

The Hunger Games Study Guide

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

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Plot Summary

The Hunger Games is the story of post-apocalyptic North America, now renamed Panem and divided into twelve Districts. These Districts have specific tasks that contribute to the overall well-being of the empire. Panem is controlled by the Capitol, a city with abundant resources that keeps the other Districts under its boot. Katniss Everdeen, her sister Prim, and her mother live in District Twelve, the coal mining district. Katniss has been responsible for feeding her family ever since her father died when she was eleven. The twelve Districts are required each year to participate in the Hunger Games, a punishment for a long-ago rebellion. For the Games, each District must send two children between the ages of twelve and eighteen to compete to the death. They fight in an arena designed by the Gamemakers, and the whole event is for people's entertainment. Katniss is worried that she or her friend Gale's names may be drawn to compete, but she is shocked when her younger sister Prim's name is called. To save Prim, Katniss volunteers to go in her place. The other tribute from District Twelve is the baker's son, Peeta. Katniss has complicated feelings toward Peeta because as children, at risk of punishment, he gave her some bread when her family was starving.

To prepare for the Hunger Games, Katniss and Peeta are groomed by a prep team including their mentor Haymitch, their sponsor Effie Trinket, and their stylists Cinna and Portia. During the Opening Ceremonies, Katniss becomes known as the girl who was on fire, thanks to Cinna's costume. Peeta reveals his crush on her to the world, and while she thinks it is a gimmick, he truly has feelings for her that he makes clear throughout the Games. Katniss always tries to fight fairly in the arena, even befriendng a twelve-year-old named Rue who reminds her of her younger sister. They face constant danger in the arena, both from the Gamemakers and from fellow tributes. Though at first Katniss thinks Peeta is working against her, it eventually becomes clear that he has been trying to protect her, and when the Gamemakers change the rules so that two tributes from the same district can win, she sets off to find him. He is dying, but she is able to get the medicine he needs and saves him. Once they are a team it is easier for both of them to get gifts from their sponsors because they pretend to be in love. They finally go back to the lake to satisfy the Gamemakers' need for a showdown, but are horrified and surprised at the vicious genetically altered mutations that represent the dead tributes. At the last moment, the Gamemakers try to pit them against one another, but Katniss and Peeta's willingness to die for each other cause them to declare both victors. They are ecstatic to go home, but Katniss is distressed when she realizes Peeta's feelings are real—he has not been pretending for the audience at all.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapters One and Two

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapters One and Two Summary

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins is the first of a trilogy of books chronicling the experiences of Katniss Everdeen, a citizen of Panem, formerly known as North America. The society is rigidly controlled by the Capitol, including the yearly Hunger Games, where one boy and one girl from each district must compete in a fight to the death. Katniss volunteers for the games in lieu of her younger sister Prim, and learns that her survival skills can help her in the Games, but her capacity for love is what will ultimately save her.

In chapter one, Katniss Everdeen awakes in the home she shares with her younger sister Prim and her emotionally distant mother. Her father died five years ago in a mine explosion. It is the day of the reaping, which will take place at 2 pm. They live in District Twelve, or the Seam, populated mostly by coal miners. The entire settlement is encased in a tall fence to keep out predators, but Katniss goes through the fence often to hunt in the woods with her friend Gale. She is able to hunt using survival skills and a bow that her father made for her. Katniss makes money by selling in the black market, called the Hob. Though Katniss and Gale look alike they are not related—most residents of the Seam are olive-complected with dark hair, though Prim and her mother have blond hair. Gale and Katniss are the breadwinners in their families, so they cannot run away to avoid the reaping. They harvest strawberries and take them to the mayor's house and encounter Madge, who is dressed for the reaping. Gale is annoyed because Madge has little chance of being chosen: every child has their name entered in the drawing once a year between the ages of twelve and eighteen, but may enter their names more times in exchange for food, grain, and oil.

During the reaping ceremony, the mayor reads the story of Panem, which rose from the ashes of North America and is ruled by the Capitol. The Capitol defeated twelve districts during the Dark Days and destroyed the thirteenth. The Hunger Games are punishment for the uprisings of the Dark Days. Effie Trinket is the representative from the Capitol, and she draws the first name for the Games: Primrose Everdeen.

In chapter two, Katniss volunteers herself as a tribute to spare Prim. Though Effie Trinket congratulates Katniss on being in the spirit of the Games, no one in the audience claps out of respect. The male tribute is Peeta Mellark, the baker's son. Against the instructions of his mother, Peeta gave Katniss bread years ago after her father died and she was desperate to feed her mother and Prim. Starvation is common in District Twelve. The next day, at school, Peeta's face was bruised, and Katniss realized then that she could feed her family through her hunting skills. On the stage at the reaping, she hopes she will not have to kill Peeta.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapters One and Two Analysis

In chapter one, the author introduces the protagonist, Katniss Everdeen, the wise-beyond-her-years breadwinner for her younger sister and mother. Katniss is straightforward and matter-of-fact, explaining that the Capitol, the Seam, and the other Districts all rose out of the ruin of North America, conveying a post-apocalyptic dystopian world carefully controlled by the government. Katniss truly loves her aptly named younger sister Primrose, whose sweetness and wholesomeness has won over many hearts in District Twelve, despite her lowly origins in the Seam.

The Hunger Games are the punishment for the Districts' uprising many years before: it reminds the people that the Capitol has complete control and can destroy them at any moment, just as they did to District Thirteen. It is also a device to keep the society stable: by providing the poor grain and oil in exchange for tesserae, they provide the rich with some measure of protection for their children. The poor, who must take on more tesserae for simply surviving, typically have their names entered into the pool many more times. Gale and Katniss think about running away, but ultimately their commitment to their families keeps them in the Seam. Though Katniss takes most of the familial responsibilities upon herself, she is still a sixteen year old girl—the brief moment in the woods with Gale confuses her because in her mind they are partners, but nothing more. Katniss is very worried about Gale and herself, and is completely shocked when Prim's name is called.

Katniss begins chapter two in complete shock, but comes to herself in time to volunteer herself instead of Prim for the Games—this is very rare in District Twelve, where the tributes almost always die. Katniss volunteering is proof of how much she loves Prim: she is essentially offering to die for her sister. Effie Trinket encourages the crowd to clap, but they remain silent and even hold their fingers to their lips for Katniss. This is a risky form of dissent in their closely controlled world because it clearly conveys to those in power that District Twelve think the Games are wrong. Katniss is dismayed when Peeta's name is called because of his kindness to her in her darkest hour. His gift of bread helped her feed her seriously depressed mother and dependent sister, and spurred her on to the realization that she could hunt in the woods to make a living. Though they have not ever spoken, she knows he is selfless and kind, which will make it difficult for her to kill him. She is analytical and practical but also extremely fair, which makes it difficult for her to contemplate killing the boy with the bread, as she remembers him.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 Summary

In chapter three, the tributes are whisked away into custody and escorted to a room where they have an hour to say goodbye to their family and friends. Katniss says goodbye to Prim and her mother, reminding them that Prim cannot take tessarae. Katniss makes her mother promise not to go away again like she did when their father died. Gale has promised to take them game, but she reminds them to trade with him instead of accepting charity. Prim asks Katniss to try and win, but Katniss knows she does not have the resources the kids from wealthier districts will have. Peeta Mellark's father visits her as well, bringing cookies and promising to make sure Prim gets enough to eat. Then Madge, the mayor's daughter, enters and makes Katniss promise to wear a small gold pin as her token. Finally Gale enters and reminds Katniss to find a knife, but a bow would be best for her.

After her goodbyes, Katniss is glad she did not cry, but notices Peeta has been crying and does not try to hide his tears. They take a high speed train to the Capitol, located in the Rockies. District Twelve is in Appalachia, where the coal is buried very deep from so many years of mining. Most of Katniss's education has been coal-related except for the history lectures, which tell about the twelve Districts and the Capitol. Katniss recognizes the pin Madge gave her as a mockingjay: the result of a jabberjay and mockingbird mating. Katniss watches the replays of the reaping ceremonies. Effie Trinket reminds them that Haymitch is their lifeline just as he staggers in and vomits everywhere.

In chapter four, Peeta and Katniss help their mentor Haymitch, who had once one the Games, back to his room after he is sick. After dumping Haymitch in the shower, Peeta offers to take care of him and let Katniss go back to her room. She suggests he call someone from the Capitol to help, but he wants to take care of Haymitch himself. She is disarmed by his kindness and throws away the cookies his father gave her. She sees a patch of dandelions by the train tracks and they remind her of the day after Peeta gave her the bread: that day she had turned from looking at his bruised face and saw a dandelion, deciding to make dandelion soup. She was reminded of the bounty of the woods, and her hunting and gathering skills kept the family alive. Katniss learned how to trade at the Hob and who in District Twelve would buy what goods. Through her success in hunting and trading, her mother came out of her depression, but Katniss cannot forgive her for her distance.

The next morning Katniss has breakfast with Peeta and Haymitch, who she dislikes. She thinks District Twelve does not get sponsors in the Games because Haymitch is so despicable. Peeta lunges at Haymitch and they scuffle. Katniss skillfully throws her knife into the wall. Haymitch realizes he has tributes who will fight this year and promises to



stay sober enough to help them through the Games. The train pulls into the Capitol and Katniss and Peeta are stunned by the vibrant colors and strange styles. As Peeta waves to the crowd, Katniss remembers they are in the Games against one another and he will be trying to kill her.

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 Analysis

Chapter three is an emotional roller coaster for Katniss, especially since she is trying hard to appear unmoved for the cameras. Katniss loves Prim deeply, and much of her goodbye is concerned with keeping Prim safe: Prim is a topic of her conversations with Mr. Mellark, her mother, and Gale. Katniss's survival instincts come through clearly in this chapter. Though she is very emotional at the prospect of leaving her family and participating in the Games, she has the sense of mind to appear calm in front of the cameras. She knows any display of weakness will mark her an easy target. Mysterious, Madge asks her to wear the mockingjay pin—each tribute is allowed to carry a token from home with them. Jabberjays were originally meant to assist in covert government operations, but when the general public caught on, they were abandoned to the wild. Katniss likes the pin because she now has a token that reminds her of her father, and is also a subversive jab at the Capitol because it represents one of their failures. The revelation that District Twelve is in Appalachia adds more to the story geographically: previously the reader was told Panem used to be North America, but now the locations are more specific. Katniss is uneasy that Haymitch, a notorious drunk, is to serve as she and Peeta's sponsor.

In chapter four, Katniss's skills as a survivor are even more apparent: her account of her single-handed efforts at pulling her family back from starvation is evidence that she can and will do whatever it takes. Katniss is in survival mode on the train, thinking of her strategies and recapping the strategies of others. Peeta presents a problem for her: he was kind to her before and he is kind to Haymitch, which makes it much harder for her to contemplate killing him in the Games. Just as she throws the cookies out the train, she sees a patch of dandelions, which also remind her of Peeta's kindness. The dandelions are symbolic of survival: they are tough little plants that will grow anywhere but still retain their beauty. Peeta sparked Katniss's survival strategy for her family so long ago, and now she is in a position where she may have to kill him. Though they gain Haymitch's support, Katniss still has little hope for her survival and hopes she will not have to kill Peeta.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 5

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 5 Summary

Katniss is in the Remake Center waiting to meet her stylist. She has been scrubbed and plucked and polished by the prep team and hasn't complained, obeying Haymitch's order. Katniss is unembarrassed by her nakedness because the prep team is so unlike the people she knows that they seem more like animals. Cinna, Katniss's stylist, is much more simply attired than the rest of the team. Cinna is a new stylist for the Games and requested District Twelve. Cinna and his partner Portia want to dress Katniss and Peeta in complementary costumes for the opening ceremonies. It is customary to dress tributes in costumes that somehow represent their Districts, and Katniss fears their costumes will be repeats of the horrible coal miner's jumpsuits of years past. Instead, Cinna and Portia are focusing on burning the coal, dressing Peeta and Katniss in matching black unitards and capes he sets on fire with synthetic flames. Katniss and Peeta promise to rip each other's capes off if they begin to burn through the costumes. The flames do not burn them, and at the last moment, Cinna tells them to hold hands. They are a sensation, and Katniss hopes the crowd-pleasing costumes will win her a sponsor. Peeta disarms her with a compliment but she fights her pleasure at his words, reminding herself that it could be part of his strategy to kill her.

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 5 Analysis

In chapter five, the differences between District Twelve and the Capitol are apparent: Katniss must spend three hours in the Remake Center simply to look like a basic human being to the team. The team seems like animals to her, but she feels no ill will toward them: she knows that in their ridiculous way they are trying to help her, and she will need all the help she can get. Though she and Peeta are nervous about the fire, the costumes are exactly what they need to gain an edge right away. Katniss is conflicted about her fondness for Peeta and must remind herself that they are enemies in the Games, not companions like Cinna makes them seem by asking them to hold hands. The success of her costume gives Katniss her first small hope of surviving the Games—perhaps winning a sponsor who could help her. It is significant that Cinna presents the tributes from District Twelve as a team: Katniss wonders why, since they are being sent to kill each other. She suspects Peeta is being nice to her as a strategy and will renege on his kindnesses later, but deep down Katniss is confused about his behavior. She has a strong instinct for survival but also a strong moral fiber, and knows she will have a hard time separating Peeta the boy with the bread from Peeta her opponent.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 6

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 6 Summary

Katniss and Peeta move to the Training Center, where they will reside until the Games begin. Katniss marvels at the elevator in the building. Effie has been making the rounds in the Capitol for them trying to win them sponsors, despite that everyone sees the coal-mining district as barbaric. Effie mistakenly tries to sell them using the metaphor that coal turns into pearls under pressure, which it does not. Katniss's room is huge and contains all the modern gadgets that people in the Capitol rely upon. Katniss, Peeta, Haymitch, Effie, Cinna, and Portia have dinner together to plan a strategy. During dessert, Katniss recognizes one of their servers who Effie identifies as an Avox, a person who had committed a crime. The girl's tongue has been cut out, and Katniss learns she cannot speak to an Avox unless she is giving an order. While Katniss flounders for an explanation, Peeta helps her by claiming the Avox looks like Delly Cartwright from back home, who the girl actually looks nothing like.

After dinner, Peeta and Katniss go to the roof where their conversation can be disguised by the loud wind. In the garden, Katniss tells Peeta how she and Gale saw the girl in the woods when she was with Gale. The girl was with a boy and they were clearly running for their lives. The boy was killed and the girl taken away in a hovercraft. The girl asked Katniss and Gale for help just before she was captured. Katniss thinks they were from the Capitol but does not know where they were going, since beyond District Twelve is only wilderness and the ruins of District Thirteen. Peeta asks Katniss about Gale, who he thinks is her cousin. He seems surprised that his father brought Katniss cookies, revealing that his father knew her mother when they were children. When Katniss returns to her room, the redheaded Avox is there collecting her discarded clothes. Though Katniss wants to apologize to the girl for not helping her, she simply asks her to return her clothes to Cinna. Katniss is ashamed she and Gale did not help the girl in the woods and feels it was just like watching the Games.

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 6 Analysis

Katniss is amazed at all the different gadgets in the Capitol, though at the same time she is disgusted by how easy everything is. She dislikes Effie but admires her determination to help them in the Games, despite her view of District Twelve as barbaric. Katniss is in a world that is, in many ways, over her head: the reader gets the sense that her recognizing an Avox is a faux pas, and possibly dangerous. Inexplicably, Peeta helps her dig herself out by claiming the girl looks like someone from home who, incidentally, looks nothing like the girl. Haymitch mentions the hand-holding is a small rebellion, which sparks the thought in the reader that there may be more going on than meets the eye. Katniss's story about the Avox girl is mysterious: why would people from the Capitol be running for their lives in the woods of District Twelve? Katniss feels extremely guilty that she and Gale did nothing to help the girl—ironically, she felt as if

she was watching the Games when the girl was taken and the boy was killed. She is surprised by Peeta's knowledge of her mother and his father and distressed that they have even more in common than she originally thought. She still tries to keep herself distant, knowing she may eventually be forced to kill Peeta—or he will kill her.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 7

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 7 Summary

Katniss wakes up from nightmares about her mother and Prim starving and, as always, yells for her father to run. She dresses herself without the automated assistants in her room. Katniss is the first person at breakfast, where she serves herself from the buffet. Katniss marvels that she has only been gone from home for two days and worries about her mother and Prim. Katniss is irritated that she and Peeta are again dressed alike. The tributes will train for three days, then will perform in private for the Gamemakers. Katniss and Peeta decide Haymitch can coach them together since they already know each others' special skills. Katniss downplays her skill with a bow and arrow but Peeta corrects her, claiming she always hits the game she hunts in the eye. They argue about each others' chances of survival, each thinking the other has the advantage.

Haymitch instructs them to try to learn a new skill while training, not revealing their strengths to the other players. In public, Haymitch wants them to be together constantly and appear to be getting along. Katniss is angry at Haymitch's instructions, convinced that she and Peeta should accept they are enemies. They go with Effie to the training room, where they may learn survival and fighting skills. While the Career Tributes show off, Peeta and Katniss learn to tie some knots and visit the camouflage station. Peeta admits to Katniss that he does the beautiful frosting designs in the bakery. Haymitch insists they continue to train together and act friendly, though it strains them both. One of the tributes, Rue, reminds Katniss of Prim. Katniss is the last of the tributes to be seen by the Gamemakers. Though she displays her skills admirably, they pay no attention to her. In anger, she shoots the arrow out of their roasted pig's mouth and storms out.

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 7 Analysis

Katniss is homesick, though she tries not to admit it to herself. She thinks often about Prim and her mother, hoping they are making it without her. She worries about them watching the Games as well, and thinks the fiery costume may have given them false hope. Katniss is very careful with herself around Peeta, trying hard not to forget that in the Games they are adversaries, not friends, despite their unique history. She is surprised at how often she and her family were apparently discussed at Peeta's house, and surprised that he had taken any notice of her skill. Peeta's admission that his mother thinks Katniss could win takes her completely off-guard: despite the advantage of growing up with money and a place in a business, perhaps Peeta's home life left much to be desired. Though Katniss feels they are evenly matched she is angry when Peeta says to Haymitch, "She has no idea. The effect she can have" (p. 91). Katniss continues to turn the comment over in her head, alternately convinced it could be a compliment or a scathing insult. They follow Haymitch's instructions to stick together in public, though Katniss cannot fathom why. She is torn that she may have to kill the boy



with the bread in the Games. There is a sense that presenting them as a team is somehow subversive, although the reader is as in the dark about Haymitch's plans than Katniss and Peeta are. Rue reminds Katniss of Prim, especially since both of their names are flowers—she recoils at the idea that Rue will be her enemy. Katniss lets her temper get the best of her during her performance for the Gamemakers, but it ultimately serves to distinguish her from the others. She has no concept of how special she is, just as Peeta said to Haymitch.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9

The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 Summary

In chapter eight, immediately upset after her outburst at the Gamemakers, Katniss runs to her room without consulting anyone. She worries about the effect her action may have on her family. She is certain the Gamemakers will give her a low score on the scale of one to twelve. These scores are used to garner sponsors and are an indication of a tribute's potential. At dinner, Peeta tells Haymitch the Gamemakers basically ignored him, and Katniss confesses that she shot at them. Haymitch does not think her family is in danger but he suspects they may be hard on Katniss in the arena. Instead, Peeta receives an eight and Katniss an eleven, giving them a real chance at sponsorship. In the early hours of dawn, Katniss thinks about Gale and their first encounter: she came across his rabbits snared in the woods. Gale's father died in the same accident as Katniss's father, so they each were the heads of their households. They became friends, though Katniss feels they are much more than just friends. She compares her relationship with Peeta to her relationship with Gale: each thrown together in survival situations. On interview day, Katniss learns that Peeta wants to be coached separately.

In chapter nine, Katniss feels betrayed at Peeta's request to be coached separately. She works with Effie first and dislikes walking in high heels. Effie tries to teach Katniss to smile, and that she will need the audience to like her. Katniss's session with Haymitch is disheartening: he cannot find an angle for her because she is so clearly contemptuous of the Games. After dinner, Katniss takes out her anger by smashing plates around the room. The redheaded Avox comes to clean it up and Katniss apologizes for not saving her. The girl makes her feel better. The next morning, Katniss is again primped and polished by the prep team, hoping Cinna will make her look so wonderful that no one will care what comes out of her mouth. Cinna's dress for her is beautiful, and he suggests in her interview she just try to be herself. The audience admires her spirit. Cinna suggests she talk to him during the interview since he will be sitting in the audience. All the tributes are lined up on the stage for the interviews, and Haymitch reminds Peeta and Katniss to pretend to be friends. Caesar Flickerman conducts the interviews and has been surgically altered to appear younger and thinner—in contrast, in District Twelve, old age is an achievement since not many people live to reach it. Each interview lasts three minutes, with Katniss taking notes of the sexy blonde from District One, the fox-faced girl from District Five, and Rue and Thresh from District Eleven. Katniss makes it through her interview by being honest, like Cinna instructed: she talks of the lamb stew, her beautiful costumes, and volunteering for Prim. During Peeta's interview, he admits to Caesar that he has feelings for Katniss.



The Hunger Games, Part 1, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 Analysis

Chapter eight shows an emotional maelstrom for Katniss: after the apple incident she is in a panic, convinced she will be taken away by authorities any moment and has put her family in danger. Though the scores have relatively little to do with the actual chance of surviving the Games, they do help the players to garner sponsorships, which can provide invaluable advantages in the arena. Katniss and Peeta are pleased with their scores, though Katniss feels strange about congratulating him since they are adversaries. She misses Gale, for whom her feelings are complicated: she feels they are more than friends but does not have any romantic thoughts for him. She is confused about missing him, and comparing her relationship with Gale to her faux relationship with Peeta. Katniss has a very rational mind, but also a strong sense of morality and loyalty.

In chapter nine, Katniss is confused by her feelings that Peeta has betrayed her: she has known from the beginning that they would be against one another, but she still unwittingly began to trust him. Katniss has little use for Effie's instructions to smile and sit up straight, but she also knows she needs the audience to like her. She is true to herself to a fault, which is why Haymitch has such problems trying to create an angle for her in the interview. She disapproves of the Hunger Games and is incapable of pretending anything else. Katniss takes out her frustration by smashing dishes in her room—since she has no one she can really talk to or trust, she turns to physical violence to appease her. She still feels horrible guilt for not helping the Avox girl, and feels certain the girl must hate her. She is surprised when the girl wipes her face and helps clean the room, and clings to the small feeling of redemption provided by the Avox. Katniss is extremely anxious about her interview, but Cinna's suggestion to be herself makes sense. Katniss apparently has very little self-awareness: she seems surprised when Cinna claims the audience already loves her. The fire theme is representative of her spirit: Cinna sees her inner potential and is doing everything possible to outwardly direct others to the same truth. Peeta's declaration of love for Katniss is a shock both to her and the audience, but a brilliant tactic: they are now ingrained in the audiences' mind as a pair.



The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 Summary

After Peeta's declaration, Katniss is stunned, but the watching audience loves it. The huge screens show she and Peeta, now a tragic love story for the audience to grasp onto. After the interview, Katniss returns to the twelfth floor and pushes Peeta into flower urn, knocking him over. She is angry that he has made her appear weak, but Haymitch explains he has actually made her desirable, which she could not have accomplished on her own. Portia explains that her reaction was perfect, and had she known about the declaration it would not have been as good. Katniss decides Peeta has given her an advantage and feels guilty for shoving him, since they will be in the arena tomorrow. Peeta and Katniss say goodbye to Effie and Haymitch. They will begin traveling to the arena at dawn with Cinna and Portia. Effie and Haymitch will be at the Games Headquarters signing up sponsors. Haymitch suggests they run when the gong sounds at the Cornucopia and put distance between themselves and the other tributes. Katniss decides to keep the flame designs on her fingernails after her shower.

Katniss cannot sleep, so she goes to the roof, where she encounters Peeta. He is hoping he will be able to die as himself, not made into a monster by the Games. He is certain he will die, which frustrates Katniss. Just before dawn, Cinna guides Katniss to the roof, where, in a hovercraft, a tracker is inserted under her forearm. After half an hour, they arrive at the arena and are taken to the Launch Room, or the Stockyard. She and the other tributes will be dressed identically. Cinna puts the mockingjay pin on Katniss as her token from home. She sits with Cinna until launch, and he says he would bet on her to win if he could. Katniss rises in open air from her cylinder, and the Games begin.

Katniss and the other tributes stand on the metal circles for sixty seconds. The Cornucopia is filled with all kind of potentially life-saving survival tools, but Katniss has been instructed to run away from the bloodbath. Katniss thinks to run for the woods, but sees a bow and arrows in the pile of treasures. She thinks Haymitch would want her to get them if he knew how fast she could run, but she glances at Peeta and he shakes his head. The momentary distraction means she misses her chance to get the bow and arrows, but she grabs a plastic sheet and a backpack, barely escaping the girl from District 2 and her knife-throwing. Katniss puts as much distance between her and the Cornucopia as possible. Later, the cannons reveal eleven tributes died, with thirteen left to play. Katniss worries about Peeta, hoping he is still alive. Katniss checks the contents of her bag: though there is a plastic bottle, it contains no water. She decides to make camp in a willow tree, sets two twitch-up snares, and watches the anthem that informs them of the day's deaths. She is relieved that Peeta is still alive. She wakes up hours



later to someone who has started a fire below her, broadcasting their location to the Career Tributes. They are hunting in a pack and kill the girl, but the cannon does not go off so they send someone back to make sure she is finished. Katniss is shocked when she hears Peeta's voice.

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 10 and Chapter 11 Analysis

In chapter ten, Katniss is shocked by Peeta's declaration of love for her. She is initially angry because she thinks he is trying to make a fool of her, but Haymitch points out he has given her a great advantage by making her desirable. Katniss is always on the defensive and believes people are out to get her until they prove her wrong. She does not understand why Peeta keeps helping her, though the Lover Boy routine will be useful for him as well. She feels guilty about injuring him because they will shortly be in the arena. Katniss's decision to keep the flames on her fingernails is a reminder for the audience that she is the girl on fire. While District Twelve is the coal district and people think of them as barbaric, even an ugly lump of coal can burn brilliantly. Peeta is more of a deep thinker than Katniss—she tends to react quickly and decisively, while Peeta is thinking of how to maintain his identity in the arena. The Games are essentially dehumanizing, meant as a punishment for the rebel districts, and Peeta wants to keep his humanity to show the Capitol they cannot truly own him. Katniss does not understand why he worries about things he cannot change, and thinks instead he should be resting or planning a strategy. Cinna tries to give Katniss confidence as she waits for the Games to begin, and returns the mockingjay pin to her. The pin suggests some foreshadowing—it was mysteriously given to her and has a hint of a smack of rebellion.

In chapter eleven, Katniss's skills for survival are put to the test—she is very tempted by the bow and arrows but knows to retrieve them would be a big risk. She is distracted by Peeta's head shake, as if he knows her thoughts and is telling her not to run for the bow. This is confusing for Katniss and the reader—why is Peeta still trying to help her? Katniss has a strong instinct for survival but cannot bear to leave the Cornucopia, with all its treasures, empty handed. The backpack she retrieves will be useful for her because of its sleeping bag and food, though the empty water container is a disappointment. Katniss is confused by her concern for Peeta's safety—rationally, she knows that if someone has killed him it could be better. She does not relish the thought of killing him herself, and he does not seem to believe he can actually win the Games anyway.



The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 12 and Chapter 13

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Summary

Katniss almost falls out of her tree when she hears Peeta's voice with the Careers in chapter twelve. Katniss feels that Peeta has betrayed her and District Twelve by throwing in his lot with the Careers. She wonders why Peeta has not told them about her skill with a bow. As she drops out of the tree and checks her snares, she gives the audience a knowing smile to throw everyone off track. She cooks a rabbit in the dead tribute's fire, camouflages her pack with soot, and sets off to find water. She almost eats some berries for the juice, but has to stop because she is not sure they aren't toxic. She is angry that Haymitch has not sent her water yet, but finally concludes that he is withholding it because she is close to finding it. Just as she cannot go on any more, she falls into a pond. She adds iodine to purify the water and slowly drinks the entire half gallon, then another. She sets up camp in a tree and makes plans for the next day, but is awakened by a wall of fire.

In chapter thirteen, Katniss must run for her life from the Gamemaker-made wall of fire. She suspects the Gamemakers are trying to drive the tributes together in the arena. The tail of her jacket catches fire and she must put it out. Her lungs are burning and she has inhaled too much smoke. She rests by a rocky outcropping for a moment, but the Gamemakers begin hurling fireballs at her. Though she has planned to return to the pond, all she has time to do is dodge fireballs. Part of her hair is singed off and her hands and calf are injured. She thinks of the irony of the girl who was on fire. She is afraid there is another tribute nearby, but the discovery of a pond is such relief for her burns that she decides to stay. She remembers her mother and Prim helping a burn victim, but she couldn't take the sight of the wound and retreated to the woods to hunt. She falls asleep by the pond and awakes just in time to run from Peeta and the Careers. She scurries up a tree and the Careers cannot follow her because they are too heavy. She is in pain, hungry, exhausted, and shocked when she discovers Rue is in the tree next to hers.

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 12 and Chapter 13 Analysis

Chapter twelve is a psychological and a physical battle for Katniss. She is completely shocked and angry that Peeta has joined the band of Careers, apparently to help them find her, but she is confused that he has given them no information about her. She is unsure of his strategy since he seems to be going against everything they discussed with Haymitch. Her anger at Haymitch is unusual for Katniss because she is usually so



good at doing things herself—her final realization that he is sending her a message keeps her going enough to discover the pond. She shows enormous self-control by waiting for the water to be purified, then drinking it carefully to not make herself sick.

In chapter thirteen, Katniss's reputation as "the girl who was on fire" works against her. The intentional fire set by the Gamemakers very easily could have been inspired by her Games nickname, and she is extremely unsettled by burns. Even Katniss, who is a great survivor, has limits to her mental capacity to deal with pain. Adrenaline allows her to scurry up the tree and banter with the Careers, though she is disturbed that Peeta is still with them and avoiding her gaze. She is angry that they have her bow, especially since they cannot use it correctly. Though she makes it up the tree, the pain from her burns are beginning to overpower her senses. Rue, like her, has sought shelter in the trees. Rue reminds Katniss of Prim, and the reader gets the sense that Rue looks up to Katniss and is trying to help her.



The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 14 and Chapter 15

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 Summary

In chapter fourteen, Rue points out a tracker jacker nest to Katniss and is gone. The tracker jackers have poisonous stings that raise huge lumps and cause hallucinations. Katniss decides to saw off the branch with the nest during the anthem so the Careers cannot hear her. The tracker jackers are subdued by the smoke, which allows Katniss to partially saw through the branch. She will saw through the rest at dawn. She has a small pot attached to a silver parachute on her sleeping bag—her first gift from a sponsor. It is medicine for her burns, extremely expensive and the effort of many sponsors. She wakes at dawn and the Careers and Peeta are asleep. She warns Rue that she is going to drop the nest and Rue leaps off through the trees. Three wasps sting her before the nest crashes to the ground, sending the Careers scattering and taking Glimmer out. Katniss runs back to her pond in case any tracker jackers are honing in on her. Katniss remembers Glimmer has the bow and arrows and she goes back for them, despite the venom coursing through her veins. She takes the bow and arrows and is almost overcome by hallucinations, but Peeta returns just before the other Careers and tells her to run. She falls into a pit and blacks out.

In chapter fifteen, Katniss wakes from her venom nightmares and is weak. She does not know how long she has been out and does not know which other tributes are still in the Games. She thinks of Gale and Peeta, and cannot fathom why Peeta saved her life. Katniss's hope is renewed with her retrieval of the bow and arrows, but she needs food and water. She shoots a rabbit and bathes in a stream, then travels uphill for a while and sets up a fire to cook her kills. Rue has been following her and they form an alliance, Katniss giving Rue food and Rue relieving Katniss's tracker jacker stings with remedies she knows from District 11—Agriculture. They talk of their Districts and Katniss is surprised to learn that Rue has not ever had enough to eat in her life either. Rue shows Katniss the glasses in her pack are not sunglasses, they are for seeing in the dark. They take to a tree and share Katniss's sleeping bag. Rue tells her she has been unconscious for two days and Peeta is no longer with the Career. They have all the food and supplies, but Rue has given Katniss the idea for a plan to put them on the offense.

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 Analysis

In chapter fourteen, Katniss warning Rue is a very fair thing to do, although it takes away her possible advantage over an adversary. Katniss has an incredible sense of



fairness and a good understanding of right and wrong, and feels for Rue because she reminds her so much of Prim. Katniss is very smart to wait until dawn to drop the nest: if she had dropped it in the middle of the night she would have taken away her advantage. Even through the horrible effects of the tracker jacker poison, she knows she must run and must find the pond to survive. When she remembers the bow and arrow, she cuts through the fog of poison in her mind and is again focused on survival, though the hallucinations get the better of her when she arrives at Glimmer's body. Though she has the bow and arrow, she is completely vulnerable to attack: as she hears footsteps through the trees, she is sure she is dead. But Peeta, inexplicably, saves her life by telling her to run. This cannot be part of his strategy since the Careers would not hesitate to kill him for aiding Katniss—it must mean Peeta either has ulterior motives or truly has feelings for Katniss. She is completely baffled at Peeta's behavior, but the poison from the tracker jackers overcomes her senses.

In chapter fifteen, Katniss comes out of her nightmares—the tracker jacker venom targets the fear center of the brain. She has been dreaming about her father's death and various ways Prim could die. Her love for her sister is a constant undercurrent for Katniss. She needs to win for Prim, so she can go back home and take care of her. For the first time since the fire, Katniss's fortunes are looking up. With the bow and arrows she can easily hunt and kill, both game and her opponents. Rue so reminds her of Prim that she offers to form an alliance, though she knows Haymitch will be unhappy with her. Katniss knows that Rue is smart, and when they pool their resources they are much stronger than when they are alone. Katniss's inspiration for an offensive attack comes from the very name of the event—The Hunger Games. Her opponents are not yet hungry, and she plans somehow to make the playing field more level.



The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 16, Chapter 17, and Chapter 18

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 16, Chapter 17, and Chapter 18 Summary

In chapter sixteen, Rue falls asleep and Katniss begins to think about destroying the Careers' food supply. They are typically better fed than the other tributes and do not know how to be hungry. A cannon sounds and they are reminded that the numbers of players are dwindling. Katniss learns that Rue is the oldest of six kids and very protective of her siblings. She forages for food regularly and her favorite thing in the world is music—she sings with mockingjays. They come up with a plan and Rue teaches Katniss her mockingjay song, a sign that she is fine but cannot make it to the rendezvous point. Katniss arrives at the Cornucopia and is confused by the placement of the food so far from their camp. Cato, the girl from District 2, and a scrawny boy from District 3 are the only people there. Katniss worries about Peeta. Cato and the others set off into the woods to find her, and she watches Foxface's strange sequence of steps up to the food. She realizes the boy from District 3 has dug up the mines and rewired them to protect the food. The mines are set off by pressure, so Katniss shoots at a bag of apples to set off the explosives.

In chapter seventeen, Katniss has vertigo from the explosions and a very damaged ear. She pulls her hood on to avoid blood trails and begins to crawl away because she is too dizzy to stand and walk. She crawls under some bushes at the base of a tree just as Cato rushes in to discover the damage. In a rage, he kills the boy from District 3 and they wait for the cannon, assuming whoever set off the mines is dead. After the anthem that night they know the bomber survived, and they set off with night-vision glasses in search. Katniss puts on her own glasses and hunkers down for the night. In the morning she sees Foxface laughing and picking through the wreckage of the supplies. Katniss heads back to meet Rue, the hearing in one ear gradually getting better. She climbs a tree at their meeting place and eats much of her food, having a "hollow day." After waiting too long for Rue, Katniss goes to the third fire, which is unlit. She is convinced Rue is in trouble and sets off to help. She hears Rue crying for help and finds her, but not in time to save her from the boy from District 1's spear.

In chapter eighteen, Katniss sings Rue to her death after promising that she will win the Games. The mockingjays take up her song. Katniss thinks of Gale's ravings against the Capitol and Peeta's wish that he can remain himself and not be mutated by the Games. She wants to do something to show the Capitol they are not just pawns in a game, so she wreaths Rue's body with flowers. She wanders the rest of the day and receives a loaf of bread from District 11, perhaps meant for Rue but now as a thank you to Katniss. She dreams of Rue decorated in flowers, but awakens depressed and lonely. Thoughts of Prim's face get her more motivated. The boy from District 1 carried only a pack of



dried fruit for food and Katniss hopes they all carried so little food with them. She walks back toward the stream to hunt and kills some groosling. Katniss wishes she could tell Peeta she understands what he meant on the roof, and deals with the aftermath of her first real kill. Katniss's lethargy in the tree vanishes when Claudius Templesmith announces the rule change: if two tributes from the same District are alive at the end of the Games, they can both live.

The Hunger Games, Part 2, Chapter 16, Chapter 17, and Chapter 18 Analysis

In chapter sixteen, Katniss and Rue take the offensive, the first time either of them have been able to do so in the Games. Katniss's idea to destroy the food is inspired—it is, after all, the Hunger Games—and she knows the Careers are typically stronger and better fed in general throughout their lives. Without the food source, they will be significantly weaker because they do not know how to be hungry like her and Rue. Though Rue physically reminds her of Prim, Rue has a sense of adventure that Prim lacks—Rue's admission that they are hungry even in District 11 surprises Katniss. She is also surprised at the harshness of the punishments in District 11, never thinking before of her own District as lenient. The re-wiring of the explosives is a huge surprise for Katniss, and she imagines it must have been a surprise for the Gamemakers as well. Katniss is bent on leveling the playing field and the bow and arrows allow her to do it. Her idea to free the bag of apples is extremely smart, proving she not only has the basic survival skills to get through the Games, but also the cleverness.

In chapter seventeen, Katniss has successfully blown up the Career's food supply, but also may have irreparably damaged her hearing. This could have major consequences for her since her skills as a hunter largely tax all her senses. Cato is her most threatening enemy, willing to kill allies and angry rages and laying claims to be the person to kill her. Katniss trusts her instincts and listens to her gut feelings, which is why she did not offer Foxface a place in her and Rue's alliance. Something about the other girl is too sneaky for her and definitely untrustworthy. On her way to meet Rue, Katniss is actually in a good mood, though she is still deaf in one ear. The rebellious or competitive spirit in her has been whetted: she has truly put them all in the same boat. Now the Games will not be about the best strategies or the most stock from the Cornucopia, they will be about who can truly survive. Katniss thinks about Prim often after parterning up with Rue, because of Rue's physical resemblance to Prim. Katniss enjoys taking care of people—at home in District 12 it was Prim, her mother, and Gale; in the Games it has become Rue. When she discovers Rue in danger, her immediate reaction is to protect her, even though she is mortally wounded.

In chapter eighteen, Katniss finally understands what Peeta and Gale meant: they do not want to be pawns for the Capitol. Rue's death brings home for her the awfulness of the Games. Pitting children against one another for sport; turning them into animals as punishment for a long-ago rebellion to keep the Districts in their proper place. Katniss wants to show the audience that they are still human, despite the awfulness of the circumstances. By staying with Rue and adorning her body, she proves to the audience



that she has kept her morality, that she recognizes the wrongness of it all. To her, Rue was not an opponent but a twelve-year-old girl, much like her sister, thrown into an unfair game of survival. It is significant that the District 11 gift was redirected to Katniss because it is a first in the Games: never has a District given a gift to someone who was not their own. It shows that they appreciate Katniss's respect for Rue and for human life. She feels guilty about killing the boy from District 1 but uses Rue's memory to keep her feelings of guilt at bay, though she is lethargic and dealing with a huge sense of loss. For her, it's as if losing Rue means losing Prim, which is the worst thing she can imagine. She has tried not to worry about Peeta, but with the rule change, he immediately springs to her mind. She now has something to work for and someone to take care of, and for her the boy with the bread is now a potential lifeline in this horrible world of death.



The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 19 and Chapter 20

The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 19 and Chapter 20 Summary

In chapter nineteen, Katniss is horrified that she shouted Peeta's name and may have given away her position. Katniss knows their romance must be very popular with the audience for the rule change to have happened, and realizes Peeta must have been trying to protect her the whole time. The next day Katniss sets off carefully to find Peeta, figuring he must be near a source of water. She sets a fire to lead the Careers away from her search and heads for the stream. She finds him camouflaged in the muddy bank. She washes him off and tends to his burn and tracker jacker stings. He is feverish and does not want to eat, and the wound in his leg is festering. Katniss drains the pus in his leg and helps him to a small cave, impulsively kissing him when he talks of dying. Instantly a silver parachute with broth appears, and she realizes they must pretend to be in love to save him.

In chapter twenty, Katniss tends to Peeta throughout the night, though she realizes she is much more vulnerable than she was before. Over the night, Peeta's fever breaks and Katniss gathers berries for them to eat. He keeps watch while she sleeps, stroking her hair comfortingly, but when she wakes his fever is back and his wound shows evidence of blood poisoning. She makes him soup by the stream and worries about the other tributes' whereabouts. Peeta asks for Katniss to tell him a story, so she tells him how she got Prim's goat. Really, she and Gale shot a buck and took it to Rooba the butcher, who gave them a good price and they decided to surprise their families with the money and venison steaks. She tells Peeta she traded her mother's silver locket because she doesn't want to get anyone from home in trouble for participating in the black market. She resumes her story about Prim's birthday, where she and Gale bought an injured goat previously meant for the butcher. Rooba refused to take the goat, winking at Katniss, and she and Gale gave it to Prim. Prim was ecstatic and healed the goat, which paid for itself many times over.

Claudius Templesmith announces a feast where each tribute is to get something they desperately need. Peeta immediately tells Katniss she cannot go, which makes her even more determined. She receives a parachute from Haymitch, thinking it contains the medicine, but it is only sleep syrup. At first she is furious, but then realizes she can knock Peeta out for a day and go get the medicine without the threat of him following her. She mixes it with berries and he is falling asleep before he realizes what she has done.



The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 19 and Chapter 20 Analysis

In chapter nineteen, Katniss realizes that Peeta has been trying to protect her throughout the Games and has been taking full advantage of the Lover Boy angle. Ironically, Peeta's talent for frosting cakes has saved his life thus far, keeping him perfectly camouflaged in the mud and leaves of the river bank. Katniss reiterates that she dislikes wounds and how difficult it is for her to treat Peeta's leg. Though Prim and her mother would have no trouble at all with the bloody mess, Katniss prefers the clean killings her arrows provide to the mess of infection. She is also very uncomfortable with his nakedness—an almost humorous skittishness when compared with her matter-of-fact killings of animals and the grit and determination she has showed thus far into the Games. Astonishingly, Katniss is very worried about appearing in love: she is extremely concerned for Peeta and knows that to get gifts to help him, she must convince the audience that she loves him, but such feelings are new for her. At home she was always too focused on survival and the needs of her family, and even Gale she appreciated more as a hunting partner than a potential lover. When the parachute arrives, she imagines Haymitch instructing her to be more convincing, and realizes her ability to act in love with Peeta could be the key in saving his life.

In chapter twenty, Katniss's survival instinct is slightly at odds with her actions: she knows that taking care of Peeta puts her in a vulnerable position, but her sense of morality cannot abide leaving him to die. She is not entirely comfortable playing at being in love with him, but she knows she must do it to save his life and possibly both of their lives, since their love story is so popular with the audience. She reflects that Peeta has no problem pretending to be in love with her, but does not stop to think that perhaps he is not acting. The story about Prim's goat is one of Katniss's happiest memories because she loves her sister more than anything in the world. In their District, where they have so little, a goat is both a practical and potentially money-making tool, and also a thoughtful gift for a sister whose love for animals outweighs her practicality. Peeta's teasing shows that he has not yet given up on his life, but Katniss fears that if he does not let her get his medicine he will be dead very soon. He is completely immovable on the issue, but Haymitch's gift of sleep syrup decides the issue for Katniss. She can tell he will not forgive her, but she cannot so easily give up on his life just to satisfy his stubbornness.



The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 21 and Chapter 22

The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 21 and Chapter 22 Summary

In chapter twenty-one, Katniss camouflages the entrance to the cave and takes stock of her equipment. She does not sleep because she cannot miss the dawn, but instead thinks of Prim and her mother at home in District 12. She leaves three hours before dawn with minimal supplies, kissing the sleeping Peeta goodbye and worrying about home and her ear. Katniss takes her place at the Cornucopia, and as soon as the backpacks appear, Foxface has grabbed hers and run away. Katniss runs for her backpack and Clove throws a knife at her, which she dodges. Just as she gets to her backpack, Clove's knife catches her in the forehead, blinding her with her own blood. Clove tackles her and plans to cut her mouth off, but is lifted off at the last moment by Thresh. He is angry that she may have had a hand in Rue's death and kills her with a rock. He spares Katniss for Rue's sake and she escapes, afraid that Cato will come after her in revenge for Clove's death. She is bleeding profusely but makes it back to the cave. She gives Peeta the medicine via hypodermic needle and notices a sliver and green moth landing on her wrist before she passes out.

In chapter twenty-two, Katniss wakes up in the cave feeling ill. Peeta is much improved and feeds her groosling and water. She explains to him about Rue, Clove, and Thresh, then says that he would not be able to understand owing someone something because he has always had enough to eat. Peeta tells her she knows why he helped her, and Haymitch said she would take a lot of convincing, though she does not understand. Katniss does not want anyone else to die, but cannot say it out loud because it may lose her sponsors. She begins to cry and tells Peeta she wants to go home. He promises she will and she sleeps, waking only to eat the last of their supplies with him. He asks her not to die for him, but she counters his argument with the realization that she would be very upset if he died. Though in the back of her mind she is thinking of how the conversation is being played out all over Panem, she truly feels what she says. They trade off watch in the damp cave, hoping the weather will improve, but the deluge continues. In an effort to get them food, Katniss ask Peeta when his crush on her started. He says it began on their first day of school, when his father admitted to having a crush on her mother, who ran off with a coal miner. He says he fell in love with her after hearing her sing at a music assembly and tried to work up the nerve to talk to her for eleven years without success. He jokes that he has no competition in the arena and Katniss replies he does not have competition anywhere. They are rewarded with the a gift of food from their sponsors.



The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 21 and Chapter 22 Analysis

In chapter twenty-one, Katniss shows her true character: she is willing to risk her life for the sake of others. Though she is extremely skilled at survival, it is other people who give her strength and keep her going. When Rue was killed she was horribly lethargic after briefly having someone to take care of: the role of caretaker is what she is comfortable with. It is unsurprising that she goes to such measures to save Peeta, even though on her side their love story is a ruse, but she knows he will die without her help. Perhaps Katniss's emotional distraction is why she doesn't think of Foxface's plan of attack; she knows she must get her pack quickly because she stands no chance physically battling the others. Thresh sparing her is surprising but also encouraging: he has been the most imposing and mysterious tribute thus far, and he turns out to be like Katniss in that he still has a sense of morality. The Games are still sad for him, he most assuredly wishes he could have protected the little girl from his District now that they are allowed to be on teams. Katniss's determination to get back to Peeta is amazing, considering she is quickly losing blood and is emotionally traumatized from expecting Thresh to kill her. She clings to the hope that Cato will pursue Thresh and not her, since Thresh has his backpack.

In chapter twenty-two, Katniss and Peeta seem to be on a respite. They each need time to heal from their wounds. Katniss's sense of fair play is something Peeta has trouble understanding: she, who has been in survival situations before, knows what it means to owe someone a debt such as Thresh owed to her. The world where she grew up was often literally life or death, and the gravity of holding someone's life in your hands is not to be taken lightly—Thresh understood and respected this unspoken rule, even in the Games where such rules are made into sport. Katniss still thinks she and Peeta are playing an elaborate game for the audience, whereas Peeta's feelings for her seem more and more genuine. He foreshadows again about some former relationship between their parents, but Katniss does not completely register the strangeness of their interconnectedness. She knows she must pretend to be in love with Peeta so their sponsors will continue to help them, but she is more and more confused by her feelings for him. She often compares him to Gale, which confuses her as well—she has not ever thought of Gale in a romantic way, and she is uncomfortable reconciling the two men in her life.



The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24

The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24 Summary

In chapter twenty-three, Katniss and Peeta eat the stew slowly so the rich food will not upset their stomachs. They talk about the fine houses they will live in if they win called the Victor's Village. Peeta points out that Katniss and Haymitch are alike in many ways and they discuss how Haymitch won the Games, deciding he must have outsmarted all the others. Katniss wonders if his drinking began as a coping mechanism because so many of the tributes he mentored died. During the anthem they learn that Thresh is dead and Katniss is sad for him, though she cannot reveal the emotion to the audience. Peeta takes the first watch and wakes Katniss later to eat goat cheese, which reminds her of home. She is surprised to learn that Peeta's family had to eat stale items from the bakery; she assumed he was always well fed. Katniss worries what she will do with her life if she wins the Games. The next day the rain has stopped and they are back in the Games. They leave the cave to hunt and Peeta is too loud so they take off their shoes. He decides to gather food while Katniss hunts, though she worries Cato will find him. Katniss finds food for them but panics when Peeta does not return her signals, though he has only been gathering berries by the stream. Katniss is angry at Peeta for eating some of the cheese, but it was Foxface. She ate the poison berries he had been gathering as well and the hovercraft takes away her body only yards away from Katniss and Peeta.

In chapter twenty-four, Katniss and Peeta save the rest of the nightlock, hoping perhaps they can trick Cato into eating them as well. They decide to stay put and cook their food, though it gives away their position to Cato. He probably assumes they hunted and killed Foxface and were ready for him. Katniss wants to climb a tree for the night but Peeta wants to return to their cave. She relents, thinking how she needs to be nicer to him for the cameras. They make it back to the cave and Katniss kisses him on the forehead, not for the cameras but for herself. They eat and rest in the cave but the Gamemakers drain the stream, wanting them to go to the lake. They decide to go and fight Cato in the open and end the Games once and for all. They wait by the stream and sing Rue's melody to the mockingjays. When Cato finally appears, he is wearing body armor and is being chased by creatures.

The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 23 and Chapter 24 Analysis

In chapter twenty-three, Katniss gains a better understanding of Haymitch. Though Peeta has commented before that they are a lot alike, she realizes Haymitch probably



won the Games by outsmarting everyone else—and possibly his drinking started as a coping mechanism. He has had to coach so many tributes for so many years and they all died. That is a heavy burden to bear, and it is understandable that without others to help him he turned to substance abuse. Throughout the Games Katniss has become more adept at playing to the audience—she knows she must pretend to be in love with Peeta, but she also thinks to hide her initial distress at Thresh's death because she does not want to show weakness. Katniss has difficulty comparing Peeta to Gale, but during their hunt she wishes for Gale's soft step and expertise. Ironically, Peeta's ineptitude at foraging gains them a victory: Foxface, who has skimmed along off the spoils of others then entire Games, is finally done in by his poisonous berries, called nightlock.

In chapter twenty-four, Katniss gives in to her blossoming affection for Peeta by agreeing to go back to their cave. They are in better spirits now that they are a team against only Cato, though Katniss grows restless and knows they cannot stay in the cave forever. Her suspicions are confirmed when the Gamemakers drain the stream in an attempt to herd them toward the lake. She and Peeta have finally reached the point of no return: they are ready to end the Games, one way or another. Though they play into the Gamemakers' hands by exposing themselves to Cato in the open area by the lake, they would rather make an attempt to end it than continue hiding. Katniss's feelings for Peeta are complicated because they have grown together in extraordinary circumstances: she wonders what their lives will be like back in District Twelve. The mockingjays sound the alarm when they stop singing Rue's song.



The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 25, Chapter 26, and Chapter 27

The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 25, Chapter 26, and Chapter 27 Summary

In chapter twenty-five, the "muttations" chase them to the Cornucopia. Katniss makes it first and climbs up to try and protect Peeta. They make it up the Cornucopia and realize the muttations are the other tributes, genetically transformed. The three living tributes are momentarily safe on top of the Cornucopia, but Cato grabs Peeta in a headlock and a mutt takes a bite out of Peeta's leg. Katniss cannot kill Cato without Peeta being dropped to the mutts below. Peeta makes an X on Cato's hand with his own blood and Katniss shoots an arrow. It goes through his hand and Peeta shoves him off the Cornucopia to the mutts below. Cato's death is dragged out interminably by his body armor as the mutts work away at him. Katniss must tie a tourniquet around Peeta's leg to stop the bleeding, and they huddle together in the freezing cold. Cato lasts through the night and Katniss must finally kill him with the arrow from Peeta's tourniquet to put him out of his misery. The mutts vanish and Peeta and Katniss move away from the horn to await the hovercrafts. They go to the lake and the rule change is revoked—they have to kill each other after all. Peeta asks for Katniss to kill him but she will not, and finally they agree to eat the poisonous berries together in defiance. Just before they can kill themselves with the berries, the Gamemakers congratulate them on being the winners of the Hunger Games.

In chapter twenty-six, Katniss and Peeta are taken away in a hovercraft, but Peeta has lost too much blood and passes out. He is taken away by doctors and Katniss watches from the other room, finally understanding why people who come to her mother with loved ones who are ill cannot leave. She sees herself in the reflection and is startled by how frightening she looks. She is put under with a needle from behind and wakes up in a hospital bed, completely healed. The redheaded Avox girl assures her that Peeta is alive. Katniss exists for a while in the hospital bed eating and sleeping, and when she will not sleep she is intravenously knocked out. Finally she wakes and puts on her tribute outfit, following a long hallway where Effie, Haymitch, and Cinna wait for her. Cinna takes her to where Flavius, Octavia, and Venia are waiting to prep her. In the end, the team makes her look like a young girl for her and Peeta's live televised reunion. Just before she goes onstage, Haymitch tells her the Capitol is furious and her only protection is to pretend to have been blinded by love.

In chapter twenty-seven, Katniss understands Cinna's costume choice—she needs to look non-threatening. She and Peeta kiss onstage and the audience goes wild. The sit to watch a three-hour recap of the Games. She notices Peeta has been playing the love angle the entire Games, while she does not seem accessible until her alliance with Rue and nursing Peeta back to health. President Snow crowns them using two halves of the



same crown, but Katniss feels his animosity. After the party, Katniss cannot sleep and discovers someone has locked her door from the outside. The next day she and Peeta have a televised interview with Caesar Flickerman. The interview goes well until Caesar mentions Peeta's new leg, a prosthetic he needed because of Katniss's tourniquet. When Caesar asks Katniss about the berries she answers safely that she couldn't be without Peeta. They take a train to journey back to District Twelve and Katniss tells Peeta about Haymitch's strategy. He is hurt that she has done everything for the Games, and she is confused about her feelings for him and Gale.

The Hunger Games, Part 3, Chapter 25, Chapter 26, and Chapter 27 Analysis

In chapter twenty-five, Katniss, Peeta, and Cato are briefly united in their flight from the muttations, but the Games are still more important to Cato and he grabs Peeta. The realization that the muttations have been made using the other tributes is a shock for Katniss as well as the reader: although through the entire adventure Katniss has known to expect anything, this is too much. This cuts past her cool reserve and causes her to waste a precious arrow. In the end, it is Cato's own arrogance that loses the Games for him. He is in the Game to win, while Katniss and Peeta are in the Game for each other. Cato's slow death is horrific for Katniss and she must cling to Peeta to keep her sanity. When Katniss kills Cato it is an act of mercy, not the winner's victorious final blow. They are each shocked when the rules change again and they must kill each other—Peeta's selfless requests that Katniss kill him shows how hurt he is and how much he cares for her. The poisonous berries save them, since if the Gamemakers allow them to kill themselves there will be no winner for the Games. It was the act of defiance Peeta and Gale spoke of that Katniss took so long to understand: a way to show the Capitol they did not own people. Luckily the Gamemakers call their bluff.

In chapter twenty-six, though the Games are over, Katniss still feels the feral brutality from the arena. When the doctors take Peeta away, her mind leaps to the conclusion that it is another challenge for the Games, and she cannot make herself calm down. She understands for the first time why people stay at loved ones' sides during illness or surgery: there is nothing else they can do. Peeta has been Katniss's lifeline: keeping her human and reminding her who she is. The days she remains unconscious in the hospital are to heal her. For the interviews, the Gamemakers wants the winners to look fresh and clean, not like the starved and feral animals that initially come out of the arena. Though she feels much better, Katniss also feels strange, like she is being monitored. She is curious about Cinna's costume choice for her until she realizes how much she has angered the Capitol with the berries: he is trying to make her look as young and innocent as possible. Though the love strategy has helped her throughout the Games, she knows Peeta means more to her than that—she just does not understand how much more.

In chapter twenty-seven, when Katniss flings herself into Peeta's arms, the only thing she thinks is whether or not Peeta knows the danger they face. Watching the recap is like watching someone in another life for Katniss; the girl in the Games does not feel like



her anymore. President Snow—his very name cold and sinister—seems to glare at Katniss when he gives her the crown. She knows that he blames her for the embarrassment because the berries were her idea. Though Katniss worries about acting correctly in the interviews for the audience, she also genuinely feels for Peeta. She does not understand her feelings and cannot name exactly what they are, especially after she puts on her regular clothes and begins to seriously think about what home will be like for them. Gale is present in her thoughts, which confuses her as well. She has never thought of him in any other way than a friend and hunting partner, but her stomach is in knots at the idea of seeing him again. She feels as if she is in more danger after the Games than while she was in them—surviving in the forest is easy for her compared to surviving the complex political landscape now before her.



Characters

Katniss Everdeen

Katniss is the protagonist of the novel. She is a tough, self-sufficient, extremely loyal girl whose childhood was cut short by responsibility. After her father died, her mother sank into despair, so it was up to Katniss to feed the family. One evening, she was going through others' trash in desperation when Peeta Mellark purposefully burned bread from his family's bakery and gave it to her. She feels a debt to him for that action, because after that she realizes the forest will be how to feed her family. She and her friend Gale regularly hunt wild game and gather food, selling some and keeping some for their families. Katniss dearly loves her younger sister Prim, so much so that she volunteers to go to the Hunger Games in Prim's place. Though Katniss could very easily feel bitter toward her more sheltered sister, instead she is fiercely protective of her. During the Games, this protectiveness transfers to another young tribute named Rue.

Katniss has an edge over many of the other tributes because survival has not been hypothetical for her: for years she has been responsible for the life or death of her family. She was devastated by the death of her father, though she retains many of his fine talents and qualities. Throughout the training and the Games, she fights against feeling friendship for Peeta Mellark because she knows eventually she may have to kill him. She is confused by the prep team presenting them together and dressing them in similar costumes: though Peeta seems friendly enough toward her, it is too much of an inner conflict for her to become his friend. She is floored when he professes his love for her in the interview, though it turns out to be a brilliant strategy for both of them. Katniss's survival instincts are in full swing during the Games, mostly because she is doing many of the same things she does at home: hunt, gather, and climb trees whenever danger threatens. She is not an overly emotional person—except with her sister, Prim—and her feelings generally confuse her throughout the story, especially her feelings for Peeta and Gale. She has never had time for romance in her life because she has been too busy worrying about her family's survival. She never wants to fall in love, get married, or have children because she would feel guilty bringing a child into a world where their name could be drawn for the Games. Katniss knows something is deeply wrong with her society, and though she is not overtly rebellious, her sense of morality causes her to take a few jabs at the powers that be: covering Rue with flowers, for instance, was a way to remind them the tributes are still human. She does not understand Gale's rants about the Capitol or Peeta's worries about retaining his sense of self until Rue's death. She has always accepted the world and done what she needed to do to survive, but after Rue's death, she wants something more. Teaming up with Peeta gives her something and someone with which to work. It reminds her of her huge capacity for caring, though such emotions confuse her. Because even if she—Katniss Everdeen, the girl who was on fire—survives the Games, it would be a hollow victory without Peeta. Killing him would be unforgivable in Katniss's eyes because of the kindness he gave her so long ago, without which she could not have survived. Though



Katniss is a strong survivor and very clever, it is her humanity and capacity to care for others that gives her the will to win the Games.

Peeta Mellark

Peeta is the second tribute from District Twelve, oddly pitted against the girl with whom he has been in love since childhood. Peeta is the baker's son, a hard worker, and strong. Through Katniss's eyes, the reader learns that Peeta has an easy smile and is a genuinely kind person. His decision to help the young and starving Katniss as children gives insight to his character: he has a great capacity for kindness and compassion. He burns the rolls on purpose, receiving sharp words from his horrible mother, and when told to throw them to the animals, he makes sure to put them within Katniss's reach. He was punished for his compassion, though the reader gets the sense that even had he known his punishment in advance, he still would have helped Katniss. Even in the Games, Peeta only thinks of protecting Katniss: though she thinks he is playing an angle to win the audience over, he is truly in love with her and cannot bear the thought of any harm coming to her. He is also realistic and knows his chances of winning the Games are not good. He asks Katniss to see his family when she wins, sure he will die in the arena. Peeta is also deeply introspective: while the night before their deployment, Katniss thinks of strategies to best their opponents, he muses on the roof, worried about losing his humanity to the brutality of the Games. Katniss does not understand his concern with his inner self because she has always had to worry about the basics: food, shelter, family. While Peeta was not always as well fed as she thought, he still has had an easier life than Katniss and perhaps that life afforded him a more introspective attitude. Peeta is artistic as well, confessing that he decorates the cakes in the windows at the bakery. Though he is strong enough to toss around sacks of flour, the reader gets the sense that he is very much a lover, not a fighter. Even at the very end of the Games, when they are cruelly pitted against one another once more, Peeta immediately requests for Katniss to kill him. He cares for her more than he cares for himself, and though his request is dramatic, it reveals his true feelings. He knows that he would be dead without Katniss and he owes her—he does not understand the debt the same way she and Thresh and Gale understand such debt, but even through his pain and weakness, he is trying to give her back her life. The moment with the berries is a mutually understood moment between them: if they cannot both live, then they will both die. For Peeta, this moment is very much the star-crossed lovers moment, while Katniss is thinking more politically: they have to have a victor for the Hunger Games, so the only way to ensure that they both survive is to threaten to take away any victor at all. Peeta is very hurt when Katniss talks to him about the strategy of their love because he has always been telling the truth about his feelings for her. It is painful for him that she has been simply playing the Game and trying to keep them safe, though her overall confusion about her feelings for him means she could potentially decide in his favor. He has no idea the political danger they may be in, all he worries about are his feelings for the girl he loves.



Primrose Everdeen

Primrose, nicknamed Prim, is Katniss's gentle younger sister. She has just turned twelve when her name is drawn for the Games, though Katniss volunteers rather than let her go to her death. Prim is different from Katniss in almost every way: she is pale and blond like their mother while Katniss is darker colored like their father, and Prim dislikes hunting and killing things. Prim is a healer, like their mother. She talked Katniss into letting her keep a mean old cat and then named him Buttercup, insisting his ugly yellow color looked like the flower. She also nursed a goat—a gift from Katniss—back to health and provides the family with cheese and milk to eat and sell. Prim is beloved by all for her innocence and gentleness, though there is a certain strength present in her as well. While Katniss cannot stand to stay in the room when wounded or extremely ill people come to their house for help, Prim assists her mother with the medicines and remedies no matter how ugly the wound or disease. However, Katniss was unsuccessful when she tried to teach Prim to hunt, since Prim only wanted to save the stricken animals. Katniss and Prim each have a great capacity to feel for others, though Prim is more overtly empathetic than Katniss. Prim also forgives their mother after her depression, which Katniss can never quite bring herself to do. Prim is innocent but not naive, and her genuine sweetness wins her favor with the other residents of the Seam. She makes Katniss promise to come back after the Games, perhaps knowing her older sister cannot resist trying her best after making such a promise. In fact, the thought of Prim at home keeps Katniss going multiple times throughout the Games. She knows she must try her best to come home for her sister.

Gale

Gale is Katniss's best friend and hunting partner. He is older than Katniss but in a similar situation: he is the sole supporter and breadwinner for his mother and six siblings. Gale is somewhat mysterious, befriending young Katniss in the woods and forming an alliance with her. They hunt together and share their skills and spoils, bonded by responsibility to their families. They have each had to take out multiple tesserae, thus entering their names multiple times into the pool for the Reaping. Gale's feelings for Katniss seem to be only friendship, except for his strange comment the day of the Reaping: he suggests they run away together. Katniss is shocked and confused by his comment, since they each shoulder so much responsibility for their families. He brushes the comment off but a seed has been planted in her mind about Gale, and how his feelings about her may be different than she thought. Gale is contemptuous toward the Capitol and toward those who have easy lives: his outburst at Madge is unwarranted, but he is passionate about his frustrations with the system. Throughout the Games, Katniss ruminates over her relationship with Gale, unexpectedly comparing him to Peeta. It is unclear how Gale will react to their performances in the Games, but Katniss wants to see him and wishes for everything to return to normal.



Haymitch

He is Katniss's and Peeta's sponsor, who won the Games for District Twelve many years ago. He has mentored so many tributes over the years who have been killed that he has perhaps turned to drinking as a coping mechanism. He likes Katniss because they are very similar people, and is extremely clever about coming up with a strategy for the tributes from District Twelve.

Effie Trinket

She is the representative from the Capitol responsible for the reaping and the tributes of District Twelve.

Cinna

He is one half of the design team assigned to District Twelve, specifically to Katniss. He befriends Katniss and lends her hope that she can really gain sponsors and win the Games.

Portia

She is one half of the design team assigned to District Twelve, specifically to Peeta.

Caesar Flickerman

He is the television personality who tries to make all the tributes look interesting during their interviews.

Rue

A twelve-year-old girl from District Eleven who forms an alliance with Katniss.

The Baker and the Baker's Wife

They are Peeta's parents, one of whom has a mysterious history with Katniss's mother.

Thresh

He is the large intimidating tribute from District Eleven who spares Katniss's life.



Foxface

She is the sly tribute who gets by in the Games by cunningly observing the other tributes, often stealing their food.

Claudius Templesmith

He is the Hunger Games announcer.

Glimmer

She is the beautiful blond tribute from District 1 who is killed by tracker jackers.

Cato

He is the brutal tribute with a vendetta against Katniss, eventually killed by the wolf mutations.

Clove

She is the tribute who cuts Katniss's forehead during the feast.

Rooba

The butcher in town who buys the buck Gale and Katniss shoot, giving Katniss enough money to purchase Prim's goat.

Venia, Flavius, Octavia

Cinna and Portia's team of stylists.

President Snow

The president of Panem who presents Katniss and Peeta with crowns.



Objects/Places

Mockingjays

These are government-engineered crosses of mockingbirds and bluejays that once had the ability to repeat human conversations verbatim. There is something subversive about mockingjays, and they seem to be on Katniss's side in the arena.

The Woods

This is the area beyond the fence in District Twelve that provides a livelihood for Katniss and Gale.

Dandelions

This was the plant that, after glimpsing Peeta in the schoolyard, gave Katniss the idea that her family would not starve.

Bread

This is the item responsible for Katniss's first debt to Peeta.

Bow and Arrows

This is Katniss's weapon of choice, without which she would not be able to hunt in the woods.

Burn Ointment

This is one of the items sent to Katniss by sponsors.

Berries

These foraged foods can be either life-sustaining or deadly depending on who is doing the picking.

The Capitol

This is the command center of Panem that controls the Districts.



The Districts

These are twelve areas controlled by the Capitol that each have different and specific tasks to contribute to society at large.

The Arena

This is the area where the tributes will fight to the death.

The Seam

This is the nickname for the area of District Twelve where Katniss and her family lives.

The Cornucopia

This is the large golden structure fills with items to help the tributes survive the games.

Mockingjay Pin

Mysteriously, Madge the mayor's daughter requests for Katniss to take this object as her token from home.

Goat Cheese

This reminds Katniss of her and of her sister Prim's kind heart and talent for healing.

Nightlock

This is the berry that poisons Foxface and helps Katniss and Peeta win the Games.

District Thirteen

This is the mysterious district responsible for turning graphite into diamonds, but was destroyed by the Capitol for disobedience.

Crowns

These are the object that President Snow places on Katniss and Peeta's heads.



Groosling

These are birds eaten by Katniss in the arena.

Body Armor

This is the gift from a sponsor that Cato wears, but it tragically prolongs his painful death.

Stew

This is the gift sent from sponsors when Katniss finds Peeta and begins to play the role of lover correctly.



Themes

Morality

Katniss and the others live in a world that was once North America, and the values in this world are eerily twisted. People are routinely dehumanized in this world, and the government is oppressive and omnipresent. In the Seam many people live in a state of fear, whether of starvation or sickness, and in other Districts people are commonly whipped or killed for trifling matters. The novel maintains a strong sense of right and wrong: the protagonist knows there is something seriously wrong with Panem, though she has been too busy helping her family survive to really ruminate on the problem. Pitting children against one another in a fight to the death is not simply a twisted entertainment for Panem—it is a reminder to the Districts just how much the Capitol can control their lives. It is cruel to treat children's deaths as a game, and wrong that the Capitol lives so richly off the rest of the country's toil. Katniss's sense of morality comes through very strongly in the arena. She does not bow to bloodlust like many of the other tributes, nor does she prey on tributes who are weaker than she: instead, she takes to the woods to do what she must for herself. Even when kills are attributed to her, they are rarely because she is being competitive: the tracker jacker nest was an indirect method for her to get out of her trap in the tree, and the boy who killed Rue traded a life for a life as far as Katniss was concerned. She even kills Cato, her great enemy who showed no pity toward anyone whatsoever, out of mercy. The muttations slowly worked at killing him the entire night, and Katniss felt none of her former animosity: only pity for a boy in horrible pain, who had been thinking of his own death for hours. Katniss's poaching in the woods is a survival tactic, though technically against the law, and she is still selflessly supporting others. The Gamemakers are completely immoral, purposefully putting people in horrifying situations. The reader gets the sense that there is much more going on underneath the surface in regards to the Hunger Games, and the people of Panem are not getting the full story from their government.

Survival

The Hunger Games are essentially about survival of the fittest: who can be the strongest, smartest, or trickiest to survive all the other tributes and the Gamemakers' brutal devices. Katniss has always had to worry about survival since her father died. When her mother sank into a catatonic depression, young Katniss suddenly became the breadwinner of the family, a huge responsibility for such a young girl. Her disappointment in her mother and terror at the new pressures she faced caused her to cut herself off emotionally from her mother: to do what she needed for her family, she could not be hindered by the torturous thoughts of her mother's abandonment. She also knew she must take on the hardships for Prim, who was very young and fragile at the time. Without Katniss to step up to the plate, Prim surely would have died of starvation or sickness, and probably their mother as well. Katniss survived emotionally by becoming angry at her mother instead of sad, and physically by taking to the forest to



hunt for and gather food. These very basic needs for survival—food, shelter, and livelihood—kept Katniss too busy for her to think about solutions to the overarching problems in her society. Peeta and Gale are more introspective and worry about their inner selves as well as their physical well-being. Gale's rants against the Capitol's strategy to keep the rich and poor completely isolated smack of political rebellion, though he too has too much on his plate with the responsibility of his family. When faced with the Games, Peeta worries about his identity. He does not want the Games to turn him into some monster; he would rather die than let the Gamemakers take his humanity from him. This is difficult for Katniss to understand because she is so focused on the nuts-and-bolts aspect of it all, the basic needs to find shelter, food, and water, though eventually she understands. Physical survival is important in the Games, but if they take from someone their sense of self, even if they continue walking and breathing it is as if they have died anyway. The Games are meant to dehumanize the tributes, so the most important thing for Katniss and Peeta to accomplish is to come out of them with mental faculties intact: their identities, beliefs, and values still in them somewhere. They must come out of the Games not hardened killers, but compassionate human beings.

Outer Beauty versus Inner Beauty

Katniss talks of the difficulties of life in the Seam: shortage of food, dangerous working environments, and limited life expectancy. She describes the people as plain and somewhat downtrodden, though her bonds with Gale and Prim are extremely strong. Katniss's plainness is not apparent to the reader until she enters the Capitol and meets her prep team for the first time: Octavius, Flavius, and Venia, who remind her of ridiculous birds. In the Capitol great importance is placed on one's physical appearance: whereas in the Seam, a round belly is a sign of success, in the Capitol it is considered unattractive. In the Seam, an elderly person is respected for his or her longevity, but in the Capitol, people have their faces surgically altered to look younger. It is a comment on the rampant face-lifts and liposuctions in our own present-day society: when push comes to shove, how much does outer appearance really matter compared to what is inside? The prep team makes Katniss up, though they spend three hours scrubbing a lifetime of hard work they see as ugliness off her body. Even when she is made beautiful by the team, Katniss does not change on the inside—her reluctant compassion for others and hard-won survival instincts are still there, despite being wrapped in a prettier package. To her, the styles in the Capitol are ridiculous and completely frivolous. She resents these people who have everything handed to them and nothing to do with their time but have their hair done and talk about eyebrow dyes. For Katniss, it is still the inside of a person that counts, and no amount of skin polish or glittering costumes can change who that person essentially is. The image-obsessed Capitol has clearly lost such a perspective, thus taking advantage of the other districts and dehumanizing the people who live there and cannot spare time to worry about their appearances.



Style

Point of View

The entire story takes place in first person from Katniss's point of view. This adds to the excitement in the novel because the reader, like the protagonist, has no idea what is coming next. The reader feels very much along for the ride instead of coolly observing the events through a third party if the novel were in third person or third person omniscient. Because of the first person tense, the reader only has as much information about the other characters as the protagonist. This adds to the dramatic impact of some of the major moments in the story: for instance, that Peeta is truly in love with Katniss. The action scenes are clear and descriptive despite being told through a person who is living them. It is extremely useful to be able to hear the protagonist's thoughts: this is a device the author uses multiple times to fill the reader in on the world of the novel. The reader learns about Katniss and many of her relationships through flashbacks or memories, and even learns about her deepest fears from dreams and hallucinations. Though Katniss is very responsible and matter-of-fact, she is still a young girl and much of her thoughts are devoted to confused feelings for the two love interests in her life: Peeta and Gale. This is typical for a girl of her age, though she is clearly uncomfortable discussing her feelings and is not actually sure what her feelings are for each of the boys. Her point of view also gives the reader a strong lead to form an opinion about the state of Panem: the reader is meant to view the Hunger Games and the subsequent media hype as wrong. Katniss's point of view offers a guide to the reader, both as an insider understanding of the world of Panem and a behind-the-scenes insight into Katniss herself.

Setting

The story is set in the state of Panem, formerly North America, destroyed in a long-ago conflict that obliterated the mysterious District Thirteen. Twelve Districts remain, each with a specific function to the country as a whole: District Eleven is Agriculture, District Twelve mines coal, District One makes luxury goods, etc. Katniss, the story's protagonist, lives in the coal-mining District Twelve. More specifically, she lives in the poorer section of their town called the Seam, where the coal miners and laborers reside. As a contrast to this downtrodden world, she escapes beyond the fences to the woods, a place of abundance where she and Gale can make a living and feed their families. Though the woods are a source of life, they are also dangerous, with roaming packs of wild animals and the danger of being caught by authorities outside the fence. Katniss and Peeta train for the Games in the Capitol, a shining city of abundance located in the area formerly known as the Rocky Mountains. The Capitol is extremely different from the Seam with its gleaming towers, image-obsessed people, and automatic gadgets. The tributes stay at the Training Center in luxury for a few nights, then are transferred to the arena. It is a wooded area with a large golden Cornucopia at the center. The landscape is at the mercy of the Gamemakers but suits Katniss, whose survival



experience is in the woods anyway. Katniss and Peeta spend a few nights in a small cozy cave before they decide the Games must end. Upon their return to District Twelve, they will reside in the Victor's Village in luxury houses reserved for Game Winners.

Language and Meaning

The author uses fairly uncomplicated language in the novel since it is meant for teenagers. Since it is an alternate world solely created by the author, the reader must learn some new words that apply to the state of Panem: mockingjay, muttation, and tracker jacker are examples. The author often takes words already familiar to the reader and alters them slightly. For instance, "mockingjay" is a combination of mockingbird and jabberjay; "muttation" is very close to "mutation." Such language clarifies the idea that Panem was once North America. Most of the language is the same in Panem but some words have evolved, mostly because they are new creations and need new words to describe them. Some words are assigned a different meaning than the one familiar to the reader—reaping, for instance, is no longer solely applicable to agriculture in Panem. The author has also renamed the familiar areas of North America, giving the reader clues like the Capitol in is the former Rocky Mountains, and Katniss's District Twelve is in the former Appalachia.

The dialogue in the novel is fairly casual since the protagonist is a teenager of few words. A few characters are identifiable by their speech patterns, including Effie Trinket and the prep team Katniss associates with birds. Haymitch also has specific speech patterns. He frequently uses nicknames, especially for Katniss, and is often businesslike and straight to the point with his tributes. Katniss herself feels she is not good with words, but the author keeps the audience informed by writing Katniss's inner monologue. The novel is written in first-person present tense which gives it a very immediate feel: the reader truly feels as if they are accompanying the protagonist on her adventure.

Structure

The novel is twenty-seven chapters long and divided into three parts. Part One is titled "The Tributes," Part Two is titled "The Games," and Part Three is titled "The Victor." Part One deals with the selection of tributes in District Twelve and their subsequent travel to the Capitol. Part Two chronicles the tributes' preparation for the Games, and also their strategies and Katniss's experiences in the Games. Part Three details Katniss and Peeta's alliance and their eventual victory—over the Games and over the Capitol. The chapters are generally short, most not exceeding ten pages, which adds to the adventurous feel of the story. The language is fairly simple and the chapters are short, which make it a quick read. Since the story is told from the first-person perspective, the reader has access to all the protagonist's motivations, thoughts, and feelings. All the other characters must first be viewed through the filter of Katniss, although the author gives the reader enough information to form their own opinions.



The novel is fast-paced because of its short chapters and frequent dialogue. Even when the protagonist is alone, the reader has an almost stream-of-consciousness access to her thoughts, which often feels like dialogue. She also takes the reader back in her memories, providing more information about Katniss and the world in which she lives. Though the plot of the novel is fairly straightforward, the reader senses there is much more going on in the world of Panem than Katniss's immediate issues with the Games. In fact, at the end of the novel, she remarks the politics of everything that has happens scare her more than the actual Games. This foreshadows some further adventure, helpful since there are three books in the series.



Quotes

"In the woods waits the only person with whom I can be myself. Gale."
Chap. 1, p. 6

"At first one, then another, then almost every member of the crowd touches the three middle fingers of their left hand to their lips and holds it out to me."
Chap. 2, p. 24

"I thought of the hours spent in the woods with my father and I knew how we were going to survive."
Chap. 2, p. 32

"They let you wear one thing from your district in the arena. One thing to remind you of home. Will you wear this?' She holds out the circular gold pin that was on her dress earlier."
Chap. 3, p. 38

"In school, they tell us the Capitol was built in a place once called the Rockies. District 12 was a region known as Appalachia."
Chap. 3, p. 41

"A kind Peeta Mellark is far more dangerous to me than an unkind one."
Chap. 4, p. 49

"She has no idea. The effect she can have."
Chap. 7, p. 91

"Thank you for your consideration,' I say. Then I give a slight bow and walk straight toward the exit without being dismissed."
Chap. 7, p. 102

"Gale gave me a sense of security I'd lacked since my father's death."
Chap. 8, p. 112

"Peeta blushes beet red and stammers out. 'Because...because...she came here with me."
Chap. 8, p. 130

"Sick and disoriented, I'm able to form only one thought: Peeta Mellark just saved my life."
Chap. 15, p. 194

"Don't worry, I'll think of something. Destroying things is much easier than making them."
Chap. 16, p. 211



"Then I remember Peeta's words on the roof. 'Only I keep wishing I could think of a way to...to show the Capitol they don't own me. That I'm more than just a piece in their Games.' And for the first time, I understand what he means."

Chap. 18, p. 236

"Both of us can live. Before I can stop myself, I call out Peeta's name."

Chap. 18, p. 244

"Haymitch couldn't be sending me a stronger message. One kiss equals one pot of broth."

Chap. 19, p. 262

"But you didn't know me. We had never even spoken. Besides, it's the first gift that's always the hardest to pay back."

Chap. 22, p. 293

"He said, 'See that little girl? I wanted to marry her mother, but she ran off with a coal miner,'"

Chap. 22, p. 300

"It strikes me that my own reluctance to sing, my own dismissal of music might not really be that I think it's a waste of time. It might be because it reminds me so much of my father."

Chap. 22, p. 301

"I don't know, I just...couldn't bear the thought of...being without him."

Chap. 27, p. 369

"I take his hand, holding on tightly, preparing for the cameras, and dreading the moment when I will finally have to let go."

Chap. 27, p. 374



Topics for Discussion

Panem is a very different place from what we associate with North America. What are some of the major differences between Panem and current North America? What details are we given about the transformation of North America into Panem? Why do the Hunger Games exist? How is Panem a dystopian society?

Survival is one of the major themes in the novel. In what different ways must the characters survive? How have Katniss and Gale grown up versus Peeta? Why is Katniss better prepared for the Hunger Games than she realizes? Though it is important that she physically survive the Games, what other parts of herself must she protect in order to remain whole?

Discuss Peeta's wish to show the Capitol they cannot own him. Does he make any attempt in the story to accomplish this goal? Why or why not? Does Katniss initially understand this desire? Why or why not? When does she finally understand what Peeta means?

Throughout much of the novel, Katniss is torn between her feelings for Peeta and her feelings for Gale—or, rather, she is confused about her feelings for each of them. Why is she unable to come to any conclusions about either boy in this novel? In what ways are her feelings confusing for each boy?

At sixteen, Katniss has never had much time to think about boys. Do you think this contributes to her confused feelings for Peeta and Gale? Why or why not? How may her responsibilities have made it difficult for her to develop into an emotionally normal sixteen-year-old girl?

Though he is introduced as an irresponsible drunk, Haymitch comes through for Katniss and Peeta in the end. How does Haymitch go from an alcoholic to a successful sponsor throughout the novel? How do Katniss and Peeta think Haymitch won the Games? What may be one of the reasons that Haymitch began to drink excessively?

For most of the novel, Katniss believes that Peeta is pretending to be in love with her for the sake of their strategy. What are the signs throughout the novel that his feelings are genuine? As a reader, do you realize the truth before Katniss or at the same time? Do the other characters believe Peeta as well? Why or why not?

Discuss Katniss's responsibility toward her family. Who does she love most in the world? Why was she forced to take over as the family breadwinner? What role does her mother play in their family dynamic? How is her family situation so similar to Gale's? Why does Katniss really form an alliance with Rue?

After all they have been through, at the last moment the Gamemakers try to pit Katniss and Peeta against one another. How do they each react to the change in rules? What



does Peeta want Katniss to do? What is their solution, including its political ramifications?

Discuss all the foreshadowing at the end of the novel. Though she has survived the Games, what new challenges does Katniss face? What is her best defense against the Capitol's suspicions? Why does this defense complicate her life even more?