

Mockingjay Study Guide

Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins

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Plot Summary

Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins is the third book in the Hunger Games trilogy.

As with the first two books in the series, Katniss Everdeen, hero of the Hunger Games trilogy, is the protagonist of the story. Katniss is 17 years old, a talented hunter and reluctant symbol of the revolution between the Districts and the Capitol.

There are two main entities in the story - the Districts and the Capitol. There are thirteen districts, each of which has its own distinct purpose and personality. In the beginning of the story, District 12, home to heroes Katniss, Gale and Peeta, has been destroyed by fire. The remaining citizens, of which there are no more than 800 or 10% of the population, are taken to District 13 where they will live as refugees. District 13's people are accommodating, yet its utilitarian and overly controlled atmosphere makes it very difficult for the refugees to adapt.

The two locations are split between the Peacekeepers and the Rebels. The Peacekeepers work for President Snow and will do anything to protect the Capitol, its people and its policies. Actually, people are often expendable in the Capitol as long as the infrastructure stands. The hub of President Snow's world is located inside his mansion in Capitol City. Snow's direct adversary is President Coin of District 13. Although Snow is painted as the symbol of evil, Coin is very much like her opponent.

From the beginning of the story, it becomes clear that Katniss Everdeen is destined to be the Mockingjay. Katniss, two time survivor of the Hunger Games, has no desire to become the Mockingjay until she realizes that it is the only way she can ensure the safety of her loved ones and allies. It will also give her the opportunity to kill President Snow.

Gale, Katniss' best friend and spurned love, is beside the Mockingjay's side through it all. Katniss and Gale have been friends and hunting partners for five years and are so close that they need not use words to communicate.

The relationship between Peeta and Katniss remains an issue. President Snow and President Coin both use Peeta to get to Katniss and the plan nearly succeeds. Peeta is hijacked by using neurological venom and it almost ruins the victor and Katniss' love.

Katniss remains almost impossible to control which is both a blessing and a curse. Although Katniss often gets hurt, this shows that she has a mind of her own and therefore is able to succeed when others would surely fail.

The battle between the rebels and the Peacekeepers comes to a head when the rebels infiltrate the Capitol City. Through the chaos it is difficult to tell which side is winning since there are explosions, gunfire from every direction and people dying in the street. In the end, it is the rebel cause that has taken down the Capitol. Katniss is once again an unwitting hero.

After Presidents Snow and Coin are killed, Katniss and Peeta are sent back to District 12 where they will succeed in rebuilding their lives. Katniss may continue to survive and find some measure of happiness but there will always be an underlying fear of the Hunger Games.



Part I, Chapters 1-6

Part I, Chapters 1-6 Summary

Part I, The Ashes

Chapter 1: The story opens as a girl, 17 year old Katniss Everdeen, stares down at the ashes from the shoes once worn by her sister Prim. District 12 has been almost completely destroyed. The only place that survives is the Victor's Village, where important people might stay when they have business in the Capitol center.

The girl has been discouraged by the powers that be in District 13 from returning to District 12 but Katniss feels that she has to go, making it a condition of her cooperation. Plutarch Heavensbee, the Head Gamemaker and organizer of the Capitol rebels, finally gives in to the girl's demands.

Katniss thinks about what has happened to her and her city. Katniss had participated in the Hunger games and escaped. Now she stands looking at her ruined city while invisible hovercraft loom overhead, protecting her. Katniss' best friend, Gale, is in the hovercraft watching over her.

Katniss has been using medication to control her moods and pain; however, the medicine can cause hallucinations. She has been trying to wean off her medication and makes moves to ensure people know she is okay. Katniss describes the hot and dry summer weather with no breeze to scatter the ashes. When Katniss first arrived she had kicked a skull. Many people had tried to escape but failed.

Katniss thinks about the fact that it had been her arrow that pierced the force field and ruined the Capitols as well as the whole country of Panem. Only 10% of the residents of District 12 are left. Those 800 people are refugees in District 13.

On the day Katniss had been scheduled to start the Victory Tour, President Snow had said, "Katniss Everdeen, the girl who was on fire, you have provided a spark, that left unattended, may grow into an inferno that destroys Panem." (Part I, Chap. 1, p. 6)

It turns out that the President had not been exaggerating. Katniss thinks he may have been trying to enlist her help. What he did was set something in motion Katniss cannot now control.

Gale is the one responsible for saving the survivors by herding them to a meadow. Among those survivors are Katniss' mother and sister Prim. They take care of the injured while Gale tries to arrange food and shelter for the 800 people. The group manages to stay together for three days until they are taken to District 13 where they are welcomed and cared for even though they are refugees. A refugee named Dalton tells Katniss that many of the people in District 13 have died and the new refugees are seen as breeders.



Katniss tires of everyone talking at her. Everyone wants to change her, to make her into the mouthpiece she does not want to be. Katniss wants neither to be the symbol of the revolution nor the Mockingjay.

Katniss wanders through the Capitol, viewing destroyed buildings and homes of friends that are in ruins. She also finds the remains of the gallows and other methods of torture used to get information from people who do not know anything. One of those people is Katniss' friend Peeta. Katniss wonders what has happened to some of her friends and why she came back to District 12. How can she answer the questions plaguing her?

Realizing that she is going to have to become the Mockingjay, Katniss knows she will not have to do it alone since she will be playing a role. Katniss overhears Alma Coin say that they should have saved the boy first. Katniss knows Coin is referring to Peeta and she agrees.

Katniss thinks about the other players in the game.

Katniss sorts through things in her house, like a painting and hair ribbon belonging to Prim, while she thinks about all of the people who have been tortured, interrogated and probably killed for their involvement in the district. Katniss cannot help but wonder if anything she can do as the Mockingjay can outweigh the damage she has done and will do.

Seeing her old tom cat Buttercup. Katniss is surprised that he is still alive. Katniss stuffs Buttercup into her game bag to take him home to Prim. She also retrieves her father's old hunting jacket. As she prepares to leave, Katniss is alerted to trouble in the form of a white rose from President Snow. It had been missed in the sweep of the house and Katniss knows that the rose is a symbol of revenge.

A hovercraft picks up Katniss and her stowaway, Buttercup. Katniss is afraid to talk about the rose.

Chapter 2: Katniss watches for signs of an attack but there are none. Gale realizes that Katniss had wanted to go back to save Buttercup. Katniss tells Gale what she had seen on the ground.

The trip back to District 13, whose surface looks gray, takes only 45 minutes. The majority of civilization is located under the surface. Each person has a strict schedule which is imprinted on the inside of each person's forearm each morning, noting what the person should do and when. Katniss never pays much attention to the schedule except for meals. She would wander around or hide out and sleep. Katniss describes the strict rules of 13 including the intolerance of waste. Katniss is fortunate when it comes to rules since she is considered to be "mentally disoriented."

Gale and Katniss get to Compartment 307 where Katniss lives with her mother and Prim. Katniss releases Buttercup to Prim's delight and her mother is thrilled that she now has her wedding photo.



The group is on the way to dinner when Gale's communicuff goes off. Gale and Katniss are ordered to go to the command center. Everyone stands and watches the report from the Capitol, a feed that runs 24 hours a day. This time the screen shows Caesar Flickerman, the "eternal host" of the Hunger Games. Flickerman is prepared to interview Peeta. Katniss pushes to the front of the group to stare at Peeta's face. He looks healthy much to Katniss' surprise. Flickerman talks to Peeta about his survival in the arena. People had thought Peeta would sacrifice himself to save Katniss and their child. Katniss wonders if Peeta knows they had been used as pawns. Peeta has guessed what has happened, yet the Capitol has not yet killed or harmed him. He talks about the last night in the arena.

Caesar baits Peeta regarding the explosion. Peeta becomes enraged claiming that Katniss did not know what she was doing; did not know she was being used as a pawn. Caesar asks about Haymitch and a potential part in the conspiracy. Peeta says the only thing he knows is that he should not have trusted Haymitch. Katniss hopes Haymitch is watching the interview. Peeta begs the people to think about the war and what might happen. Peeta says if the war continues the society will die out and he calls for a cease fire.

A woman's face replaces Peeta's on the screen, announcing a shortage of goods in the District. Katniss watches the woman, trying to figure out how to react to the interview. The people in the room call Peeta a traitor. Katniss tries to sneak out but is caught by Alma Coin. After Katniss breaks away and runs, Gale finds Katniss' hiding place. Gale is bleeding from his nose. One of Coin's men hits Gale when he tries to prevent a guard from following Katniss. Gale's punishment is the loss of his communicuff.

Katniss thinks about the people of 13 and realizes that they deserve credit for staying alive for 75 years during which they rebuilt their society. Gale discusses the things that had to be done in order to establish the resistance. He says the ceasefire is President Snow's idea but cannot figure out why Peeta had reported it on TV. Gale thinks that Peeta did it to protect Katniss. Katniss realizes that the game is still on but is not sure how to play it so that they both might live. She thinks of the first uprising she had seen in District 8 and remembers what it felt like when she fired the arrow into the force field. Katniss finally decides that she must be the Mockingjay.

Chapter 3:

Katniss watches Prim, Buttercup and her mother sleep. She has her own bed because she is recovering and suffers from nightmares. Katniss retrieves her personal belongings from a drawer including her Mockingjay pin and token from Peeta. Prim wakes up and asks Katniss what is wrong. Katniss tells Prim that she is going to be the Mockingjay. Prim says Katniss could ask for anything and it would be agreed to because she is the Mockingjay, but there is no guarantee that the promises will be kept.

Katniss decides to present Coin with a list of demands and is surprised when the demands are met with ease. Katniss is shown her new Mockingjay uniform. Fulvia decides that the Mockingjay needs to present a certain image.



Plutarch and Fulvia take Katniss and Gale to #3908, far down into the heart of District 13. The area is very attractive but heavily reinforced. Katniss and Gale feel that something is wrong. A guard tells the group they have to leave immediately. Then Katniss hears a whimper from behind door #3908. She purposely drops her sketchbook and rushes to #3908. Inside, beaten and bruised is Katniss' prep team.

Chapter 4: The group is barely recognizable. The group cowers as Katniss approaches. She learns that the group had been taken from the Capitol the night Katniss escaped. According to the guard, the group had been arrested and beaten for stealing bread. Katniss orders the guard to release her team. The guard balks, but Plutarch orders the guard to release the team. Katniss takes her team to her mother for treatment.

Katniss and Gale go on their first hunting expedition. The pair revels in the sunshine and the woods. They talk about Coin's motives.

Katniss returns to her new compartment. This one is almost the same but it has a window. Buttercup is nowhere to be seen. Katniss wakes up and is called to a meeting to announce her new status as Mockingjay. Coin announces that any break of the contract nullifies Katniss' agreement.

Chapter 5: Katniss thinks of the people who have forced her into this position. It is obvious that Coin sees Katniss as a threat.

Katniss is being treated to heal her damaged hair and skin so it can be re-damaged in a more appropriate way. There is one scar that poses a problem.

After lunch Katniss and Gale go to Special Defense to meet Beetee who has a new bow for Katniss. Gale admires a weapon with a scope and says that if he'd had a weapon to protect Katniss he would have used it. Katniss gets her bow and learns that Beetee has created it to be "alive," to recognize only Katniss' voice.

Katniss makes her first commercial appearance.

Chapter 6: The sound of Haymitch's voice enrages Katniss. Katniss is in the same room as Haymitch for the first time since she clawed him. Haymitch wants the people in the room to tell about an experience when Katniss has made him/her safe. Haymitch tells Katniss that they will have to work together again. Haymitch tells Katniss to talk it out, while Katniss wonders if she should trust Haymitch again.

Boggs takes Katniss to a hangar where hovercrafts are housed. He explains how they could not defend the other districts against the Capitol. and then Boggs describes the position.

Katniss worries about her trip to District 8. Plutarch talks about the districts that are not at war with the Capitol. Plutarch explains the roles of the various districts.



Part I, Chapters 1-6 Analysis

Chapter 1: Katniss Everdeen is a 17 year old girl who is dealing with the aftermath of the reaping and her participation and escape from the Hunger Games. The story begins with Katniss revisiting District 12, her home district. The district has been destroyed and only a few buildings remain. 90% of the people have been killed leaving 800 to escape under the watchful eye of Gale, Katniss' best friend. Gale and Katniss have been friends all their lives which makes communicating second nature even when words are not used. Katniss has a hard time returning to District 12 because she feels responsible for its downfall. It does not matter that Katniss and Gale were used as pawns by the Capitol. The good part of returning to District 12 is that Katniss finds her sister's cat, a wedding photo of her parents, and her deceased father's hunting jacket.

Chapter 2: The reader learns more about Katniss' personality as well as her lodgings in District 13. The terminology and situations are a bit foreign for those who have not read the first two parts of the trilogy and therefore may make it difficult to grasp the concepts and story lines. One of those story lines involves Peeta, Katniss' love interest. Katniss is unaware that Peeta is alive and is stunned to see him on TV with Caesar. Caesar takes delight in baiting Peeta. Peeta calls for a cease fire which puzzles Katniss and Gale and angers others. Katniss and Gale suspect that Peeta did not make the statement on his own.

Chapter 3: Prim tells Katniss that she is in the position to ask Coin for anything. Coin needs Katniss and will most likely grant Katniss' demands. Katniss worries that Coin will go back on her word and so she makes it known that Coin must commit to the demands in public. Katniss tells Prim that she wants to be the Mockingjay.

Chapter 4: Katniss is stunned to find her prep team beaten and bruised. She makes arrangements to have them cared for and hopes to find out what has really happened to them.

It is obvious that Coin sees Katniss as a threat when she announces that any violation of the contract nullifies Katniss' demands. Katniss knows if she messes up that Peeta and others will die.

Chapter 5: Katniss learns all she will have to go through to become the revolution's poster girl. Katniss had not realized what she was getting herself into when she agreed to be the Mockingjay.

Chapter 6: Katniss is still unsure of her role as the group prepares to leave for District 8. Plutarch gives an outline of what will happen but Katniss is trepidatious.



Part I, Chapters 7-9

Part I, Chapters 7-9 Summary

Chapter 7: The hovercraft lands in District 8, where the group, including Katniss' bodyguards and TV crew, is taken to a makeshift hospital. Along the way, dead bodies are seen everywhere. Those who are not dead are maimed, seriously wounded, and most likely, dying.

Katniss says she cannot be filmed in the hospital. Boggs says she can and will because she has to do it. Katniss steels herself against the smell and desire to faint. People begin to call out to Katniss as she walks through the hospital. Katniss sees that Boggs was right - Katniss' appearance has done a lot of good for the sick. It is not long before Boggs is warned that they have to return to the airstrip because there are bombers on the way. All is silent at first and then a group of Capitol hovercrafts appears in the sky and bombs are dropped. Katniss and her group hide and try to protect themselves. Katniss is ordered to get out of sight. The bombing had not been planned around her visit to 8. The bombs are targeted at the hospital. Katniss disobeys orders and runs to try to protect the hospital. Katniss, Gale and Paylor fire at the hoverplanes. Katniss is devastated when she sees the condition of the hospital. The roof has collapsed, trapping patients in a burning building. Katniss tells the Capitol that if they burn, the Capitol burns.

Chapter 8: As the group goes back to the hoverplane, Katniss is hurting and Boggs carries her. Boggs performs first aid for the injured. Katniss wakes up in the hospital with her mother at her side. A piece of shrapnel has been removed from Katniss' leg.

Katniss is called down to command. She worries about being reprimanded for her actions in District 8. Katniss is greeted with smiles and accolades by her team. The only people who seem to be upset are Haymitch and Fulvia.

Katniss sees the footage from the battle in 8. She is impressed with the work which focuses mainly on her and asks if it was seen in the Capitol. Plutarch says no but that it was seen in 2, which may be even more important. Coin questions the decision to send Katniss into battle. Katniss realizes that no one has told Coin that she and Gale deliberately disobeyed orders. Coin wants to see more footage.

Gale takes Katniss back to the hospital where she falls asleep. When she awakes, Katniss sees Haymitch sitting beside her bed. Haymitch holds her discarded earpiece and tells Katniss that if she ever takes the earpiece out again he will have to use a special headgear or have a chip implanted in her ear.

Peeta appears on TV again and Katniss is shocked at his appearance. Peeta has become gaunt, shaky and no matter what the makeup artists try to do there is no way to cover Peeta's injuries and poor health. Caesar asks Peeta if he has anything to say to



Katniss. Peeta tells Katniss to be aware of what is going on and to learn whom she can trust. Katniss tries to figure out what to do. Katniss is ordered to say she did not see Peeta's interview.

Chapter 9: Katniss is released from the hospital. Gale is in special training so Katniss is permitted to take Finnick into the woods. They sit and talk about Peeta's interview. No one has mentioned anything about Peeta, not even Gale.

Katniss thinks about Peeta's safety. It is obvious that President Snow knows she and Gale are not as oblivious as he had been led to believe. Katniss meets Gale for breakfast and notes that Gale has been given his communicuff. Katniss is angry with Gale and knows that he must have seen the interview with Peeta. Gale says he wanted to talk to Katniss about the interview but had been worried that Katniss would be upset by Peeta's appearance. Gale is called to command. Katniss pushes him away in anger.

Katniss and Gale are sent back to District 12 to shoot some more "propos." The propos include Katniss and Gale in front of their old homes.

Katniss is asked to sing. Without thinking, she sings the notes that used to signal the end of the day. Katniss offers to have the mockingjays sing a real song to try and wipe out the memories that plague her. Katniss sings a song that is forbidden and the mockingjays follow with their beautiful harmonies and variation. All are quiet when Katniss sings. It is not long before Katniss realizes that she is being filmed. Plutarch is thrilled with Katniss' performance.

Katniss can no longer stand being there. Gale approaches Katniss in her old kitchen. They talk about a kiss long ago. Katniss kisses him again. Gale says the only time she pays attention to him is when he is in pain. Katniss goes to bed immediately after she arrives home.

Boggs tells Katniss that she is wanted in command. Boggs says they probably want to show the 12 propos, but Katniss does not want to see them. When Katniss arrives in command, Plutarch says they are there to watch a live feed from President Snow. Peeta is present and Katniss notices that there is a strange look in Peeta's eyes. Peeta speaks about the cease fire.

Beetee manages to break into the feed and shows several clips of the propos from 12. Snow, furious, orders the feed to be ended. The feed does not end before Peeta is shown again, bleeding and beaten.

Part I, Chapters 7-9 Analysis

Chapter 7: The trip to District 12 is supposed to be nothing more than Katniss visiting the hospital. When the bombing occurs, Katniss snaps into soldier mode with Gale right beside her. Katniss does not realize that she is fulfilling the role of Mockingjay better than was thought possible. Haymitch becomes furious when Katniss rips out the



earpiece to try to protect the hospital alongside Paylor. For Gale and Katniss, this is who they were meant to be.

In the kitchen of the old Everdeen house, Katniss kisses Gale to ease his pain. Gale says the only time Katniss pays attention to him is when he is in pain. It becomes clear that Gale loves Katniss in a way other than friendship.

Chapter 8: Katniss is in the hospital and has no idea how badly damaged she was in the bombing. The shrapnel is only a small problem but Katniss has been bloodied and as a result is weak and disoriented. The doctors worry about more brain damage. The real damage comes, however, when Katniss sees Peeta on TV. Katniss realizes that the first interview could have been recorded a long time before which is the only explanation for the rapid deterioration in Peeta's appearance.

Katniss feels betrayed by Gale when he does not confide in her about seeing Peeta's interview. Deep down, Katniss knows Gale is trying to protect her but cannot help but lash out at someone.

Chapter 9: The press conference by Snow is interrupted successfully with the District 12 propos. Everyone in 13's command center is gleeful that Beetee has succeeded. Snow, of course, is furious. Peeta tries to yell out and is beaten before Katniss' very eyes. Katniss is ready to fall apart.



Part II, Chapters 10-11

Part II, Chapters 10-11 Summary

Part II, The Assault

Chapter 10: Peeta manages to announce on air that the Capitol is planning an attack that night. Quickly everyone is herded to a bunker underground. Katniss worries because neither Gale nor Prim is there. Just as the doors are about to shut, Katniss sticks her hand in to prevent the doors from closing as Gale and Prim arrive, Buttercup in tow. Gale says he had gone back to their compartment to retrieve Katniss' game bag, Katniss' treasures from Peeta and Mrs. Everdeen's box. Prim had picked up Buttercup.

Katniss is told that people will model her behavior so she must be careful what she does and says.

Coin orders Katniss and others to go above ground to show the Capitol that District 13 is still intact and more importantly, that Katniss is alive.

Katniss remembers how she met Finnick. As Katniss talks to Finnick, she spots Gale and notices the look on his face. Katniss wonders if Gale is jealous of Finnick, but decides that she does not have time to worry about it right now.

Chapter 11: Katniss suits up in the Mockingjay outfit and goes outside, where she and the group begin to look at the damage. Once again, it is clear that Peeta has saved many lives. Katniss finds a field of red and pink roses and knows that they are from Snow. It is the second delivery, a reminder that Snow has Peeta. Cressida starts to film Katniss, but Katniss becomes ill. Katniss thinks that she cannot do this because everything she says will be taken out on Peeta in the form of torture.

Katniss has figured out how Snow is using Peeta. Katniss feels like she is falling apart. Only Haymitch can comfort her and even that is not enough. Katniss is sedated. When she wakes, Haymitch is sitting by her bed and he tells her that they are going to send a rescue team to free Peeta. Haymitch says they will also free Annie and reluctantly tells Katniss that Gale has volunteered to sign up for the rescue team.

Part II, Chapters 10-11 Analysis

In Chapter 10, people struggle with Peeta's announcement. Can Peeta be trusted? Haymitch steps forward and says they have nothing to lose. Not long after everyone is situated in the bunker, the bombs explode. Katniss realizes that Peeta has, once again, saved many lives, most likely including Gale and Prim. Katniss feels guilty about being safe when Peeta is in so much danger.



In Chapter 11, Katniss has a complete breakdown when she figures out how Snow is using Peeta. Snow knows that there is no way Katniss can function as the Mockingjay while Peeta is being hurt. Katniss loves Peeta too much to see him wounded because of her actions. Katniss' state forces Coin's hand into arranging a rescue mission to save Peeta. Katniss is scared. She wants to save Peeta but knows that many will die, perhaps even Gale.



Part II, Chapters 12-18

Part II, Chapters 12-18 Summary

Chapter 12: The rescue team has already left by the time Katniss awakes. Katniss learns that Finnick has also been sedated. With nothing to do but wait, Katniss and Finnick shoot footage to be shown on the Capitol feed. Katniss talks about Peeta. Finnick talks about the secrets he learned while being forced to prostitute himself in the Capitol. There are stories of incest and other unspeakable acts. The most shocking is that President Snow has poisoned many, including allies.

Katniss and Finnick are taken to the hospital where they see several people who have been retrieved. The most important for Finnick is his lady love Annie. Katniss is breathless with anticipation to see Peeta. However, when Peeta sees Katniss, he starts to choke her.

Chapter 13: Katniss is injured but relatively okay. It seems that Peeta has been hijacked using a "tracker jacker venom," one that plays on a person's fears. Peeta hates Katniss so much now that he wants her dead. None of Peeta's memories are his own. It is not known if he can be treated.

Prim is present when Plutarch and Haymitch tell Katniss what is happening with Peeta. Prim asks all of the questions Katniss cannot. Once again, Katniss is sedated.

Katniss wakes and finds Gale and Beetee working on an improved form of Gale's human trap.

Delly Cartwright, a girl from District 12 and childhood friend of Peeta's, is asked to speak to Peeta since it will be difficult for Peeta to connect Delly to Katniss. Peeta rants and raves about how Katniss killed his family, burned down District 12 and is a liar. Peeta is sicker than anyone could have thought.

Chapter 14:

Katniss and the others reach District 2. It will be a challenge to get the people there to support the cause against the Capitol. The biggest target is the "Nut," a mountain that houses the Capitol's military base and central command in District 2. Lime, head of the region and a fellow Victor, discusses what to do about the people inside. After a long discussion, Gale suggests causing an avalanche and closing off the entrances as well as the ventilation systems. Katniss is against it but everyone finally agrees. The people will still be able to get out through the train tunnels that lead into the village.

Boggs talks about how it had been so easy to rescue Peeta. He thinks that Peeta might have been delivered to them with a bow if they hadn't sent a rescue team. It occurs to Katniss once again that Peeta had been and is being used to control her. Plutarch gives updates while Katniss and the others are in District 2.



Chapter 15: The plan to take down the Nut has to be cleared with Coin. Coin approves and the wheels are set in motion. The plan goes perfectly. When the people come out of the train tunnels, one of them aims at Katniss and says she should give him one reason not to shoot her. She can't. Katniss gives a speech about uniting against the Capitol. Katniss gets shot.

Chapter 16: Katniss is back in the hospital. Johanna is in the next bed. Katniss wants to know why Johanna hates her. Johanna takes Katniss' pain medicine. Katniss knows that she owes Johanna a lot from her part in the Hunger Games and does not object.

The rest of the chapter is devoted to Finnick and Annie's wedding, which is also recorded so that Snow and the Capitol can see the merriment.

Peeta says that he wants to see Katniss. Peeta says he remembers some things about Katniss and for the first time is not overly enraged by her presence. Still, Peeta is not kind to Katniss, saying she is not particularly pretty or nice.

Chapter 17: Katniss learns she will not be going to the Capitol for the battle. She is told that she may go if and when Snow surrenders. Katniss says that will be too late and she speaks to Coin telling him she wants to go. Coin puts Katniss and Johanna into training where they meet Soldier York, their training instructor. They are put in with beginners which they resent at first having been victors in the Hunger Games. It turns out that both women need training from the ground up and they need to improve their stamina.

Peeta is allowed out of his hospital room albeit under close guard. Peeta seems to be getting better but is still very confused and hostile.

Chapter 18: Katniss and Johanna go into training. Despite their aches and pains, and Katniss' bruised ribs, York recommends them for the exam. Both pass. Katniss is assigned to a team of sharpshooters, including Gale and Finnick.

Along the way Katniss and Johanna develop a strange type of friendship.

The group arrives at the Capitol. The author describes the area filled with pods and the locations of the peacekeepers. Nothing much happens during the first three days but preliminary details. On the fourth day, Peeta arrives. Katniss knows that Coin wants her dead.

Part II, Chapters 12-18 Analysis

Chapter 12: This chapter is a turning point in many ways. Katniss wants desperately to go on Peeta's rescue mission but she is sedated during the time the crew leaves, including Gale. This is done purposely to keep Katniss in 13. The girl would have been a liability due to her emotional attachment as well as her injuries. Waiting for the team to return is grueling, particularly since there is no communication because it is too dangerous. While they wait, Katniss agrees to talk about Peeta. Katniss has to be coached through the interview. Finnick's interview is much more telling. Katniss realizes



that her thoughts about Finnick were wrong. When Katniss thought Finnick was being a Casanova he was actually being prostituted by Snow. Instead of receiving money, however, Finnick was paid in secrets - secrets that are incredibly damaging to many but to Snow in particular. This will make Finnick even more of a target although the news is out that Snow has poisoned many people including his allies, so that he could maintain his powerful position.

Katniss is inconsolable after seeing Peeta in his current condition. It is as if Katniss has fallen into some upside down world. How is it possible that Peeta hates her so much that he wants to kill her? Katniss wars with many emotions from love to betrayal and confusion.

It is learned that Peeta has been hijacked. The author uses the same method that had been used on Katniss during the Hunger Games so that Katniss has some form of reference as to what Peeta is going through.

Chapters 14-15: Going to District 2 is equal parts wisdom and foolishness. The decision to take down the Nut drives a wedge between Katniss and Gale. Although Katniss disapproves on principle, it cannot be denied that Gale's plan turns out to be highly effective. Once again, Katniss shows her impulsive behavior, which seems to become more and more of a liability. Katniss' passionate speech seems to sway many of the people in District 2 but it also gets her shot.

Chapters 17-18: It is time to go to war. Katniss feels the need to prove not only that she is capable of going to the Capitol but that she is a worthy asset as well. It takes some convincing and extra training but overall, it is too easy for Katniss to be accepted and placed on a sharpshooter team with Gale, Finnick, and Boggs. Katniss does not realize right away that she is being set up. It becomes clear to her when Peeta arrives with weapon in hand.



Part III, Chapters 19-22

Part III, Chapters 19-22 Summary

Chapter 19: Boggs returns from a phone call with President Coin. Katniss has never seen him so angry - not even when Gale broke his nose. Boggs is outraged that Coin sent an unstable Peeta to the Capitol as part of his team. It is clear that the President is making another move to terminate Katniss' life. Boggs confirms what Katniss already knew:

"Here's as much as I know. The president doesn't like you. She never did. It was Peeta she wanted rescued from the arena, but no one else agreed." (Part III, chap. 19, p. 263)

Boggs puts a two person guard on Peeta and promises Katniss that he will keep Peeta contained.

Boggs goes on to tell Katniss that she had made Coin even angrier when she presented the list of demands. However, it would be hard for Coin to kill a victor, particularly one who has performed as well as Katniss. Another problem for Coin is that there will be a new leader once the Capitol is destroyed. Whoever Katniss supports will most likely win. Coin knows how much Katniss despises her, therefore, Katniss must die. Coin does not care that killing Katniss will create a martyr.

Katniss forces her way onto rotation, hoping to make her getaway. Gale catches on and asks if she would leave him behind. Katniss says she cannot stop him from coming if he wishes.

Katniss speaks to Haymitch about her behavior toward Peeta. Haymitch reminds Katniss that Peeta's actions are out of his control and he cannot be blamed. Katniss does not know what to say. She has no plan to rescue Peeta from the Capitol's grasp. Katniss thinks that trying to find and rescue the real Peeta will make Snow's assassination look like child's play. Katniss and Finnick talk to Peeta about being allies. Finnick tells Peeta that he has to question what is true, just like Annie does. The only problem is that Peeta does not know what is real. Simple memories start to come back to Peeta such as Katniss' favorite color and how she likes her tea. Peeta continues to remember and question even the smallest details throughout the night. Finnick is the best choice to stir Peeta's memories of the Hunger Games since he had been present both times - the first as a mentor and in the second as a tribute.

More propos must be shot. Coin and Plutarch are displeased with what they have seen so far, because the footage is boring. The squad dresses up in full combat gear and the crew stages an elaborate and complicated scenario.

Peeta continues to ask questions. Is it real or is it not real? When Boggs confirms yet another memory. Peeta says he thought it was real because the memory was not "shiny."



Squad 451 goes through the motions of combat on the street. Katniss and the others feel ridiculous, particularly when Cressida tells them to reenact the scene for close-ups. Katniss and the others cannot help but laugh as Mitchell attempts to look desperate.

Chapter 20:

The blast is real. Mitchell loses his legs. Boggs is bleeding out. Boggs tells Katniss to get the Holo. Boggs registers himself as unfit for command and turns the duty over to Katniss. Jackson yells for a retreat. Traps go off around the squad. Peeta goes into full hijacked mode and goes crazy, just as Coin had planned.

Boggs gives Katniss final instructions, one of which is to kill Peeta. Jackson tries to take the Holo from Katniss and is angry when she learns that Boggs transferred command to Katniss instead of her, Boggs' second in command. Guns are raised; half of them are pointed at Katniss, the other half at Jackson. Katniss continues to try to convince Jackson that she is meant to kill Snow. Cressida confirms that the assassination is supposed to be televised. Jackson is angry but backs down. It does not help matters when Katniss asks Jackson to operate the Holo.

Katniss leads her team out, wading through the black goo that coats everything. The fumes are lethal so everyone must wear masks. As the squad moves ahead the goo becomes thicker and makes it hard to walk. Katniss is grateful, however, that it covers their tracks. She doubts her move to go ahead but remembers what Boggs said. She thinks about sending people back but knows she cannot. Katniss especially needs Gale and Finnick at her side.

The squad finds a TV and sees the propo being run by the Capitol. It shows the squad being blown up. The good news is that Katniss, Gale, Finnick and Cressida are pronounced dead.

Peeta wakes up and announces that the squad's next move is to kill him.

Chapter 21: Peeta cries and says it is his fault that he killed Mitchell. Finnick argues. Peeta says the squad cannot take him because he is too unstable. Peeta says he would rather be killed than to be sent back to Snow and the Capitol. Katniss tells Peeta he is too vital to the mission. Katniss is not sure of this decision but cannot bear to have Peeta's death on her conscience for the rest of her life.

The group finds and takes food. One of the people from 13 says it is wrong to steal. The others try to explain that it is necessary. President Snow appears on the TV talking about Katniss' death. Coin's image breaks in and gives Katniss' eulogy.

Jackson teaches Katniss the basics of operating the Holo. After a discussion, it is determined that the only way to move out of their safety zone and go on with the mission is to go underground. There is not much time before Snow learns of their escape. The pods on the street are increasing.



Peeta refuses to go and once again begs to die. Katniss will not allow it. The group moves forward. There are pods underground but many less than above ground. Pollux turns out to be invaluable since he knows his way around.

The squad sleeps. Katniss is awakened after three hours and must prepare to move ahead. She gives food to Peeta and they talk. Peeta is able to determine certain things as being real. For short flashes in time, Peeta is his old self.

Chapter 22:

The sound of Katniss' name grows louder in the tunnels. Snow has sent mutts after the squad. The squad has a decent head start but the mutts move fast and are soon upon them. There are horrible screams as the squad is ripped apart. Katniss climbs toward the surface but freezes. Gale yells at Katniss to go. Katniss cannot and shines a light into the tunnel. Katniss watches as Finnick dies. In the end only Katniss, Gale, Peeta and Cressida have survived. Gale is injured.

Peeta is collapsed against a wall. Once again, Peeta, exhausted, begs to be left behind. Once again, Katniss refuses. If Peeta dies, Snow wins. Snow has won enough today.

The remainder of the squad goes above ground where they encounter a woman eating a sausage. The woman recognizes Katniss and starts to cry out. Katniss shoots her.

Part III, Chapters 19-22 Analysis

Squad 451 is closing in on the Capitol. Boggs leads a good solid troop despite some bickering from Jackson. Boggs is furious at the orders given by Coin, especially when Peeta shows up. Peeta's appearance makes it abundantly clear that Coin wants the mission to fail and wants Katniss dead. Boggs promises to contain Peeta but Katniss knows that there is no such thing as a sure thing.

Throughout the mission Peeta begs to be left behind or killed because he is too unstable and erratic to continue. Several people agree but Katniss refuses to let it happen, even after Boggs tells her to kill Peeta. Katniss' decision is based much more on emotion than strategy and wisdom. It is true that Peeta can be an asset but his instability is too much of a risk. It is foolish on Katniss' part to take him on the mission.

Plutarch's propos are what puts the squad in danger. There may not have been the large number of casualties if the group had not been out in the open. Peeta blames himself for Mitchell's death. After conferring, Katniss knows she has no choice but to go underground.

The scene in the tunnels is almost enough to totally destroy Katniss, especially when she sees Finnick die. Gale pulls Katniss through as always. Gale is hurt which concerns Katniss but she is more worried about Peeta's deteriorating condition.



Katniss is in full warrior mode when they escape the tunnels. Cressida turns out to be the squad's saving grace when she leads them to Tigris' shop. It takes Tigris a while to get on board but she turns out to be a valuable ally.



Part II, Chapters 23-26

Part II, Chapters 23-26 Summary

Chapter 23:

The woman was alone in a luxury apartment. Katniss knows that they cannot stay. It won't be long until Snow's mutts find them. The crew goes through the woman's closets and finds outfits that can be used as disguises, along with wigs, scarves, sunglasses and makeup. Because they are in the center of the Capitol city it should not be hard to blend in. Katniss asks Cressida for advice. Cressida leads the group to a back alleyway with discount shops. They enter an underwear shop and Cressida approaches the proprietress, Tigris. Cressida asks for help, saying that Plutarch had said she could be trusted. Katniss recognizes Tigris from the games. Katniss is unsure about obtaining Tigris' help but they have no choice at this point. Tigris guides them to a secret downstairs room where they can rest and wounds can be examined and cleaned.

Everyone sleeps. Katniss has nightmares. When she wakes she realizes that eight people have died in the last day. Katniss thinks it is time to tell the truth; that Coin did not order her to kill Snow. It is Katniss' mission. Gale tells her that they already knew that. Jackson and her people surely figured it out as well. Peeta says that the people following Katniss were not idiots. They had known what was at stake.

The Capitol is heavily guarded, so much so that getting in seems impossible. Katniss says there must be a way to lure Snow outside, perhaps if she is captured. The others argue that it is too risky but will consider it as a last resort.

Tigris invites the squad upstairs for a meal. The group learns that there have been no televised statements from the rebels. Katniss wonders aloud what Coin will do now that she knows Katniss is alive. Tigris laughs and says it is obvious what Coin will do. Coin wants Katniss dead.

The squad tries to sleep to rebuild their strength. Katniss awakes to overhear Gale and Peeta talking, almost as if they are friends. They talk about Katniss and who she loves most. The men decide that Katniss will have to choose if and when they survive the war. Katniss' feelings are hurt by Gale's comment. Katniss cannot believe that both men think she will choose one over the other simply because she cannot live without him. Katniss has to wonder if they both think she is so cold-hearted.

The rebels have developed a plan to disable the pods. They confiscate abandoned vehicles and send them down the streets to trigger the pods. Not all of the pods are set off but many are destroyed. Unfortunately, so is a group of twenty rebel soldiers. Gale says that the Capitol will regroup quickly and reactivate some pods to strike back.

Tigris offers to go out into the street to act as a spy. Katniss wonders what to do next since staying in Tigris' cellar does no good.



The Head Peacekeeper comes on the television and announces that many people have been rendered homeless since the evacuation and other citizens and shop keepers are expected to provide necessary floor space. Katniss knows that the time at Tigris' shop is limited. It is also announced that Snow will receive citizens in his mansion. It is also announced that citizens have beaten and killed a man who resembled Peeta. Authorities are to capture all rebel prisoners.

Katniss tells Gale that she is leaving in the morning. Pollux and Cressida can be useful but Peeta is too dangerous. Peeta offers to use himself as a decoy. If he survives, he will return to Tigris' shop. Gale gives his nightlock pill to Peeta.

The night passes slowly, filled with nightmares. At 5:00 AM the group readies to leave. Tigris relies on her stylist's skills to remake each person to look like a refugee looking for shelter. The plan is to get inside the mansion. Peeta will follow, ready to create a disturbance if necessary. Katniss hugs Peeta and leaves.

Katniss and Gale break off from Pollux and Cressida. As the group is herded toward the mansion, gunfire erupts. It is the rebels. None is a great shot but it is comforting to know that they have gotten through. Katniss and Gale know that they cannot blow their cover. They must get to Snow. Gale manages to get firearms from two Peacekeepers. The streets are in utter chaos now and no one is safe.

The chaos worsens and pods create untold destruction. Gale and Katniss barely escape. Gale is grabbed by Peacekeepers and it will not be long before they recognize him. Gale begs Katniss to shoot him. Katniss can't do it. The only hope, Katniss thinks, is to kill Snow before they hurt Gale. Katniss runs toward the mansion. Snow has set up a human shield of children who are quickly massacred. Rebel medics arrive on the scene. Prim is among them.

Chapter 25:

Katniss is on fire. Her wings only fan the flames. She wants to die like the rest of them but she is not allowed. Prim does not want her to go. Prim is dead. Katniss loses height and burns.

When Katniss awakes, she is in the Capitol hospital. The morphling helps to dull the extreme pain. New body parts are being attached and soon, Katniss will be as good as new. Visitors, dead and alive, arrive in the room. They include Haymitch, Delly, and Katniss' father. Katniss is mute and the doctor cannot understand until he realizes that there is so much emotional trauma that Katniss has become a mental Avox instead of just a physical one.

Katniss learns that President Coin has taken over Panem and that Snow is in prison. Coin says she will save him for Katniss to kill, as promised.

Katniss is finally released and regains her status as mentally disoriented. She is moved into the President's mansion where she shares a room with her mother. Her mother, buried in grief, eats and sleeps at work. Katniss thinks of all the harm Snow has done.



Katniss reverts to her old behavior and spends most of the day wandering around and/or hiding. Gale, Pollux and Cressida have survived and are cleaning up the wages of the war. Peeta is still in the burn unit.

Snow has been tried, convicted and sentenced to execution. Katniss is given her outfit and bow but no arrows. Katniss wanders into an unfamiliar part of the mansion. She follows the smell of roses and thinks that she must have one to put on Snow's lapel before she kills him. Guards deny Katniss entry into the room filled with roses. Paylor steps in and Katniss is permitted to enter. As Katniss picks a rose, she hears Snow's voice. Katniss realizes that she has walked into Snow's private area. Snow is not locked in a dungeon. He has been left in his luxury apartment.

Snow is coughing, blood coming from his mouth, undoubtedly from the sores caused by the poison. Snow apologizes for Prim's death. Katniss knows that there are no bounds to Snow's cruelty. Snow tells Katniss that it was Coin who ordered the parachutes and massacre. Snow had no purpose in killing all of those children. Katniss does not believe him. Snow goes on, placing doubts in Katniss' head, saying that they have both been played for fools.

Chapter 26:

Katniss makes her way back to her room. Katniss' head is spinning from the tale told by Snow. Katniss thinks it through and convinces herself that Snow is lying except for one detail - the double exploding bombs were designed by Gale and Beetee. It also does not make sense that Snow did not protect himself. It is also odd that Prim, a thirteen year old, would be granted permission to go to the front even though she is too young to be a soldier. Only Haymitch can help Katniss figure out this mess, to confirm her fears or her paranoia.

Katniss finds Haymitch drunk and passed out. She asks for help and Haymitch mocks her. Katniss runs away.

Katniss is scheduled to make an appearance. Her crew cries as they realize how badly damaged she is and that they cannot help her.

Gale comes to see Katniss and hands her a sheath of arrows. Katniss asks Gale if the bomb was the one he created. Gale says he does not know. Gale realizes that Katniss will always think of the bombing when she sees him, that he has lost his chance.

Coin calls everyone together to say that the only way to maintain a stable civilization is to have symbolic Hunger Games using Capitol children, including Snow's granddaughter. Above objections, the Games are planned.

Katniss takes her position in front of Snow. Katniss raises her bow but instead of shooting Snow, Katniss shoots and kills Coin.

Chapter 27:



Katniss knows she will be killed. As she tries to take the nightlock pill, Peeta bites her hand and will not let go. Katniss is taken away and locked up. After several days, Haymitch and Plutarch enter Katniss' cell. Haymitch announces that Katniss' trial is over and that they are going home. Snow is dead.

Haymitch takes Katniss back to District 12. Her mother cannot return because it is too painful. Only Greasy Sae and her granddaughter visit. One day Greasy Sae tells Katniss to go hunting, that spring has arrived. Katniss sleeps although nightmares plague her. In the morning Katniss finds Peeta. Peeta has brought primroses to be planted at the house.

People prepare to bury their dead and to try to rebuild 12. Katniss realizes that what she needs more than anything is Peeta.

Epilogue:

It is many years later. Katniss and Peeta's children play in the meadow, not knowing that underneath are the graves of those killed in 12. There are no more Hunger Games.

Part II, Chapters 23-26 Analysis

Chapter 23:

Boggs' death is extremely difficult for Katniss to handle. The feud between Katniss and Jackson is necessary but futile. Jackson backs down, convinced of the mission's purpose. Still, Jackson is very valuable to Katniss since Jackson knows how to work the Holo. It seems odd that Katniss would have so much training and yet has never been taught to use or understand the Holo.

Katniss wars with her own conscience and confesses to the group that it is her mission to kill Snow; Katniss had not been ordered by Coin to kill the enemy. Katniss is surprised when everyone already knows her goal but trusted her enough to follow through with the plan. After a short time the squad realizes that they must disguise themselves to go out into public. Cressida has an idea.

Cressida turns out to be the squad's saving grace when she leads them to Tigris' shop. It takes Tigris a while to get on board but she turns out to be a valuable ally. The squad's mission is aided by the fact that everyone thinks they are dead.

Chapter 24: Things begin to blow up at this point. The plan to separate is mandatory and wise. It will be hard to lose sight of her crew but Katniss knows it is necessary and she still has Gale. Gale manages to get firearms from two downed Peacekeepers. People are crowding the streets. Katniss realizes that the group of children and teens at the front of the crowd are not simply impatient, they are penned. Snow has created a human wall of protection. Only, the children are bombed. Medics arrive, including Prim.

Chapter 25:



The beginning of Chapter 25 is surreal at best and leaves the reader confused as to what is actually happening. Katniss talks about being on fire. Katniss has sprouted wings and falls into a foamy sea. It is very cryptic and misplaced. The mention of Prim's death is obscure and confusing once she turns into a bird.

Katniss is revived and being repaired in the Capitol hospital. Her ruined body parts are being replaced. It is unclear if the presence of the dead is real or drug induced. Regardless, it is surprising that Prim is not among them.

Katniss is stunned to see Snow face to face. Snow may be telling the truth, which confuses Katniss. Katniss still wants to kill him. Chapter 26: Katniss thinks that the only person who could possibly help her to understand all of this is Haymitch. Unfortunately, Haymitch has returned to the bottle and his only words are mocking ones.

It is determined that Katniss will be permitted to kill Snow, as promised. When Gale arrives with the arrows, it becomes clear to him that Katniss is lost forever.

Coin's suggestion to have Capitol children participate in Hunger Games is at the same time sensible and horrifying.

Katniss prepares to kill Snow. This is the moment she has dreamed of for so long. Katniss realizes when she looks at Snow that the man, evil as he may be, is telling the truth about Coin. Katniss kills Coin instead. Snow seems gleeful in the last moments before he dies.

Chapter 27:

Katniss knows the punishment for killing Coin will be harsh. Katniss would kill herself but there is no way to do it in her tiny cell. Katniss attempts to take a nightlock pill but Peeta stops her.

Haymitch and Plutarch tell Katniss that her trial is over and she will be going home to District 12. Katniss is stunned. Haymitch later tells Katniss that her mother cannot return to 12 because there is too much pain. Mrs. Everdeen will open a hospital in District 4 because it is a positive and necessary move.

Katniss goes into seclusion and sees no one except for Greasy Sae and her granddaughter. Even the suggestion of hunting does not get Katniss to leave the house. Peeta's appearance most likely saves Katniss.

Despite the scene between Gale and Katniss, Gale's absence from the end of the story is noticeable and unsettling.

Epilogue:

Although Katniss and Peeta have rebuilt their lives, Katniss will always be afraid.



Characters

Katniss Everdeen

Katniss Everdeen, hero of the Hunger Games trilogy, is the protagonist of the book. Katniss is 17 years old, a talented hunter and reluctant symbol of the revolution between the Districts and the Capitol. The girl is brave but often overly impulsive, which almost always gets her into trouble. Katniss is wounded several times, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Katniss is devastated over the loss of her love, Peeta. Peeta has been captured and tortured by the Capitol. When Peeta is returned, he has been "hijacked," so instead of loving Katniss, he wants to kill her. Meanwhile, Katniss relies on her best friend, Gale. Although Katniss loves Peeta, there are feelings for Gale as well. This is just one of the problems Katniss faces when she is not trying to save all of Panem from the evil President Snow.

Katniss is a Mockingjay by nature, as was her father. Katniss sorely misses her father and seems to have the need to set out on her own rather than take care of her mother and sister Prim, although she loves them.

Katniss may survive and find some measure of happiness but there will always be an underlying fear of the Hunger Games.

Peeta Mellark

Peeta Mellark is the 17 year old who has captured Katniss' heart. Like Katniss, Peeta is a victor from the District 12 Hunger Games. Peeta has known Katniss for many years and has saved her life on more than one occasion.

Peeta is a good warrior although he cannot match Katniss' sharpshooter skills. Peeta is abducted and tortured by President Snow with the hopes of destroying or at least deterring Katniss' plan to take down the Capitol. The plan nearly works. Snow has "hijacked" Peeta's memories, including the most innocent memories of his childhood, in order to make him violent and filled with hate for Katniss. It is the hope that Peeta will kill Katniss.

Peeta has a great deal of will, however, and even the tracker jacker serum cannot completely override his training and experiences with Katniss. Peeta goes against his programming to make important contributions to the squad's efforts.



Gale Hawthorne

Gale Hawthorne is a 19 year old refugee from District 12. Gale is Katniss' best friend and hunting partner. Gale stays beside Katniss throughout the whole ordeal, until the very end. Gale is in love with Katniss.

President Coriolanus Snow

President Coriolanus Snow is the president of Panem. Snow is considered to be the most powerful and formidable man alive. Snow knows no bounds to his cruelty as long as he gets what he wants and keeps control of Panem.

Finnick Odair

Finnick Odair is an ally to Katniss and Gale. Finnick was the District 4 victor in the Hunger Games.

Primrose Everdeen

Primrose, aka "Prim," is Katniss' younger sister. Prim dies while attending to the wounded and dying during the bombings in Capitol City.

President Alma Coin

President Alma Coin is the president of District 13 and the one who hopes to take over Snow's position. Like Snow, Coin hates Katniss and will do anything to achieve her goals.

Cressida

Cressida is Katniss' videographer and organizer of the propos shown in the Capitol to undermine Snow.

Beetee

Beetee is in charge of Special Defense and weapons. Beetee is a highly intelligent man who is always working on ways to take down Snow.



Haymitch Abernathy

Aside from Peeta and Katniss, Haymitch is the only living victor from the Hunger Games in District 12. Haymitch becomes someone on whom Katniss can rely, as long as he is sober.

Plutarch Heavensbee

Plutarch Heavensbee is the former GameMaster of the Quarter Quell. Plutarch serves as PR man to Coin and is in charge of the feeds of Katniss' propos.



Objects/Places

Districts

There are two main entities in the story - the Districts and the Capitol. The two locations are split between the Peacekeepers and the Rebels. The Peacekeepers work for President Snow and will do anything to protect the Capitol, its people and its policies. Actually, people are often expendable in the Capitol as long as the infrastructure stands. The hub of President Snow's world is located inside his mansion in Capitol City.

There are thirteen districts. Some believe that the thirteen districts represent the 13 colonies and the battle between the districts and the Capitol symbolizes and/or makes reference to the Revolutionary War.

Each district is a part of the whole yet each has its own personality and purpose. For example, District 12, home to Katniss, Gale and Peeta, is a mining community. Another district is an agricultural center.

It is the goal of the Rebels to fight against the Capitol and take back their old way of life.

Hunger Games

Mockingjay is the third and final book in Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games trilogy. The Hunger Games are barbaric.

There are few surviving victors of the Hunger Games. They include Katniss, Gale, Peeta, Lime, and Finnick. Plutarch is the former GameMaker of the Games.

The Games are a futuristic way of showing the Capitol's unwavering power. The Games are held once each year and televised for the world to see. One boy and one girl are chosen from each district to fight to the death in a large outdoor arena. The participants are referred to as "Tributes." After the win, Katniss and others go on a Victory Tour. Much like any fierce battle in which there are few winners, the victorious will always have something to fight against, something to prove.

Panem

Panem is the name of the country. It is taken from Latin "Panem et Circensus" which, translated, means "bread and circuses."



District 12

District 12 is the home district to Katniss, Gale and Peeta. The district is destroyed after the Hunger Games. Nearly 90% of the population dies.

The Woods

The Woods is the most desirable place for Gale and Katniss since they like to hunt.

District 13

District 13 is the district to which Katniss, Gale and other refugees are taken after District 12 is destroyed.

Hospital

Katniss spends a great deal of time in the hospital recovering from various wounds and injuries. At District 13, Mrs. Everdeen and Prim work in the hospital.

Roses

Roses are the symbol of President Snow. Snow uses roses all of the time to show his dominance. It is also said that Snow likes roses because they cover the scent of the mouth wounds that never heal.

The Mockingjay

The Mockingjay is the chosen savior of Panem. There have been many different Mockingjays but Katniss is the most powerful.

Bow

A bow is Katniss' weapon of choice. Beetee makes a special bow for Katniss that responds only to her commands.



Themes

Betrayal

There is a great deal of betrayal that takes place in *Mockingjay*. The first episode involves the incident at the very beginning of the book, when Katniss is betrayed and tricked into firing an arrow into the force field that surrounds District 12, resulting in mass destruction and the deaths of thousands of her people.

The depth and breadth of the betrayal becomes so vast that many people, particularly Katniss, do not know who to trust. At first Katniss trusts almost no one except for her mother, Prim, Gale, and Peeta. Katniss is reminded of important allies along the way, such as Finnick and Boggs. Katniss' relationship with Haymitch is confusing but in the end Katniss has no choice but to trust him. The same can be said of Plutarch.

There is a great deal of loyalty amongst the rebels and the Peacekeepers, however, even though many have no clue as to what is really going on in the battle between the Districts and the Capitol. Perhaps the worst form of betrayal is seen when Peeta is taken to District 13 and attempts to kill Katniss because his memories have been hijacked using a poison known as tracker jacker venom.

Peeta's betrayal hurts Katniss the most. It also hurts Peeta the most since it is his neurological system that has been taken over and controls his actions and emotions against his will. Peeta betrays himself as well as the others and at several times begs to die so that he will not hurt Katniss or the others.

War

Katniss Everdeen is the protagonist of the book. Katniss is the hero of the Hunger Games trilogy. Katniss is 17 years old, a talented hunter and reluctant symbol of the revolution between the Districts and the Capitol.

There are two main entities in the story - the Districts and the Capitol. There are thirteen districts. Some believe that the thirteen districts represent the 13 colonies and the battle between the districts and the Capitol symbolizes and/or makes reference to the Revolutionary War.

The two locations are split between the Peacekeepers and the Rebels. The Peacekeepers work for President Snow and will do anything to protect the Capitol, its people and its policies. Actually, people are often expendable in the Capitol as long as the infrastructure stands. The hub of President Snow's world is located inside his mansion in Capitol City. Snow's direct adversary is President Coin of District 13. Although Snow is painted as the symbol of evil, Coin is very much like her opponent.



Like most futuristic novels, *Mockingjay* uses a sophisticated system of weapons and tools not used in current day. These include pods, hoverplanes, and specially designed battle gear and weapons.

Control

The entire battle between the two sides is about control. The Capitol has had control of Panem for a long time, and still does, but the Districts want to reclaim their Districts and their country. Most of the control is taken by force. The best example of this is the presence of the Peacekeepers which seem to be present at every turn. President Snow will use any available method to get and keep power and control over Panem, even if it means sacrificing thousands of innocent people with bombs and raids or through the use of trickery, betrayal, and poison. Snow is also one to use torture and neurological methods to get and keep control.

President Coin is no better than President Snow when it comes to the desire for control. Coin cannot stand to be defied and makes it known that anyone who dares to cross her will die.

The most obvious example of control in District 13 is the strict rules that people must abide by on a daily basis. Daily schedules are printed on people's forearms. Every minute of every day must be accounted for as is the amount of food one eats and how much one sleeps.

Katniss is not a person who takes orders well or can be easily controlled. It is Katniss' tendency to fight being controlled that makes her the perfect Mockingjay as well as the biggest threat.

Style

Point of View

Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins is written in the first person point of view, through the eyes of the main character, 17 year old Katniss Everdeen. The use of first person in the story works well in that the reader is able to understand the futuristic apocalyptic world of Panem through the eyes of one of its chosen warriors. The reader is taken on a journey along with Katniss and is enabled to see inside the mind of the girl chosen as the Mockingjay and the face of the revolution as she wends through a complicated tale of war, death, politics, and betrayal.

The use of first person makes the story seem slightly less fantastic to the point that the reader can grasp what the future might be like if North America was decimated and a country like Panem were to take its place. Katniss often experiences interaction with foreign and bizarre creatures, such as the Avoxes and mutts.

While third person omniscient may have enabled the reader to get a broader view of the life of a soldier and politician embroiled in intrigue, war and death, the use of first person lends an air of authenticity to the story and allows the character of Katniss Everdeen to become real.

Setting

The story of the Mockingjay takes place in Panem, a country that has replaced North America after the Apocalypse. Panem has developed two main and distinct entities - the Districts and the Capitol. The country's name was taken from the Latin "Panem et Circensus" which, translated, means "bread and circuses."

The two locations are split between the Peacekeepers and the Rebels. The Peacekeepers work for President Snow and will do anything to protect the Capitol, its people and its policies. Actually, people are often expendable in the Capitol as long as the infrastructure stands. The hub of President Snow's world is located inside his mansion in Capitol City.

There are thirteen districts. Some believe that the thirteen districts represent the 13 colonies and the battle between the districts and the Capitol symbolizes and/or makes reference to the Revolutionary War.

Each district is a part of the whole yet each has its own personality and purpose. For example, District 12, home to Katniss, Gale and Peeta, is a mining community. Another district is an agricultural center.

It is the goal of the Rebels to fight against the Capitol and take back their old way of life.

Language and Meaning

The language used in *Mockingjay* by Suzanne Collins tends to be relatively informal and relies a great deal on dialogue between the characters. Although Katniss is a trained soldier and face of the rebellion, the jargon used on an informal level is not difficult to understand. However, when referring to battles, tools and other war related issues, the jargon is rarely explained, leaving the reader to muddle through some of the less familiar topics. There are also many references that are not explained and while they are surely understood by readers of the first two books of the trilogy, those who read only the third installment are left to figure things out on their own, a difficult and sometimes impossible task. It takes away from the meat of the story and reduces the reader's enjoyment of the text.

Although Panem is a post apocalyptic society, there are not many references made to languages and idioms used in the past, except for the Latin phrase, "Panem et Circensus" which, translated, means "bread and circuses" or perhaps more appropriately, "bread and games."

The language used by the author is often very descriptive and is used in such a way that the reader can develop a vivid image of the surroundings.

Structure

Mockingjay by Suzanne Collins is a work of fiction. The book is 400 pages in length. It is comprised of three parts and broken into 27 chapters, plus an Epilogue. The shortest part, the Epilogue, is 13 pages in length; the longest part is Part II: The Assault which is 136 pages in length. The average length of a part is 130 pages.

Part I is titled "The Ashes." Part I focuses on giving the backstory behind the destruction of District 12 and the placement of the district's refugees in the drab and utilitarian District 13.

Part II is titled "The Assault." Part II focuses on the attempts to withstand many different assaults launched by the Capitol and the effort to assemble and command a squad worthy of taking down the Capitol.

Part III is titled "The Assassin." Part III focuses on Katniss' attempts to infiltrate the Capitol and President Snow's mansion so that he can be assassinated.

The story is relatively straightforward and its plot and subplots are clear. However, *Mockingjay* is not a stand alone novel. There are many terms and references that are unclear to the reader and therefore do not express the dangers, fears, and atmosphere that would otherwise make much more sense to the reader. Additionally, some of the text is surreal to the point of being frivolous. This is especially true in the beginning of Chapter 25.

The story is written in chronological order with the backstory being referred to mostly through memories and dialogue.



Quotes

"Katniss Everdeen, the girl who was on fire, you have provided a spark, that left unattended, may grow into an inferno that destroys Panem."

President Snow, Chap. 1, p. 6

"I must now become the actual leader, the face, the voice, the embodiment of revolution."

Part I, Chap. 1, p. 10

"Inside is the first beautiful thing I've seen in the District 13 compound: a replication of a meadow filled with real trees and flowering plants, and alive with hummingbirds."

Part I, Chap. 5, p. 65

"Fire is catching! And if we burn, you burn with us!"

Part I, Chap. 8, p. 104

"I do feel sick. Heartsick. And too tired for a day of production."

Part I, Chap. 9, p. 116

"We taste of heat, ashes and misery."

Part I, Chap. 9, p. 128

"Because now I know that everything I say will be taken out directly on Peeta."

Part II, Chap. 11, p. 160

"After maybe thirty seconds, I know I can't stand being confined to this subterranean cell, and leave Buttercup to his own devices."

Part II, Chap. 13, p. 182

"Everything screams in my dreams tonight."

Part II, Chap. 17, 243

"This war will be battled out on the streets with, hopefully, only superficial damage to the infrastructure and a minimum of human casualties. The rebels want the Capitol, just as the Capitol wanted 13."

Part II, Chap. 18, 257

"Here's as much as I know. The president doesn't like you. She never did. It was Peeta she wanted rescued from the arena, but no one else agreed."

Boggs to Katniss, Part III, chap. 19, p. 263

"'He'll try and kill me anyway,' I say. 'Especially here. Where there are so many bad memories to set him off.'"

Part III, Chap. 19, p. 263

Topics for Discussion

Explain Katniss' initial hesitancy in becoming the Mockingjay. What were Katniss' reasons? Did they have anything to do with the destruction of District 12? How did Peeta play into the decision? What does Katniss hope to accomplish as Mockingjay? What if she fails?

Katniss and Haymitch have a history. Explain their past relationship. What does Katniss do when she is faced with the decision on whether she should trust Haymitch again? What would you do?

Describe the relationship between Katniss and Gale. Compare their personalities. Why do both object to being seen as lovers or cousins? How would a change in their relationship change their working together? Explain.

Katniss is stunned by Peeta's call for a cease fire. While others are calling Peeta a traitor, Katniss and Gale know that there must be something else going on beneath the surface. What are the possible explanations? Who is responsible for Peeta's change of opinions and actions? What would you do if you were Katniss?

Prim and Katniss discuss presenting a list of demands to President Coin. Those demands must be met before Katniss will accept the job as the Mockingjay. What are Katniss' concerns? What is her plan? How does Coin turn the tables on Katniss? What do you think might happen next?

Compare and contrast Presidents Coin and Snow. How are they similar? What is the goal of each? Which has the best interests of the people at heart?

Discuss Katniss' guilt over shooting an arrow through the force field. Is Katniss truly to blame for destroying District 12? Who was behind the plan? Was Katniss fully aware of what she was doing? Why did Katniss shoot the arrow? What other things did Katniss do that later turned out to be mistakes? Explain.