls out to Haymitch to send something for the itch and seconds later a silver parachute appears with some tar based ointment. It looks terrible, but it soothes the itch. As they have a breakfast of shellfish, they see a group of three coming in their direction. In a minute they recognize them as Johanna, from District 7, and Beetee and Wiress, from District 3. Johanna claims that she saved Beetee and Wiress for Katniss. Beetee is injured and Wiress is babbling incoherently. Peeta and Katniss clean Beetee up and dress his wound. Everyone lies down for a while except for Katniss and Wiress. Wiress keeps repeating tick, tock, over and over again. Katniss then sees the same lightning that struck the night before as the twelve bongs sounded and she realizes what Wiress is saying. The arena is a clock.

In chapter twenty-three, Katniss wakes everyone and tells them what she has figured out. They decide to go to the Cornucopia to watch the odd weapons turn on and off in their appropriate sectors. When they reach the Cornucopia, they stock up on the weapons. Peeta draws a map of the clock to help them keep track of the jungle's weapons. While they are distracted, they are attacked by the tributes from Districts 2 and 1. Katniss and Johanna are able to kill the two from District 1, but the two from District 2 hide behind the wall of the Cornucopia. As Katniss runs in pursuit, the island



on which the Cornucopia sits begins to spin. When it stops, Finnick is forced to save Beetee from the water. Katniss swims out to Wiress, who was killed by the female from District 1, to retrieve the wire Beetee has chosen as his weapon. The group then moves back to the beach. Katniss and Finnick go into the jungle to get water while Johanna supervises Peeta's drawing of another map. Katniss worries this is a trick, but then she hears the screams of her sister in the jungle.

Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 21-23 Analysis

The fog contains chemicals that kill. Clearly this is a function of the arena meant to kill unsuspecting tributes. Mags is killed when she makes the choice to walk into the fog rather than force Finnick to choose between her and Peeta. This causes Katniss some concern later when she finds herself wondering why Finnick is so willing to save Peeta, even at the loss of his mentor. It does appear that something is going on that Katniss does not know about, some way in which everyone seems to be trying to save Peeta.

Katniss' group is joined by Johanna and the two from District 3. Katniss cannot understand why Johanna has joined them or why she has brought Beetee and Wiress. However, it is the arrival of Wiress that helps Katniss realize that the arena works like a clock, that the attacks in the jungle move and begin based on the movement of a clock. This appears to give Katniss and her group a leg up on the competition. However, it does not stop them from being attacked by District 1 and 2. Wiress does not make it, but the others survive only to find the Cornucopia's island moved, causing them to lose track of their place in the clock. Now they must start again in their attempts to figure out where they are and how to stay ahead of the attacks from the jungle.



Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 24-27

Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 24-27 Summary

In chapter twenty-four, Katniss runs into the jungle in search of her little sister, only to realize it is a jabberjay mimicking the voice of her sister. After she kills it, Finnick joins her. Finnick hears the voice of someone he loves and runs away. Katniss convinces him it is only the jabberjays and they return to the beach only to discover an invisible wall is holding them inside the jungle. Katniss and Finnick are forced to listen to the tortured sounds of their loved ones. When they are finally released, Beetee and Peeta assure Katniss that her family and friends are safe somewhere, not being tortured.

The group settles down to eat when the faces of the dead flash in the sky. Eight more dead, eight left. Then they receive a parachute with rolls from District 3. When darkness falls, Peeta and Katniss stay up to keep watch. Peeta shows Katniss pictures of Gale and her mother and sister in his locket and tries to convince her to survive and allow him to die. Katniss refuses.

In chapter twenty-five, the next morning, Katniss tries to convince Peeta to break off from the others. Peeta urges her to wait. Beetee comes up with a plan to use the lightening from the twelve o'clock section of the jungle to electrify the beach and kill the tributes from District 2. Together they hike up to the lightening tree. Katniss identifies the boundary of the force field and instructs everyone to stay back. Beetee examines the lightening tree, then they return to the beach at ten o'clock to prepare a huge feast of seafood and more rolls from District 3.

In chapter twenty-six, they return to the lightening tree and Beetee wraps the wire around it. Beetee instructs Katniss and Johanna to run the wire down to the beach and them to make a quick exit to the one o'clock section of the jungle. Katniss does not like leaving Peeta, but agrees since she and Johanna are the fastest. Halfway down the hill, however, the wire is cut and flies back against Katniss. Katniss is knocked down with a blow to the head and she is barely conscious of Johanna cutting her wrist. When Katniss comes to her senses, she thinks that Finnick and Johanna have turned on her and Peeta. Katniss rushes back up the hill to protect Peeta. When Katniss comes to the lightening tree, she finds Beetee unconscious with a section of wire wrapped around a knife in his hand. Katniss, who is still frightened of the others, remembers Haymitch's appeal that she remember the real enemy, the Capitol. Katniss wraps the wire around an arrow and shoots it into the imperfection of the force field.

In chapter twenty-seven, when the lightning strikes, the arena begins to shake apart. Katniss is picked up by a hovercraft that holds the Head Gamemaker himself. Sometime later, Katniss wakes in a medical suite. Beetee is in a bed beside her. Katniss believes that she is being held by the Capitol. Katniss takes a syringe and begins to walk down the hall. Katniss can hear the Head Gamemaker's voice, then Finnick's. When Katniss hears Haymitch's voice, she is shocked into revealing herself. They bring her inside the



little room and explain to her that it had been the plan all along to extract her from the game and that many of the tributes had been told of the plan and were willing to sacrifice their lives for hers and Peeta's. Katniss has become the face of the rebellion and they need her to be alive. They also knew that without Peeta, Katniss would not have been a strong leader; therefore, they included him in their plans. Unfortunately, the Capitol picked up Peeta before they could. Katniss falls into a depression in fear for Peeta. Gale appears, injured but alive. Gale tells her that her mother and sister are okay, but District 12 has been destroyed.

Part 3, The Enemy: Chapters 24-27 Analysis

Katniss's connection and fear for her family and friends comes through again when she believes that she hears their tortured voices in the jungle. The fact that it is just another manifestation of the jungle designed by the Gamemakers gives her little peace. Katniss needs her family to be safe; this is her motive for all she does. Included in this is Peeta, the boy she pretends she does not love, but for whom she is willing to give her life.

Beetee comes up with a plan to electrify the beach at twelve o'clock with the wire and the lightning that strikes there twice a day. They all work toward this end in the hopes of killing the other three tributes they are up against. However, this will mean that there will only be the five of them left, forcing them to turn on one another. Katniss is nervous that they might catch her and Peeta unawares and believes this is exactly what has happened when Johanna cuts the tracking device out of her arm. However, it all proves to be a plot designed before Katniss ever entered the arena this time around. Katniss must survive because she is the face of the rebellion, the only chance Panem has of rising against the Capitol and surviving. Katniss must survive. Unfortunately, Peeta has been taken by the Capitol and District 12 has been destroyed. Katniss must face an uphill battle if she is to lead her world into rebellion.



Characters

Katniss Everdeen

Katniss Everdeen is a sixteen-year-old girl from District 12 who the year before won the Hunger Games with Peeta Mellark after volunteering to be a tribute in her sister's place. Katniss is now wealthy and has a larger, comfortable home, but she continues to sneak beyond the fence of District 12 to hunt wild game. Katniss can still see the hunger and desperation among her old friends and neighbors. This causes her a great amount of guilt.

Katniss is about to embark on the Victory Tour for the games when President Snow comes to visit her personally. President Snow tells Katniss that people have seen her actions in the arena, to threaten suicide if she and Peeta are not both allowed to live, as an act of defiance rather than a desperate move for love. This has caused some rumblings of uprisings throughout the districts. The president wants Katniss to make people believe it was all about love to quell these rumblings. Katniss does her best to pretend she loves Peeta, as she did during the games, but it does not work.

Katniss hears rumors here and there about the uprisings in the various districts. At first this makes her want to run, but later it moves her to want to begin her own uprising. However, when she learns that she will have to fight in the games once more for the Quarter Quell, all of Katniss' energy goes into finding a way to ensure that Peeta survive. The games are brutal with an arena with more than its share of hidden dangers. However, when Katniss is pulled out of the game in the claw of a hovercraft, she learns that there has been a secret plot all along to save her and Peeta in order to make Katniss the face of the new rebellion.

Peeta Mellark

Peeta Mellark is an articulate, charming young man. Peeta won the Hunger Games along with Katniss Everdeen when Katniss threatened to commit suicide rather than kill him. This all came about after Peeta confessed his undying love for Katniss before the games and the Gamemakers announced that two would be allowed to win, but then changed their minds.

Peeta is heartbroken when he learns that Katniss only pretended to love him for the games, causing a strain in their relationship back in District 12. However, during the Victory Tour, they find a new connection, a friendship. This leads to an even deeper relationship when they both learn they will be forced to return to the arena in the Quarter Quell. Peeta does all he can to convince Katniss she must survive the games, but Katniss is determined to make sure he survives. In the end, they both survive due to a plot organized by Haymitch and Heavensbee, but Peeta is taken by the Capitol before Heavensbee can reach him.



Haymitch Abernathy

Haymitch Abernathy won the fiftieth anniversary games, a Quarter Quell games in which twice the number of tributes were placed in the arena. Haymitch won his games by using the force field surrounding the arena as a weapon. Haymitch mentored Katniss and Peeta in the seventy-fourth games, sending them items from their sponsors that helped them to survive in the arena. The three of them have become friends and Katniss continues to look to Haymitch as a mentor.

Haymitch is an alcoholic who often sleeps during the day because the darkness brings nightmares. Haymitch travels with Katniss and Peeta on their Victory Tour. When the Quarter Quell rules are read, Haymitch faces the possibility of returning to the arena after twenty-five years. Instead, Peeta volunteers to take his place. Haymitch goes along as mentor. In the end, Katniss discovers that Haymitch has plotted to save her life along with Peeta's. Haymitch and Heavensbee have come up with a plan to save as many of the tributes as possible by lifting them from the arena during the confusion of the destroyed force field. This plan is to lead to rebellion. However, they are unable to save Peeta.

Gale Hawthorne

Gale Hawthorne is Katniss's childhood friend. When she returned from the games, Gale kissed her and led Katniss to believe they might have a future together. This complicates things for Katniss when President Snow comes to her and tells her that he will kill Gale if she does not convince all of Panem that she loves Peeta. Frightened for Gale, Katniss does all she can, going so far as to become engaged to Peeta.

Gale is a strong, passionate young man who wants to rebel against the Capitol. Katniss agrees with this idea after Gale is brutally whipped for poaching a turkey off of Capitol lands. Gale serves as Katniss's motivation during most of the book, and her desire to keep him safe is so strong. In the end, Gale brings Katniss the news that District 12 has been destroyed in retaliation for Katniss' escape from the arena.

President Snow

President Snow is a cruel leader. President Snow controls the world of Panem from the Capitol, but finds his control slipping as uprisings begin in the aftermath of Katniss' win in the Hunger Games. President Snow uses mind games and threats to control Katniss, but her following is too strong and the desire to break out from under his oppression too deep. In the end, President Snow tries to kill all Katniss loves by destroying District 12, but instead the reader suspects that this might be the catalyst to create a strong rebel leader in Katniss.



Finnick Odair

Finnick Odair is one of the youngest persons to ever win the Hunger Games. Finnick Odair is charming and sensuous, often surrounded by beautiful young women. When Katniss meets him, Finnick makes a pass at her. Katniss dislikes him from the first words out of his mouth. However, when they are in the arena and they are the first two to reach the Cornucopia, Finnick announces that he is Katniss's ally. Finnick then saves her life by killing another tribute and then helps Peeta reach dry land.

Finnick proves to be invaluable to Katniss and Peeta. When Peeta accidentally walks into a force field, Finnick brings him back to life with CPR. When a deadly fog engulfs them, Finnick chooses to save Peeta over his old mentor, Mags. Finnick can also catch shellfish and weave baskets necessary to hold water and food. Finnick proves to be invaluable in the arena to Katniss and Peeta.

Johanna Mason

Johanna Mason is the female tribute from District 7. Johanna makes fun of Katniss after the opening ceremonies by riding the elevator up to her floor naked. Later Johanna makes a show of wrestling naked, hoping to make Katniss uncomfortable. However, in the arena, Johanna makes herself an ally of Katniss by bringing her two tributes she was told Katniss needed to survive. Katniss later learns that Johanna was part of a plot to save Katniss's life and that it was her job to remove Katniss's tracking device before the force field went down in order to keep the Capitol from easily tracking her. Johanna dies protecting Katniss from several other tributes.

Beetee and Wiress

Beetee and Wiress are the tributes from District 3. Beetee and Wiress are known as Nuts and Volts because of Wiress's odd habit of never finishing a thought and Beetee's talent with electronics. Katniss befriends Beetee and Wiress during the training period. Beetee and Wiress show Katniss a flaw in force fields where a person can see a distortion in the items behind the field. This helps Katniss protect her group from the dangers of the force field in the arena. Later it is Wiress who tells Katniss that the arena is a huge clock where dangers come out of the jungle at precise times. Wiress is later killed, but Beetee survives. Beetee comes up with a plan to electrocute the remaining Career tributes that is a cleverly disguised plan to destroy the force field. Beetee fails in this plan, but Katniss is able to follow through and make it work.

Plutarch Heavensbee

Plutarch Heavensbee is the new Head Gamemaker. Heavensbee attempts to tip Katniss off to the clock design of the arena, but she misses his point until Wiress continuously repeats tick, tock. Later Katniss learns that Heavensbee has been part of

an underground rebellion for years and that he and Haymitch have plotted a way to help Katniss and Peeta survive the games.

Primrose 'Prim' Everdeen

Prim is Katniss's sister. It was when Prim's name was chosen as tribute the year before that Katniss volunteered to go in her place. Prim continues to be Katniss' inspiration. In fact, Katniss is determined to see Prim survive and live a full life. This is threatened when Katniss hears Prim's tortured voice being called out by a jabberjay. Later Katniss learns that Prim has survived, however, thanks to her beloved Gale.



Objects/Places

Paintings

Peeta is an artist. When Katniss sees his paintings, she is horrified because they depict all they experienced during the seventy-fourth Hunger Games.

Pearl

Peeta gives Katniss a pearl he found in an oyster during the seventy-fifth games.

Locket

Peeta wears a locket that has the image of a mockingjay on the outside and pictures of Katniss's family and Gale on the inside in hopes of convincing her to survive.

Mockingjay Pin

Katniss was given a mockingjay pin by the mayor's daughter before leaving for her first games. This pin has become a symbol of the rebellion and is worn by those who support it in one form or another.

Wedding Dress

Cinna dresses Katniss in a wedding dress as ordered by the president, but he has rigged it so that when she lifts her arms it burns away and becomes a mockingjay inspired dress.

Bow and Arrow

Katniss is an expert at the bow and arrow because of her years hunting in the woods outside District 12.

Train

Katniss and Peeta spend a great deal of time on trains during the Victory Tour and when they are chosen to return to the games as victors for the Quarter Quell.



Electrified Fence

There is an electrified fence around District 12 that is designed to keep the people of that district inside. However, the fence is rarely electrified until the new Head Peacekeeper takes charge. Katniss breaks her heel attempting to break back into the district after the Head Peacekeeper electrifies it upon reports she has slipped out.

Victory Tour

Katniss lives in Victory Village, a small neighborhood of twelve houses where the victors of the games are allowed to live. Only three of the houses in District 12's village are occupied.

The Hob

The Hob is a black market in District 12 where people go to buy and sell illegal products, such as white liquor. The Hob is burned to the ground when a new Head Peacekeeper takes over District 12.

Arena

The arena is a specially built building where the Hunger Games are held. The arena in this novel is designed like a clock with dangers appearing in the jungle at set times in set areas.

Hunger Games

The Hunger Games are a reality game that is sponsored by the Capitol. Each year two tributes are chosen from the districts and forced to fight one another until only one tribute is left alive. These games are a result of a rebellion many years ago and are considered a punishment and reminder to the rebels. Every twenty-five years there is a special game, the Quarter Quell, in which the rules are changed in some way. This year, the seventy-five year anniversary, the tributes are taken from existing victors.

Districts

Panem is divided into twelve districts, each with its own industry and way of life. There were once thirteen, but District 13 was said to have been destroyed many years before the opening of this novel.

Panem

Panem is the fictional post-apocalyptic world where Katniss lives.



Themes

Love

Katniss survived her first games by pretending to be in love with Peeta. Katniss used this supposed love as a strategy against the other tributes and the audience. However, Katniss told Peeta afterward that it was mostly a strategy, not real. This causes some tension between Katniss and Peeta that is finally broken when they decide to be friends. As they struggle together to survive the Victory Tour and later, during their second games, Katniss and Peeta come to rely on one another for emotional support. This causes Katniss some confusion because she believes herself to be in love with Gale, her childhood friend and hunting partner.

As Katniss struggles with her love for two very different boys, she does not struggle with her determination to save her sister, Prim, from a certain death out of love for her. Katniss is fierce in her determination for her sister, determined that Prim not suffer as she has in the games or from the hardships of growing up in Panem. It is for Prim that Katniss does most everything she does.

Other characters reveal love as a motivation as well. Finnick becomes distraught when he hears the voice of a girl named Annie from his home district screaming from the throat of a jabberjay. Finnick is also heartbroken over the death of his mentor, Mags. Love also seems to inspire Haymitch to keep both Katniss and Peeta alive during their second games. Love is a powerful motivator, therefore it is a theme of this novel.

Survival

Survival is a basic instinct in most people. In this book, survival is intensely important for all the people of Panem. Surviving in the districts is a day to day struggle for most people who suffer with a lack of food and basic necessities. Peeta and Katniss watch as their families and friends struggle to help their children have enough to eat while in the Capitol people over indulge.

In the arena during the Hunger Games, survival takes on a whole new meaning for Peeta and Katniss. During their first games, they struggled together to survive, watching as other tributes die one after another. Katniss finds herself fighting to keep Peeta alive after he is badly wounded even when she is nearly dead from dehydration. The following year finds Katniss and Peeta back in the arena, forced to make decisions based on a need to survive rather than friendship. It is a difficult position to be placed in and the wrong choice can mean death. Survival becomes everything in the arena, making it a theme of the novel.



Rebellion

After Katniss threatens to commit suicide at the end of the seventy-fourth Hunger Games rather than be forced to kill Peeta, it is seen as an act of defiance by the world of Panem. Soon after, rumors of uprisings spread. Katniss is told to make this stop by proving that her act of rebellion was inspired by love, not defiance. However, this does not work and soon some of the districts are in full rebellion.

Katniss at first wants to run away. However, she soon realizes that forcing change is the only way they can all survive. Katniss wants to stage an uprising, but she does not know how. In the end, Katniss does not play an active part in the uprisings, but becomes a symbol of hope.

The leaders of an underground rebellion recognize in Katniss the possibilities of banning together under one leader. The world sees Katniss as a face of defiance, so they chose to use her by saving her life in the arena and staging a world-wide rebellion. Katniss and the mockingjay have become the symbols of defiance, and the rebellion cashes in on this by saving Katniss and defying the Capitol on a major scale, making rebellion the most important theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view. The main character, Katniss Everdeen, is the narrator. Katniss tells her story through her own thoughts and actions, as well as through conversations and actions of others. The point of view of this novel is an intimate one that keeps the reader close to the main character and refuses to allow insight into the minds of other characters, therefore allowing the reader to see and understand only what Katniss sees and understands.

The point of view of this novel is limited, but it allows an intimate relationship with the main character of the novel, Katniss Everdeen. While this narrow point of view often leaves the reader dependent on the main character for all the information regarding the actions of the plot, it also reduces confusion when an author attempts to move from character to character, giving too much information for the plot. In the end, the point of view of this novel is highly effective for this plot.

Setting

The novel is set in the fictional, post-apocalyptic world of Panem. The reader suspects that Panem is Earth after some catastrophic event that left it struggling to survive and therefore grown into the oppressive government it now features. Panem is divided into twelve districts that each has its own industry. Many of these districts feature a Justice Building that appears to be a remnant of Earth before the unknown destruction.

The setting of this novel is fictional; therefore, the writer can use it to manipulate her characters in any way she chooses. The author does this by creating a government of cruel oppression where people are forced to remain in their own districts, where they are allowed only the amount of food the government sees fit to provide, and where rebellious behavior is rewarded with torture and the possibility of becoming a *Avox*, a mutilated human rendered speechless and forced to act as a servant. It is a difficult world to live in that causes the desire for rebellion, leading to one of the major themes of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in an educated English that is clear and precise, but not as simple as novels written for young audiences tends to be. The language of this novel does not include any made up languages that sometimes appear in novels of this genre or other foreign languages that the reader might not understand.

The language of this novel is simple and precise. The language reflects that of a well educated person. For this reason, the language does not fully support the character that



is the narrator of this novel since the reader knows that she was no longer required to go to school after she went to her first Hunger Games. However, the reader is given the impression that this character is quite intelligent; therefore, an argument could be made for her grasp of this type of articulation. Overall, the language of the novel is simple enough for the audience to which it was intended, making it an easy read for most readers.

Structure

The novel is divided into three sections and twenty-seven chapters. The chapters vary in length and do not have a title. The parts are given a title that pertains to something important in each. The novel is told in a linear style and contains both exposition and dialogue.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Katniss Everdeen in the aftermath of her victory in the Hunger Games. One subplot follows Katniss's relationship with Gale and her forced love affair with Peeta. Another subplot describes the poor treatment of the people in the districts and rumors of uprisings. All the plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

"I can't fight the sun. I can only watch helplessly as it drags me into a day that I've been dreading for months."

Chap. 1, p. 3

"I'm staring into the snakelike eyes of President Snow."

Chap. 1, p. 17

"He means there's only one future, if I want to keep those I love alive and stay alive myself. I'll have to marry Peeta."

Chap. 3, p. 44

"A pair of Peacekeepers dragging the old man who whistled to the top of the steps. Forcing him to his knees before the crowd. And putting a bullet through his head."

Chap. 4, p. 62

"No wonder I won the Games. No decent person ever does."

Chap. 8, p. 117

"Where would I be with my pretend cousin who wouldn't be my cousin if it weren't for Peeta? Would he have still kissed me and would I have kissed him back had I been free to do so? Would I have let myself open up to him, lulled by the security of money and food and the illusion of safety being a victor could bring under different circumstances?"

Chap. 13, p. 185

"Now a new kind of confidence is lighting up inside of me, because I think I finally know who Haymitch is. And I'm beginning to know who I am. And surely, two people who have caused the Capitol so much trouble can think of a way to get Peeta home alive."

Chap. 14, p. 203

"Because Cinna has turned me into a mockingjay."

Chap. 17, p. 252

"For me, the jungle has quickly evolved from a place of protection to a sinister trap."

Chap. 22, p. 318

"I go back to imagining killing the president."

Chap. 23, p. 331

"The boom of the cannon pulls me up short. Someone has died. I know that with everyone running around armed and scared right now, it could be anyone."

Chap. 26, p. 374

"But Gale is not one to keep secrets from me. 'Katniss, there is no District Twelve.'"

Chap. 27, p. 391



Topics for Discussion

What are the Hunger Games? Why were they enacted? How are the participants chosen? What is the Quarter Quell? How do the rules change in the Quarter Quell? How do these changes impact Katniss and Peeta? How do these changes impact the growing unease in most of the districts? How does an announcement by Peeta makes this worse?

Who is Katniss Everdeen? Why is she going on a Victory Tour? Why is she visited by President Snow? Who does President Snow threaten if Katniss does not take his advice? Does she? Does it work? Why or why not? What does Katniss decide to do in the face of this success or failure? Why?

Who is Peeta Mellark? Who is he to Katniss? Why does Katniss pretend to be in love with him? Why does Peeta propose to Katniss? Is this to result in a real marriage? Explain. Who promises to throw them a wedding? How do the people of the Capitol react to this? Who chooses the wedding dress? Does Katniss ever wear the wedding dress? Explain.

Who is Gale Hawthorne? What is his relationship to Katniss? How does Gale inspire Katniss to become engaged to Peeta? What happens to Gale when he accidentally shows the new Head Peacekeeper a poached turkey? How does this inspire Katniss to rebellion?

Who is Finnick Odair? Why does Katniss dislike him in the beginning? Why does she grow to like him? Does Katniss ever truly trust Finnick? How many times does Finnick save Peeta's life? Why does he do this? To what personal loss does Finnick do this? Where does Katniss find Finnick after she is taken from the arena? How has he arrived there? What does this mean?

Who is Prim? Why is she so important to Katniss? What did Katniss do for her in the previous novel? How has this act impacted Katniss's life? Her relationship with Prim? Would Prim have had the same results in the same situations as Katniss? Why or why not? Does Prim continue to be a motivation to Katniss? In what way? Of whom does Prim remind Katniss? How does this impact her emotional health?

Discuss symbolism. What is a mockingjay? How does it become a symbol of the uprisings? Who first wore it? Why does Katniss not understand why people are showing her this symbol in the Capitol? What does it mean when this symbol appears on the face of Plutarch Heavensbee's watch? Does Katniss understand its importance?