

Red Rising Study Guide

Red Rising by Pierce Brown

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Red Rising Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Prologue and Part 1, Slave: Chapters 1-6.....	6
Part 2, Reborn: Chapters 7-19.....	10
Part 3, Gold: Chapters 20-27.....	15
Part 3, Gold: Chapters 28-33.....	20
Part 4, Reaper: Chapters 34-44.....	24
Characters.....	31
Symbols and Symbolism.....	36
Settings.....	38
Themes and Motifs.....	40
Styles.....	42
Quotes.....	43



Plot Summary

Red Rising is the first novel in the Red Rising Trilogy by Pierce Brown. This novel follows Darrow, a Helldiver in the mines below Mars. Darrow's wife is put to death for singing a forbidden song while being punished for going into a forbidden section of their underground home. Devastated by her death, Darrow commits another act punishable by death. He buries his wife. Darrow is saved in death by a group of rebels, the Sons of Ares. Darrow, a Red by birth, is turned into a Gold. Darrow is then sent to attend a special school for Golds where leaders are made. The only question is, is Darrow strong enough to survive against, and in companionship, with his enemies?

Darrow is a Helldiver, the operator of the huge machines that drill into the depths of Mars to mine Helium 3, a product necessary for the terraforming of planets. Darrow is one of the best and he fights to be the most productive in order to earn his tribe the coveted Laurel. The Laurel guarantees the winners extra food and supplies. However, despite clearly out-producing the elite tribe, the Gammas, the award is not given to Darrow and his tribe, the Lambdas.

Darrow is angry, but allows his wife to soothe his emotions with a gift. Eo takes Darrow to a hidden garden she found. Inside the Webbery, Eo has discovered a broken vent shaft that leads into a large garden that has a domed ceiling that looks up on the stars. Eo and Darrow, who have lived all their lives underground, have never seen the stars. As they lounge in the grass and enjoy one another, Eo encourages Darrow to be more like his father. Darrow's father was put to death at the age of twenty-five for rebellion. Eo thinks of Darrow's father as a hero. Darrow thinks of him as a fool.

When Darrow and Eo leave the garden, they are caught by the Tinpots, the government guards. They are taken away and separated. Darrow knows they will be punished by a lashing, but he thinks they are both strong enough to take it. Darrow is surprised, however, that on the day of their punishment the ArchGovernor of Mars, Nero au Augustus, has come to witness the punishment. It is not every day a Helldiver is punished. Darrow takes his lashes well. However, when Eo begins to accept her lashes, she catches his eye and he knows she is planning something dangerous. Eo begins to sing a song that is forbidden. After mocking Eo, the ArchGovernor has her executed. Darrow is forced to pull on her legs to counteract the weak gravity to break her neck.

Darrow is so despondent over Eo's death that he cannot see how he can live without her. For Eo, Darrow cuts down her body and buries it even though the punishment for this crime is death. Darrow is hung that same day. However, Darrow wakes in a shallow grave. Members of the rebellion group, Sons of Ares, come and take Darrow to one of their camps. There Darrow meets Dancer, a HighRed who has severe nerve damage in an arm and leg. Dancer tests Darrow and then shows him the lies that the LowReds have been told. They are not mining helium 3 in order to terraform Mars and bring the higher Colors there so that they can be brought out of the mines and given the luxury they are fighting for. Mars has already been terraformed and there are hundreds of cities all across her surface.



Darrow is angry, but even in his anger he cannot help but laugh at what Dancer wants him to do. Darrow wants Dancer to become a Gold, to go to their school and earn a place in their government so that when the rebellion is ready to rise, they will have well-placed support. However, it stops being a joke when Dancer takes Darrow to a Carver who changes his body, from his bone structure and density to his muscles and his teeth and his eyes. In time, Darrow no longer recognizes himself. Darrow has become the very enemy he despises.

Darrow learns quickly and passes the tests to get into the elite Institute where Golds go to become leaders, where men like the ArchGovernor, the Peerless Scarred, are created. Darrow does not know what to expect when he enters the Institute. However, what he experiences is nothing like what he thought it would be.

Within twenty-four hours of entering the Institute, Darrow is kidnapped in the night, beaten, and then left alone in a room with another student. They are given a ring and told only one may leave with the ring. Darrow knows the boy he is left with. The boy is Julian, a kind boy who befriended him on the flight to the Institute and who is the brother of Darrow's only other acquaintance among the Golds, Cassius. Darrow does not want to kill Julian, but knows he has no choice.

Darrow hides the truth of what he did to Julian during the test called the Passage even as Cassius pushes the survivors to admit who they killed. The group is then taken to a castle where they are told they must defend their castle against the other houses of the Institute. The one castle left standing will be the group of students who will graduate as the Peerless Scarred, the students who will get the best apprenticeships and jobs in the government.

Darrow knows he must win. However, his house quickly divides. Darrow and Cassius team up together, building their own tribe. They eventually combine with another group and together overthrow the ruling tribe in the castle. Darrow then becomes the unofficial leader of his group, House Mars. Darrow then systematically begins enslaving the other houses. However, Cassius learns that Darrow is the one who killed Julian when the leader of Pluto house, a boy nicknamed the Jackal who happens to be the son of the ArchGovernor, gives Cassius a holovideo of Darrow's test during the Passage. Cassius stabs Darrow in the stomach and leaves him to die.

Darrow is rescued by the leader of the House of Minerva whom he allowed to escape to save her from one of his ruthless house members. This girl, Virginia, or Mustang, nurses Darrow until he recovers from his injuries. Together they begin building a new army out of the slaves who have escaped their bonds and wander free in the wilderness. Mustang and Darrow free them and treat them well, earning their loyalty. Then they begin to conquer the houses one by one. By this time, Darrow has learned that the Proctors, the teachers from each house, are illegally helping the Jackal win this test. For this reason, Darrow targets the Proctors' houses that have the most to lose if the Jackal does not win.



Darrow eventually conquers several houses and his hard on the trail of the Jackal. Darrow uses trickery to fool the Proctors and force Jackal out in the open. Darrow meets the Jackal face to face and captures him, only the Jackal gets away. When Darrow faces Apollo, one of the Proctors who helped this happen, he learns they have kidnapped Mustang. Darrow kills him. Darrow then attacks Olympus where the Proctors live and watch over the test, in order to save Mustang. Darrow then sends Mustang after Jackal while he goes to recover his role as leader of Mars and finish the game. Unfortunately, Darrow learns that Mustang is the Jackal's twin sister. He believes she will betray him so he builds his army up and positions them to fight. Mustang, however, does not betray him.

With the game over and Darrow the clear winner, the Drafters and the ArchGovernor arrive on the playing field. The ArchGovernor, aware Darrow knows her cheated, asks Darrow to disown his own family and become a surrogate son of the ArchGovernor so that he might earn a high position in government. Darrow, despite his deep hatred of the ArchGovernor, agrees.



Prologue and Part 1, Slave: Chapters 1-6

Summary

Prologue and Part 1, Slave: Chapters 1-6

Prologue

Darrow listens to the ArchGovernor give a speech about the destruction of Earth and how Earth's downfall was brought on by the lie that all men are created equal. This is not true, according to the ArchGovernor. Some men are better than others by their birthright. Those men have been born into the top echelon of their society. They have the colors. The others in the society are never allowed to obtain the position or colors. Darrow knows he is wrong because he plans to rise up and destroy them all.

Chapter 1: Helldiver

Darrow is a Helldiver, the operator of the drill that digs into the hard depths at the center of Mars to mine helium 3, a product necessary for the terraforming of the planet's surface. It is extremely hot in the mine and Darrow is forced to wear a fry suit that covers him so completely he cannot wipe the sweat from his brow. As he works, Darrow hits a gas pocket. His uncle, Narol, calls down to him and tells him he has to wait until a scanCrew can come down and assess the risk. Darrow argues that he can test it himself with a handheld scanner, but Narol demands that he wait. Others on the team argue, but Uncle Narol has the final say. Darrow is aware that if he must stop working for two hours the Gammas (another mining crew) will pass them in productivity and win the coveted Laurel. Again. Darrow decides he cannot let this happen because he wants more food and supplies, the promise of the Laurel, for his wife. For this reason, Darrow climbs out of his drill and makes the perilous climb down to the gas pocket to test it.

Chapter 2: The Township

When Darrow has his reading, he begins the climb back up but gets stuck and burns his hand. Darrow ignores the pain and finishes his day, passing the Gamma lead with an impressive result. When the work day is over, Darrow rides the gravity lift to the top of the mine with the rest of his clan, the Lambdas, as well as the rival clan, the Gammas. They are greeted by the Grays, or Tinpots, the military-like peacekeepers. The captain of the Tinpots, Ugly Dan, tries to provoke Darrow, but he ignores him. As they make their way to the locker rooms, the Lambda tease the Gamma Helldiver, Dago, about their win. Dago, however, makes it clear he does not think the Lambdas will take the Laurel.

Darrow changes and washes before going home. Darrow and his wife, Eo, share the house Darrow grew up in with his mother, sister, and brother and his family. Darrow finds Eo in the bedroom, but she will not allow him to enter. They tease one another



about presents they have for each other. Eo sees Darrow's burn and carefully cleans and covers it. Then they go to join the others at the Laureltide dance.

Chapter 3: The Laurel

As they walk to the Laureltide dance, Darrow thinks of his father, who died when he was only six. Darrow's uncle, Narol, took over the role his father should have played, teaching Darrow to dance. Darrow once looked up to his uncle, but now sees him as he is, a sad, tired drunk. Darrow and Narol fight briefly when they meet at the celebration because Narol is angry with Darrow for disregarding his orders not to test the gas pocket himself.

The Lambda laugh and drink, convinced they have won the Laurel. Ugly Dan and the Tinpots come at midnight to announce the winner of the Laurel. There is a long speech and then the award. The Gammas won.

Chapter 4: The Gift

Darrow and the other men of Lambda are angry, but they know there is nothing they can do. Instead, Darrow allows Eo to drag him out onto the dance floor. After some time, Darrow and Eo sneak away. Eo tells Darrow she has a gift for him. Eo takes him to the Webbery where she and the other women work. Inside she takes him to a broken vent shaft that was uncovered that week. Inside, she leads him to a large garden that has a glass dome ceiling that allows the stars to shine down on them. Eo and Darrow are fascinated by the vegetation, the animals, and the stars they have never seen before. Then they make love in the grass. Afterward Eo begins to talk to Darrow about the lies they have been told by the society, such as the fact that anyone can win the Laurel, and about his father's quiet rebellion that only won him his execution. Eo wants Darrow to stand up for what is right and to fight against the oppression of the society. Darrow does not see the point. After their argument, they watch the sunrise and then make their way out. They are caught by several Tinpots.

Chapter 5: The First Song

Darrow and Eo are arrested and taken away. Several days later, they are reunited by a kind Tinpot on their way to the Commons where they will receive their punishment. Darrow is surprised to see the ArchGovernor of Mars, Nero au Augustus, has come to watch a Helldiver take forty lashes. Darrow receives his punishment without a fight. When it is Eo's time, Darrow worries she will not be able to withstand the punishment. Then Eo looks at him and he can see she is planning something. Darrow begs her not to do it until the Tinpot beside him shoves a rock in his mouth to keep him quiet. Then Eo begins to sing a forbidden song. The ArchGovernor evidently finds the spectacle amusing and allows her to sing, only to order her execution when she is done.

Chapter 6: The Martyr

Eo is taken to the scaffold immediately. She is allowed to offer final words to the person of her choice. Eo chooses her sister, Dio. Darrow cannot hear what Eo tells Dio, but



sees the crushing devastation on her face. When Eo is hung, the gravity does not offer enough pull to break her neck. To stop her suffering, Darrow pulls on her legs.

Darrow's family and in-laws surround him in the hours after Eo's death in hopes they can stop him from doing something that will end in his own execution. Darrow manages to sneak out of the house anyway. Uncle Narol finds Darrow on the streets and shares his liquor with him, but does not attempt to stop him. Darrow takes Eo's body from the scaffold where she would have otherwise hung for months. He carries her to the garden to bury her in the grass. The Tinpots come for Darrow several hours later. He feels ill as they hang him, his uncle pulling at his feet to end his life with compassion.

Analysis

The organization of the society in which Darrow lives is important and it is introduced, in part, in the prologue. Darrow's society believes that it was the equality of man and democracy that caused the end of the society on Earth. For this reason, they have organized their society in such a way that there is a natural hierarchy that the people come to by birth, not achievement. The people are divided by Colors. Darrow belongs to the lowest Color, the Reds, or what he will later learn is referred to by the HighColors as LowReds. Darrow lives underground where he works in mines to harvest helium 3, a product necessary for terraforming planets. Darrow and his people have been told that when they have harvested enough to terraform Mars, they will live in a place of honor in the cities that will be built.

Above the Reds are a number of Colors. The Greys are above the Reds and they provide security and armed force. These people, referred to as Tinpots by the Reds, are militant and often crueler than necessary. Above them are many other Colors. However, the highest Color are the Golds. All these groups are divided among themselves, as well. In Darrow's world, the Reds are divided by clans that are named for Greek letters. Darrow belongs to the Lambdas. The Gammas are the supreme clan in Darrow's society. This division among the specific Colors also applies to the Golds. The Golds have a group of people called the Peerless Scarred, distinguished by a scar on their faces. This group consists of highly successful, highly accomplished people even among their own elite Color.

Darrow's father was something of a rebel. Darrow's father believed that his people were being mistreated and he organized a peaceful protest in which he and several others performed a forbidden dance in the Commons. Darrow's father was hung for this action. Darrow was only six when this happened, but it had a profound effect on his life. Darrow, at sixteen, is now married to Eo, the love of his life. Eo, too, feels that the way in which their society is run is unfair. Eo wants to protest, but she has not found a way to do it. Eo encourages Darrow to change things, to fight for what is right in a better, more productive way than his father did. Darrow does not see the point in fighting. However, when Eo is put to death for singing a forbidden song while receiving a punishment for sneaking into a Gray garden, Darrow is inspired to make himself a martyr, much like Eo did. Darrow buries her body even though it is forbidden and he knows he will be put to



death. Darrow has come to a place where he feels it is better to die than to live in this oppression.

Discussion Question 1

What does it mean to be a Red? What does it mean to Darrow to be a Red? What does it mean to Eo to be a Red? How do their opinions differ?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Darrow believe he won the Laurel? Why did he not win it? What does this mean about the chances of another clan winning the Laurel?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Darrow's father die? What impact did this have on Darrow's life? Why does Eo encourage Darrow to fight for a better life? How does she want him to do this? Why does Darrow refuse?

Vocabulary

Weapon, handle, secret, township, strikes, assembly, ultimate, requiem, artificial, ventilation, gallows, buried, affection, stubborn, protest, tentative, martyr, permission, night shift, static, tattered, futility, disobedience, intended, message, broadcast, flickers, crackles, standard, futility, forget, wound, mourning, creaking, suffer, gravity.



Part 2, Reborn: Chapters 7-19

Summary

Part 2, Reborn: Chapters 7-19

Chapter 7: Lazarus

Darrow wakes in a shallow grave. He is inside a mine somewhere. Moments after he wakes, a tumbler, a six wheel vehicle, drives up. A woman and a man climb out and help him out of his grave. Darrow guesses immediately that they are from the rebellion group, Sons of Ares. They load him into the tumbler and drive him out of the mines to a warehouse.

Chapter 8: Dancer

Darrow is introduced to Dancer, the leader of this small group of rebels. Dancer explains to Darrow that they need him for something. Darrow, however, is devastated to learn they knew of Eo but could not save her. Darrow fights briefly with the woman, Harmony, before Dancer orders them apart. Later, Harmony helps clean Darrow's wounds, explaining to him that Eo served a purpose.

Dancer comes to see Darrow in his room. Dancer wants to test Darrow by making him select two cards at random. Darrow knows it is a trick, so he eats the card he chose so that Dancer cannot see what it was. Dancer then explains to Darrow the purpose of the Sons of Ares. Dancer also tells Darrow that video of Eo's death has been hijacked and shown all over Mars in order to anger the low Colors. Dancer then tells Darrow that he will help him get justice for Eo. However, he cannot help him if all he wants is vengeance. Dancer takes Darrow up a lift to show him the great lie of the society which is a sprawling city.

Chapter 9: The Lie

Darrow is shocked by what he sees in the city. There are gardens, buildings, automobiles. Darrow even sees a carefree young man his own age, laughing and flying around on GravBoots with a group of girls. As he watches, Dancer explains to Darrow that Earth is not overcrowded, as he has been told, but that the moon became a Launchpad for spacecraft to avoid the problems of Earth's gravity, creating the station called Luna. When Luna realized that the corporations and governments on Earth were draining their profits as they set about settling all the planets in the solar system, they waged war against them and won. This is what has become called the Conquering. Reds were sent to Mars' surface more than five hundred years ago, but as servants, not for the rewards they were promised. The helium 3 that Darrow and his family and friends mine was not only used on Mars, but has been used to terraform all the planets.

Chapter 10: The Carver



Darrow is taken into a city where he begins to learn some of the inequality of the Society. Dancer and Harmony take Darrow to a Carver, a man named Mickey. Mickey is a Lavender, a man who was born to be an artist. Mickey creates animals and changes humans into angels and other unusual creatures. Dancer wants Mickey to turn Darrow into a Gold. Mickey balks.

Chapter 11: Mad

Mickey argues Darrow could never pull it off even if he made him perfect. Mickey offers to turn him into a Bronze or a Pixie, lower Golds, but Dancer demands that Darrow become a leader of fleets. Darrow then proves his intelligence by solving a puzzle Mickey was struggling with when they walk into his club.

Chapter 12: The Carving

Mickey begins by removing the Sigils on Darrow's hands that indicate his Color and his clan. Then he inserts a subdermal datachip into Darrow's brain, a surgery that nearly kills him. Mickey spends weeks testing Darrow, building new synapse connections. Mickey replaces the scarred flesh on Darrow's back and hand. Then Mickey begins building Darrow's bones, which are weaker than Golds because of the lack of gravity underground on Mars. Mickey also alters the tensile qualities of Darrow's tendons and muscle tissue. Darrow suffers terrible pain when Mickey inserts a forceGenerator into his sleeping tube to increase the pull of gravity on his body. Mickey also replaces Darrow's eyes and hair. When Darrow can leave his bed, Harmony begins working with him on a "concentration machine" that will help build his muscles. Mickey argues that Harmony is working Darrow too hard, too soon, but Dancer elects to let her continue. Darrow no longer recognizes himself. It is finally time to move on. When Darrow says goodbye to Mickey, he makes the man promise to be kind to Evey, the Pink who helped Darrow during his ordeal.

Chapter 13: Bad Things

Matteo is another Pink who is assigned to teach Darrow social etiquette. Matteo is also assigned to improve Darrow's look, something Darrow sees as frivolous, starting them off on the wrong foot. Matteo, however, wins Darrow's respect when he shows him how easily he might find himself at the wrong end of a Gold's knife. Matteo must work diligently to make Darrow change his way of speaking. Matteo explains to Darrow that there are certain words that Golds do not say, such as bloody. They work long and hard at it as Darrow finds it difficult to give up his long used vernacular.

Dancer wants to change Darrow's name to go along with his new look. Darrow refuses to give up the name his mother and father gave him, insisting that Dancer make it work with his new identity. Dancer also tells Darrow that he plans on having him take the entrance exam for the Institute, an elite school where Peerless Scarred are created. Darrow finds it amusing that they cannot fake this test for him, as well.

Chapter 14: Andromedus



Darrow discovers that the proper dances the Golds learn are very similar to those he learned as a Red. Matteo accuses him of lying about his background because he is so good at it. Later, Dancer tells Darrow that his new name is Darrow au Andromedus, that his family is from a distant planet and they have all been killed in an accident. Later, Matteo tries to teach Darrow to ride a horse, but it is a failed experiment.

Chapter 15: The Testing

Darrow goes to take his test. He is paired with a girl who annoys him by tapping her stylus on a bracelet, so he steals her stylus. Between tests, Darrow meets a young man his own age named Cassius. They speak for a few minutes, but Darrow is reluctant to get too deeply into a conversation because he is still learning to control his vernacular. Darrow is then given the physical tests, which he can see are baffling to the testers because they push him much further than he believes others are pushed. Later, Darrow asks Matteo what will happen at the Institute. Matteo admits they know little about the school, just that three types of students graduate: the Peerless Scarred, the Graduates, and the Shamed.

Chapter 16: The Institute

The Board of Quality Control send a group to interview Darrow because he did very well on the test. Darrow acts like he believes a Gold would in such a situation. Dancer is excited because he believes this means Darrow has gotten into the Institute. It is some time later, however, before they come for Darrow. Dancer gives Darrow a ring in the shape of an L. It is supposed to represent a chevron Spartans bore on their shields, but for Darrow it stands for Lykos, the mining township where he lived, and Lambdas, his clan. They also give him a Pegasus pendant on a chain that opens when Darrow speaks Eo's name. Matteo gives Darrow a petal from the flower Eo gave him to keep inside.

On the transport to the Institute, Darrow meets a young man his own age named Julian. They immediately fall into a good rapport. Another boy on the transport is a Bronze who sits in the back and intrudes on their conversation, telling them about a test once they arrive called the Passage. However, he does not tell them what this test entails. They land at the Institute and are greeted with a speech from the ArchGovernor. Darrow finds it difficult to hide his anger and hatred as he listens with the other students.

Chapter 17: The Draft

Darrow is interviewed by the administrator and then by each of the Proctors of the various houses at the Institute. Darrow dislikes Apollo, finds himself provoked by Mars, and wooed by Mercury. Darrow is then taken into a room where the Proctors choose their draftees. Darrow is nearly chosen fifth during the first round by Mercury, but instead is chosen tenth in the first round by Mars.

Chapter 18: Classmates



Darrow joins his classmates in the dining hall. Darrow is surprised to see that Cassius is one of his new classmates. Julian is there, as well. Darrow learns that Julius and Cassius are twin brothers. Darrow also meets other top drafts. Antonia, Cassius, and Priam are the students who are closer to Darrow in ranking. Darrow learns that each student will earn gold bars and the first student to gain five bars will become the Prius, the leader of the students.

Chapter 19: The Passage

Darrow is awakened as a group of black covered men attack him. Darrow is dragged out into the hallway and his head is covered with a sack. Darrow is then transported to an unknown place. Darrow knows this must be the test called Passage. When the sack is removed from Darrow's head, he finds himself in a cold, stone room. He is naked. Julian is there with him. The door opens and Fitchner, the Proctor of Mars, tosses in a gold ring. Fitchner tells them that only one can leave the room with that ring. Darrow knows this means one must die, but Julian does not understand. Julian argues with Fitchner, then with Darrow. Darrow tells Julian he must win, but Julian argues he could never return home if he lost. Darrow then begins to fight Julian. Julian fights back, but Darrow is bigger and stronger. Darrow kills Julian.

Analysis

Darrow has sacrificed his life for Eo even though he knows this is not what she wanted. Darrow cannot live his life without Eo. Darrow has lost his way. However, others around Darrow see what an asset he could be and his life is saved. Darrow is taken by the Sons of Ares, the rebellion group, and told that Eo had a dream that only Darrow, and others like him, can make come true. For Eo, Darrow has found his purpose in life.

The hierarchy in the Society is such that Darrow must undergo profound physical and mental changes in order to be of use to the rebellion. Darrow becomes a Gold because the rebellion knows that to win any fight against the Society, they must have leaders in the elite level of the Society. Darrow is to go to school and become a leader of a fleet of ships. This will give the rebellion an entire fleet of ships that they, essentially, will control during a war. However, to do this, Darrow must not just become a Gold, but he must prove himself to be one of the elite Gold.

Darrow turns out to be very intelligent. He passes the Institute's test with only one question missed. Darrow is also very graceful and fast in his body movements, thanks in part to his time as a Helldiver. Darrow convinces everyone that he truly is a Gold. However, Darrow still harbors a great deal of anger toward the Golds, particularly the ArchGovernor who ordered Eo's death. This causes Darrow some difficulty, emotionally, but he is a strong enough character that he overcomes this obstacle and convinces everyone that he is one of the pampered few.

Everything seems to be going according to plan for Darrow. Darrow is confident he can survive and do whatever is asked of him. However, when it comes time for the first test,



Darrow is shocked to discover he is expected to kill Julian, one of the few acquaintances he has made and the brother of one of his chief rivals, Cassius. Darrow never would have committed murder when he was a Red, living in the mines. However, Darrow sees that if he does not kill Julian, he will have failed Eo and her dream. For this reason, Darrow swallows his disgust at this task and does what needs to be done.

Discussion Question 1

Why is Darrow's body so radically changed for him to become a Gold? What does this suggest about the differences between the different levels of Colors in the Society? How difficult is it for Darrow to fully become a Gold?

Discussion Question 2

Who are the Pinks? Why is it that it is the Pinks who care for Darrow during his surgeries and who teach him how to behave in Gold social settings? What does this suggest about the role of Pinks in Society?

Discussion Question 3

Why is Darrow reluctant to make friends? Who does he consider a friend on his first day at the Institute? What is the nature of the competition at the Institute on that first day? Where does Darrow fit in this competition?

Vocabulary

Grappling, reinforced, stumble, timid, hesitancy, obvious, mismatch, scraping, sacrifice, happiness, shame, companion, ambiguous, available, emblazoned, saunters, unclenching, precious, direction, hyperventilating, direction, vibration, offended, dehumanized, stunners, satisfied, sanctioned, passage, expressionless, manhandled, scramble.



Part 3, Gold: Chapters 20-27

Summary

Part 3, Gold: Chapters 20-27

Chapter 20: The House Mars

Darrow is overwhelmed with guilt after killing Julian. Darrow knows that he did what he had to do, but he is now afraid of what might come next. He leaves the room and wanders through a hallway until he comes across other students. They all walk to a large room that is medieval in décor. Darrow cleans up and dresses before hiding in a storage room. Roque, another student, finds him and suggests that what has just happened was Societies way of reducing the weak members of the Gold elite that did not die naturally at birth. This is little comfort to Darrow. Darrow and Roque join the others and discover that Antonia, Cassius, and a brute of a student named Titus have all survived. Most of the highDrafts have survived. The only low draft to survive is Sevro, the Bronze Darrow met on the transport. Fitchner arrives as Cassius is trying to learn who killed his brother and explains to them basically what Roque said, that they have simply eliminated the weak. Fitchner then tells them that they are in a castle, as are all the other houses, and that they must defend it while conquering the others. The last house standing and the Primus of that house will be the Peerless Scarred and will have their choice of apprenticeships.

Chapter 21: Our Dominion

Fitchner take the students on a walk outside of the castle where they experienced their Passage. Fitchner shows them their lands and what they must defend. They can see another castle in the distance, the House Ceres. As they watch, a dropship sets up a picnic in a grassy field between the two castles. Cassius and Darrow decide to go get some food. They race each other to the table. However, they quickly realize that it is a trap and search for the enemy. They find them hiding in the grass. Cassius and Darrow easily take out all the students with only table legs as weapons. Darrow takes a reaping scythe from one of the students and keeps it because it reminds him of the sling blade he used in the mines.

Proctor Ceres comes down and speaks to Fitchner. They joke about tricks they have already played on other houses. As they speak, Darrow becomes aware of Mount Olympus floating in the distance. This is where the Proctors live during the test, like gods, watching over the students. That night, Fitchner explains to the students that they are not to kill the other students, but they are to enslave the members of the other houses with an object he calls a standard. This item will place the sign of the House Mars on the forehead of any student it touches.

Chapter 22



The following morning, the students find the standard and a map in their war room when they wake. The map only shows the House Mars and Ceres, the two locations the students are already aware of. They must find the other houses on their own. Cassius suggests that they elect a single leader until a Primus is chosen. However, the other students do not think this is fair. Titus and Antonia are the strongest voices against the idea.

On the first day, Cassius and Darrow go scouting in the area. They find a first aid kit hidden in a watch house, giving them the idea that there are probably other hidden supplies throughout the playing field. The first problem all the tribes run into is the lack of a means to make fire, making it impossible for them to cook food. Darrow, however, has found matches.

As they try to figure out the purpose of this test, Cassius, Darrow, and Roque discuss it. Roque believes that the intention is for the students to learn how to build a society out of chaos, just like the Conquest built the current Society. Roque also suggests that when they begin taking slaves, they will likely divide them into the different Color divisions that exist in Society, making some Grays, Pinks, and Reds. Cassius balks at this idea, but Darrow believes Roque is right. Cassius also learns the best way to win this test is to be the Primus of the winning house, making him determined to win Primus of House Mars.

Chapter 23: Fracture

Within a short amount of time, the House Mars is divided into four tribes. Titus leads one, and takes over most of the castle. Sevro becomes a tribe of his own when he disappears into the woods. Darrow's group moves out to the gatehouse to avoid Titus' cruel tribe. Darrow encourages all of the people in his tribe to learn how to hunt, kill, and cook wild game, but none can cook very well. Titus' tribe is beginning to starve without fire. Roque wants to give them matches, but Darrow and Cassius refuse.

Darrow, Cassius, and Roque know that the House Mars must unite and they debate how to do this. Finally it is decided Darrow should attempt to woe away Titus' lieutenants. Darrow goes into the castle to speak with Vixus, but is surprised when Titus returns early from a hunt. Titus confronts Darrow and steals a couple of maps Darrow has. The group argues over leadership and tactics. Darrow becomes aware that Titus wants to hurt him. To escape, Darrow hits Vixus in the throat and beats him as he falls.

Chapter 24: Titus's War

Darrow runs from the castle to the gatehouse where his men wait. Cassandra, one of Titus's tribe, comes after Darrow, but Quinn, Darrow's tribe member, knocks her down and helps Darrow escape with the rest of the tribe into the highlands around the castle. Over the next few days, they watch as Titus continuously runs raids on the House Ceres. At the same time, Cassius grows convinced that Titus killed Julian. Darrow allows him to think this. Titus begins to take slaves, but the slaves, unaccustomed to being treated in this way, do not work well for him. Titus begins to mutilate the slaves by cutting off their ears. They also beat a young Ceres girl for all to see. Titus then hides



the girl in snow near the gate of Ceres and forces a girl to scream, to make the Ceres boys think the girl has been sexually assaulted. The following day, the girl is crushed when the Ceres boys ride their horses out of their gate to rescue her.

Chapter 25: Tribal War

They have been there a month. Darrow and Roque scout the castle and find it in complete disarray. Titus's tribe is starving and Titus continues to mistreat the slaves, including rape. Cassius is outraged. Cassius even complains to Fitchner when he finds them in the woods, but Fitchner insists there is nothing the Proctors can do. Fitchner encourages Darrow and Cassius to stop Titus if they dislike what he is doing. For this reason, Darrow and Cassius begin to plot to retake the castle.

Darrow sends Quinn to the castle to offer an apology from him and Cassius to Antonia. Quinn is caught on the way back by Titus. Titus beats her and cuts off her ear, sending it to Darrow. Cassius, who is Quinn's boyfriend, becomes enraged and goes to the castle to confront Titus. Cassius is also beaten and many of Titus's men urinate on him.

Chapter 26: Mustang

Darrow and Cassius continue with their plan by traveling further west than they have ever gone. As they have hoped, members of another house find them. The girl who confronts them has hidden her sigil so that they cannot see which house she is with. She has a horse, a Mustang. As they talk about the sad state of House Mars, Darrow tries to place her, but fails. Cassius and Darrow then attempt to steal the horse, but they fail. They are suddenly surrounded, discovering Mustang is with House Minerva, and must dive into a freezing lake to avoid capture. They remain in the lake for hours after the girl, whom Darrow calls Mustang, goes to attack House Mars. Sevro surprises Cassius and Darrow by coming to their rescue.

Sevro wonders if Mustang will give House Mars back to them if she gets their standard. He then suggests that they take the standard from House Minerva for leverage. Sevro helps them break into the castle. They have no luck finding the standard in the castle, but Darrow kidnaps a girl who can cook. Cassius, Darrow, and Sevro eventually capture the standard as one of the Minerva members tries to sneak it out the back.

Chapter 27: The House of Rage

Darrow, Cassius, and Sevro return to House Mars with members of their tribe where a fight is ending between Minerva and Antonia's tribe against Titus's tribe. They have horses that they have taken from House Minerva. Mustang confronts Darrow, accusing him of being responsible for the terrible things Titus has done. Mustang refuses to give up, even though Darrow has her standard. Darrow and his tribe, as well as Antonia's tribe, enter the fight. Darrow is forced to fight a large boy called Pax. Pax is almost as tall as Darrow and equally strong, making the fight difficult. However, Darrow is able to end the fight in a draw by crushing Pax's testicles at the same time Pax knocks him unconscious by squeezing his head and neck.



Mustang surrenders to Darrow, Cassius, and Antonia in exchange for her standard. Mustang is reluctant to leave because of the abuse the slaves have suffered. However, Darrow has the upper hand and she is forced to leave with only her Minerva members, no slaves and without Titus. Mustang leaves, but not before first warning Darrow that there is another boy like him who will make them all slaves if they continue to act like animals.

Analysis

Darrow struggles with the death of Julian, reminding the reader that he is a gentle man at heart. Darrow remains the Red who wanted nothing more than a wife, children, and the means to care for them properly. Instead, Darrow was forced into this rebellion that he never had a passion for and for which he fights only for the dream that his wife had.

The conflict of the remainder of the novel begins. Darrow has arrived at the school and now learns that the program consists of the students battling one another for supremacy, much like the Golds did in their war against Earth. Darrow knows he must win. To win, Darrow must become the leader of House Mars, the Primus, and he must lead House Mars to victory over all the other houses. This will prove especially difficult, however, because the students in House Mars immediately splinter into four distinct tribes.

Darrow shows his strength of character as he pulls his own tribe together and leads them successfully against Titus and his tribe. However, Darrow's style of leadership is much the same as the Society and it shows little growth or understanding on his part when he treats his tribe much the way he was treated in the mines. This is the only way Darrow knows how to lead and he must learn and adjust. At this point, Darrow has not done that.

Cassius is devastated by the death of his brother Julian. Cassius has known that Julian would likely not survive the Passage, but is still shocked and angry at his death. For this reason, Cassius begins looking for the student who committed the murder. Cassius focuses on Titus because Titus claims to have killed Priam, which they all know to be impossible. Cassius also dislikes Titus because of his poor treatment of his slaves and his treatment specifically against Cassius's girlfriend, Quinn. For this reason, when Cassius and Darrow manage to retake House Mars from Titus, Cassius wants the right to kill him. However, it is Darrow the students look to as their leader because Cassius lost respect when Titus beat him and allowed his tribe to urinate on him.

This becomes a turning point of the novel because Darrow and Cassius have their first victory. Not only this, but they have discovered another house beyond their northern area and they have learned of the student, known as the Jackal, who is thought to be the inevitable winner of the contest. This adds stress to the competition and it takes Darrow to a turning point where he must make allegiances that will help him become Primus of House Mars and win the competition.



Discussion Question 1

Why did Darrow kill Julian? Why does Cassius want to know who it was? What is Cassius connection to Julian? What might this relationship lead Cassius to do should he learn the truth about Julian's death?

Discussion Question 2

Why does the House Mars divide into four tribes? Which tribe is the strongest? For what reason? How is this tribe defeated? Who wants to be the Primus of House Mars?

Discussion Question 3

Who is Mustang? Why does Darrow encourage her to attack House Mars? What does Darrow hope to get from this attack? What does Darrow get from the attack?

Vocabulary

Proctor, security, justice, master, sling blade, thistle, reassure, moment, desperation, scouted, power, assurances, interfere, brutal, monsters, apprentice, vision, limits, disgruntled, barbarity, gruesome, repair, annoyance, deity, standard, negotiate, prominent, skirmish, scathing, captured, flickers, prisoners, manages.



Part 3, Gold: Chapters 28-33

Summary

Part 3, Gold: Chapters 28-33

Chapter 28: My Brother

When Minerva leaves, Darrow finds himself the leader of House Mars. He must now decide what punishment Titus will receive for his actions. Darrow goes into the cellar to speak to Titus. Darrow asks Titus why he killed the Ceres and raped the slaves. Titus shows a deep hatred of the Golds and tells Darrow that the Golds raped someone he cared about. As Titus talks, Darrow realizes that Titus is like him, that he is a Red made to look Gold. Darrow is shocked, angry that Dancer lied to him by saying there were no others who survived.

Chapter 29: Unity

With the realization that Titus is a Red, Darrow realizes that he has to kill him. Titus is so filled with hate and a need for vengeance that he will eventually be found out. This will place Darrow, and any other Reds living as Golds, in danger. Darrow marches Titus out in front of the entire House of Mars and their slaves to read his crimes and announce his punishment. Darrow receives the support of the crowd until he steps back and allows Cassius to duel with Titus. Cassius successfully kills Titus, but it is clearly an act of vengeance that wins Cassius respect, but causes Darrow to lose respect.

That night, Darrow takes a guard shift because he cannot sleep. Fitchner comes to speak with him. Fitchner tells Darrow that the Proctors support his decision to have Titus killed, but that he made a mistake allowing Cassius to do it. Fitchner then wonders if Darrow worries about what will happen when Cassius learns the truth. Fitchner tells Darrow about the Jackal, warning him that the Jackal is the ArchGovernor's son. Fitchner also grants Darrow horses, weapons, and matches for the capture of Minerva's standard.

Chapter 30: House Diana

For a month, House Mars recuperates, makes shields, and learn. Darrow has Cassius teach him both swordplay and Kravat, a type of martial arts. During this time, House Mars is at war with House Minerva, engaging in multiple scrimmages as the days pass. Darrow knows he needs a victory, so he begins plotting the capture of Minerva. The others want to capture House Ceres first. Darrow has to talk them into his plan, which proves to be more difficult than he expected.

Darrow and Sevro go west in the hopes of finding a house beyond Minerva. They get to know one another better as they walk. Finally they are approached by a girl in a tree. Darrow and Sevro are introduced to Tamara, the Primus of House Diana. Darrow



explains to Tamara what he wants. Darrow needs Tamara and House Diana to help him conquer Minerva. When they have succeeded, Darrow promises that House Mars will help House Diana conquer House Ceres. Tamara is skeptical at first, but finally agrees.

Chapter 31: The Fall of Mustang

House Mars and its entire army arrive outside the gates of House Minerva. Mustang comes to the gate and asks what they want. Darrow tells Mustang he wants a rematch with Pax. After making some ground rules, Mustang agrees. As the match begins, several Proctors come down from Olympus with a table, food, and drink to watch. Darrow and Pax square off. Darrow is nervous because he has never fought with a sword before and Pax has a shield. However, Darrow is able to get the advantage on Pax, successfully knocking him down. Darrow then howls like a wolf, giving the signal to his army to attack through the gate Mustang has mistakenly left open. They successfully capture House Minerva in less than five minutes. However, Mustang has escaped with the standard. Darrow hunts Mustang with Vixus and Pollux. When Darrow spots Mustang hiding in the mud, he decides not to say anything for fear of what Titus's former tribe members might do to her.

Chapter 32: Antonia

House Mars has captured all of House Minerva except for Mustang. House Diana has taken over the castle, however, and refuse to relinquish it to House Mars. However, Darrow has predicted this. He has had Sevro destroy the food and spoil the water. Within days, House Diana surrenders to Darrow and House Mars. Now House Mars has conquered two complete houses. Darrow has been given enough gold bars to become Primus. Cassius humbly congratulates him.

Before they return to their castle, Darrow and Cassius are approached by a girl named Lilath from House Pluto. Lilath gives Cassius a small pouch and tells him that the Jackal is willing to give him fifty ionBlades for his army in exchange for Darrow, dead or alive. Cassius slides the pouch into his boot and dismisses the offer. Darrow sends Cassius to lay siege to the remaining House Diana members left in the woods. Darrow sends Sevro with Cassius to steal the pouch.

Back at the castle, Darrow is sleeping and dreaming of Eo when Lea comes to him. Lea claims that Roque has fallen into a ditch and has broken both legs. Darrow rushes out of the castle after Lea, but he realizes that he is walking into a trap. Darrow hides in the bushes. He can hear people searching for him, but he remains silent. Antonia's voice suddenly erupts in the darkness. She tells Darrow she will kill Lea if he does not come out. Darrow prays she will not and stays where he is. Antonia kills Lea. Soon after, Antonia and her people leave.

Darrow waits in the woods for Cassius to return before going back into the castle. They cannot find Roque after an extensive search and worry that he is dead. Later they talk about their choices for the future of the competition. They all decide they must go after



the Jackal next, as it appears Antonia was seduced by promises from the Jackal to kill Darrow.

Chapter 33: Apologies

Cassius wakes Darrow in the middle of the night and tells him Sevro found Roque. However, Darrow quickly realizes that Cassius has lied to him. Cassius tells Darrow that he was going to discard the pouch from the Jackal until he caught Sevro trying to steal it. For that reason, he looked at it, discovered it was a holo, a video of the night Darrow killed Julian. Cassius is filled with rage. He insists on a duel. Darrow is not strong with a sword and is not surprised when Cassius quickly gets the advantage and stabs him through the abdomen with his sword. Cassius then leaves Darrow to die.

Analysis

In the aftermath of the retaking of House Mars, Darrow has become the symbolic leader and is left with the decision as to what to do to Titus for his crimes against the slaves and members of each of the other houses. Darrow, still filled with guilt in the death of Julian, does not want to kill Titus even though he dislikes him. At this point, Darrow needs the loyalty of the House Mars as well as their slaves, so he must do what he thinks will win them over. In the end, however, it becomes deeply personal. Darrow speaks to Titus and realizes that Titus uses words only a Red would use. Dancer told Darrow they had tried to turn a Red into a Gold before, but that it failed because the Reds could not withstand the physical transformation. However, Titus is clearly a Red, and, as such, could place other Reds at risk with his need for vengeance. This is exactly why Dancer told Darrow he could not go into this wanting vengeance. Killing Titus would mean protecting Darrow and any other Reds living as Golds.

Darrow becomes the leader, but quickly loses the respect of his people when he allows Cassius to kill Titus rather than doing it himself. For this reason, Darrow knows he must do something big to get back the respect and to make himself Primus. For Darrow, this competition continues to be about winning so that he can be put in a place of power to help the rebellion. It is still about Eo and her dream. However, it is clear to the reader that the lines between enemy and friend have begun to blur for Darrow. Darrow has become close to some of his comrades, especially Cassius and Sevro, helping him to see that not all Golds are as ruthless as the ArchGovernor appears to be. It makes the reader wonder if Darrow's anger and grief are beginning to lessen. If this is the case, the reader must then wonder if Darrow's natural compassion will make him become more accepting of the Societies law and to forget why he is there in the first place. After all, before Eo's death, Darrow was not interested in changing the world.

Darrow and House Mars conquer both House Minerva and House Diana. This makes them one of the strongest houses in the competition. At the same time, it makes Darrow the Primus of House Mars, the goal he has been struggling to reach from the beginning. However, the Jackal, an unseen enemy from House Pluto, sends out offers to Cassius and Antonia to kill Darrow. Cassius initially refuses the offer, but Antonia takes it, killing



Lea and weakening House Mars by a small margin when her tribe is forced to separate from them. Cassius becomes suspicious of Darrow when Sevro attempts to steal a pouch Jackal gave to him. Somehow the Jackal has gotten a holo of Darrow killing Julian. This is what he has sent to Cassius, aware of Cassius need for revenge. Once again, Darrow faces his death and succumbs to the inevitable. The reader is left wondering how Darrow will overcome this newest obstacle. The Sons of Ares clearly are not available to save him this time.

Discussion Question 1

How does Darrow know Titus is a Red? How did Titus get into the Institute? Why did he not tell Darrow the truth before? Why did Dancer lie to Darrow about the existence of other Reds living as Golds? Could there be other Reds at the Institute?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Darrow make a pact with House Diana? What does Darrow want from House Diana? Does House Diana uphold their end of the bargain?

Discussion Question 3

Why does the Jackal want Darrow killed or captured? What does he offer for this to happen? Who does the Jackal approach? Who tries to kill Darrow? Why?

Vocabulary

Blossoms, sacrifice, horror, different, mathematics, tightness, shivers, cauterize, ion, manipulative, jackal, flinch, dismount, consorted, discarded, appointed, dullest, keenest, personal, acceptance, portended, received, invitation, brightest, emotions, empathy, gallop, silence, dismiss, murder, precious, cruel, praetor.



Part 4, Reaper: Chapters 34-44

Summary

Part 4, Reaper: Chapters 34-44

Chapter 34

Darrow is sick for a month. He slowly becomes aware that he is being nursed by Mustang. When he is finally coherent, he hears her humming Eo's song. Mustang tells him she heard it on the HC like everyone else. They hunt and live together, discussing the competition. Mustang tells Darrow that he lead his people wrong. Mustang uses Darrow's hands to show him how he should have treated each member with respect because an army cannot work without all its members working together. Mustang says the Society is like a hand, too, Darrow agrees, but thinks it could function better if more consideration is given to each level, including the lower Colors.

Mustang becomes ill. When she is delirious with fever, Darrow has to leave her to hunt for food. When he spots human tracks, he tries to find them, but then discovers they lead back to their cave. Darrow finds two men preparing to rape Mustang. Darrow fights them, but he does not kill them because Mustang asks him not to. They tie the boys up miles away. When Darrow tries to sneak back to kill them, Mustang will not allow him to even though it will mean they will have to leave their cave and find new shelter. That night, Darrow sings Eo's song to Mustang.

Mustang is dying. Darrow goes in search of medication that could save her, like the medication she found that saved him. As Darrow walks, he becomes aware of someone walking behind him, but cannot see anyone. Darrow climbs a tree and shakes snow down, revealing a human-shape. It is Fitchner using a ghostCloak to hide himself. Under questioning, Fitchner reveals that the Proctors gave the Jackal the holo of Darrow killing Julian. Fitchner also admits that the Proctors are helping the Jackal in exchange for favors from the ArchGovernor. Darrow learns that Apollo and Jupiter are the two Proctors who are most in favor of Darrow losing. Fitchner begs Darrow to sit back and hide the rest of the competition, assuring him that he has already received interest from several well placed Drafters for apprenticeships. Darrow also learns that the Proctors have to leave Olympus when their houses are defeated, so he decides he will go after Apollo's and Jupiter's houses. Fitchner then gives Darrow the Pegasus necklace taken from him the night of the Passage.

Chapter 35: Oathbreakers

Darrow injects Mustang with medication Fitchner gave him. Within a week, she begins to get better. Darrow and Mustang go north and capture a few Oathbreakers, slaves who refuse to serve their captors. Mustang frees them in exchange for them becoming the first members of Darrow's army. In a week, they have an army of ten. Mustang and



Darrow scout House Mars and watch their scrimmages with House Jupiter. Recognizing their techniques as those Darrow used against House Minerva, they set up an ambush. They free the Minerva and Diana slaves and leave behind the Mars soldiers. Pax is among those freed. Instead of trying to fight Darrow, he embraces him as his new leader. That night, Darrow breaks into Castle Mars and leaves his mark on the doors and in the war room to warn Cassius and the others that he will soon be back.

Chapter 36: A Second Test

Darrow leaves the Diana slaves, now of Minerva, and tell them they can earn their freedom by fighting with his army. Darrow, Mustang, and the army hide in the snow outside Castle Ceres in preparation for a raid. They use a log to climb over their fence and break through the defenses. They are able to take Castle Ceres in less than ten minutes. Tactus, one of the members of House Diana, is disrespectful to Darrow. Darrow lets it pass, but when he later hears that Tactus attempted to rape a Ceres slave, he realizes he must put Tactus in his place. However, Darrow must do it respectfully so that he will not risk losing the loyalty of his army. Darrow speaks to Mustang and the victim. Darrow then takes Tactus into the courtyard in front of his assembled army and the slaves. Darrow announces that he thinks Tactus should be lashed twenty times. Darrow carried out this punishment. Darrow then gives the lash to Tactus and insists that he be given the same punishment. When Tactus fails to do it properly, Darrow asks Pax to give him the punishment. Afterward, Darrow makes it clear to his army and the slaves that he takes full responsibility for everything his soldiers do, good and bad.

Chapter 37: South

The following day, Darrow sends out scouts to find House Apollo. Darrow's army follows behind. On the second day, they are met by Apollo's army. Darrow approaches the Apollo Primus, Novas, pretending to be a remnant of the fighting in the north. Novas leaves Darrow to his fate, unaware that Darrow and his army continue south toward where they believe Castle Apollo stands. As they continue their march, they become aware of Proctors watching them in ghostCloaks and the Pluto scouts watching from afar. One night their horses are set free and their bread is infested with weevils. A night later, Darrow goes into the woods alone and he hears Mustang calling his name. However, Darrow knows it is not Mustang because she uses his real name instead of his nickname, Reaper. Darrow climbs into a tree only to find himself sitting beside Apollo. Apollo tells Darrow to go back to the north and then he pushes him from the tree into the path of a talking bear.

Chapter 38: The Fall of Apollo

As Darrow fights the bear, it falls into a trap. Darrow, too, is caught in a trap. In the morning, Sevro comes to his rescue. Sevro tells them that he left Castle Mars after Darrow disappeared and went searching for the Jackal. After a fight with Lilath left Sevro with one eye and a limp, he began following Darrow's army south. Darrow also



learns that things are fairly chaotic in the south with most of the houses defeated or fighting off bands of raiders from Pluto and others.

Darrow makes his plan of attack on Castle Apollo. As he and his army march toward the castle, they take other houses and build their army. One night, Darrow and his lieutenants sit around a campfire and discuss the Jackal. They learn that early in the competition, the Jackal and his army was caught in an underground cavern by another house. Rather than surrender, the Jackal collapsed the tunnel, killing ten of his people. Then, he made his army dig them out. It took a month. The Jackal is rumored to have eaten his own people in the process. As they talk, they are joined by Apollo. Apollo warns them all to return to the north or be killed. Sevro leaves the party as Apollo continues to make threats, trying to turn Darrow's companions against him. Darrow tells Apollo that if he does not back off, he will make sure the Drafters know that the competition is rigged. Darrow then tells Apollo that while he has had them all trapped in a jamField to keep the Drafters and other Proctors from knowing what is going on, Sevro has led a force into Castle Apollo. Darrow takes out Novas and the rest of the house quickly falls. One girl gets away with the standard, but Darrow's army, despite help from Apollo, manage to get her back.

Chapter 39: The Proctor's Bounty

Fitchner comes to speak to Darrow at Castle Apollo. Fitchner says that Apollo has not left Olympus as he should have. Fitchner then asks Mustang to leave before giving Darrow another gift, the L-shaped ring Dancer gave him. Fitchner then asks Darrow to be happy with what he has achieved and allow the Jackal to win. Darrow refuses. Darrow then guesses that Fitchner is Sevro's father. Fitchner begs Darrow to stop for the sake of Sevro, but Darrow again refuses. As Fitchner tries to leave, Darrow hits him, breaking his nose and causing him to lose consciousness.

Chapter 40: Paradigm

Despite the desire to remain at Castle Apollo long enough to recover from the long trek through the snow, Darrow decides it is time to go after House Jupiter. Mustang reluctantly agrees. They travel through a blizzard to Castle Jupiter, which is mostly empty because the bulk of the army is fighting House Mars in the north, where they besiege it for three days. Then a young man comes out and surrenders the castle to Darrow, telling him that his people are starving. Darrow accepts the surrender.

Darrow and his army take over the castle. Darrow tells his men to enjoy the wine they took from Bacchus's stores. Soon all of Darrow's men appear drunk. Darrow then sends Pax out for guard duty while he begins talking to the young man who led the surrender, Lucien. After a while, Darrow manages to get Lucien to relax and open up to him. When Mustang comes in, she is clearly confused by the situation and wants to tell Darrow something. Instead, Darrow sends her away. Then Darrow confronts Lucien.

Chapter 41: The Jackal



Darrow has known that Lucien is the Jackal from the moment he offered surrender. Darrow knew the Proctors would want to set him up and he noticed that Lucien's gold ring did not fit well, but a bag filled with gold rings was discovered to include one from Pluto. Darrow plunges a knife into the Jackal's hand, pinning him to the table, and then calls for his soldiers, who were never really drunk. Darrow also tells the Jackal that Pax found his army hiding in tunnels under the castle. The Jackal is defeated. The Jackal tries to talk Darrow into letting him go free by suggesting that if he won, the Jackal would make sure Darrow was well placed. Darrow refuses to be bought. However, he gives the Jackal a knife and tells him he can go free if he cuts his hand off. The Jackal does. The proctors send a sonic detonator into the room, blowing things around and disorienting everyone. The Jackal then charges Darrow, intent on killing him, but Pax gets in the way. The Jackal flees, and Pax dies.

Darrow pursues the Jackal with Sevro, but loses him when Apollo descends and another Proctor helps the Jackal run. Darrow and Apollo argue. Apollo tells Darrow that he has Mustang and that if Darrow does not do as he is told, he will kill her. Apollo then turns off his pulseShield in order to assault Darrow. Darrow takes advantage of this by using the gravBoots he stole from Fitchner to keep from falling when Apollo releases him. Darrow then stabs Apollo several times in the eye with his L-shaped ring, driving the eight inch blade into his brain.

Chapter 42: War on Heaven

Darrow takes Sevro and his followers to Olympus, using the gravBoots he stole from Fitchner and Apollo. They attack Venus first, tying her up in her rooms. They begin to search Olympus, room by room, leaving most of the lowColors alone but attacking the Proctors. They take out Juno, Vulcan, Mercury, Minerva, and Pluto. Darrow fights Jupiter one on one, falling back to the ground as they struggle. As they fight, Jupiter admits to taking a bribe to help the Jackal win. Darrow promises the Drafters will learn the truth, then he steps back and allow Sevro to kill him. In the meantime, Darrow's army has found the armory and armed themselves with everything they could find.

Chapter 43: The Last Test

Darrow finds Mustang asleep in a suite near Jupiter's. Darrow wakes her and explains briefly what has happened. Before he sends her after the Jackal, Darrow kisses Mustang. Darrow then sends Sevro to alter the video that will be broadcast to the Drafters from the gold rings and meets with Fitchner in a dining room. Fitchner outlines three problems that Darrow has in winning the competition. First, Fitchner thinks he needs to know why Darrow is different from the others. Darrow tells him he is motivated by love. Second, Fitchner tells Darrow there might be a problem for him because of his seizing of Olympus. Darrow says that will not be a problem if he wins. The only obstacles that lie ahead for him are the Jackal, which Mustang is currently dealing with, and Cassius, whom Darrow hopes will finally forgive him. Finally, Fitchner tells Darrow that Mustang is really Victoria au Augustus, the twin sister of the Jackal.



Darrow takes his army and flies to the north with the gravBoots. They quickly take the castle, enslaving into their army both armies fighting there. Darrow confronts Cassius in the war room. Cassius willingly gives him the Primus title and the standard. However, Cassius refuses to forgive Darrow for killing Julian and promises to get revenge someday.

Chapter 44: Rise

Darrow returns to his army in the south and moves them into a new formation in preparation to meet Mustang, the Jackal, and their army. However, when Mustang arrives with the Jackal, she immediately turns him over to Darrow. Mustang has not betrayed him as he had believed she would. The playing field is then inundated with shuttles as the Drafters and the ArchGovernor arrive, as well as many other dignitaries. Most have children in the school, but others are there to offer apprenticeships. As the winner, Darrow is highly sought. There is a short ceremony. The ArchGovernor approaches Darrow and tells him that he knows how he cheated for his son. The ArchGovernor swears it was for his wife that he did it. Darrow does not believe him. However, when the ArchGovernor asks Darrow to become a lancer, a member of his household, in exchange for his silence, Darrow knows he could not get a better offer. Despite his continuing hatred for the ArchGovernor and his determination to kill him one day, Darrow agrees.

Analysis

Darrow, for a second time, survives death with the help of Mustang and an unknown Proctor. When he recovers, Darrow is more determined than ever to win the competition. With Mustang's help, Darrow also begins to see what it means to be a leader and how to do it in such a way as to inspire loyalty in his people. Darrow is finally seeing how he can change things, how he can make a better society for everyone. He must start small, but he will start.

Darrow and Mustang raise an army and begin conquering houses, beginning with House Ceres. This provides Darrow and his army with fresh baked bread to go with the game they kill. At this point, Darrow also makes a drastic play to gain and keep the loyalty of his people. He has himself lashed for a crime that he did not commit. This touches back on Darrow's punishment at the beginning of the book when he took lashes for sneaking into the garden just before his wife was killed for singing while taking the same punishment. It shows that Darrow has grown and that he accepts that punishment is a part of all social structure.

Darrow and his army begin marching south, taking as many houses as they can while searching out the Houses Apollo and Jupiter. Darrow is attempting to get rid of his two biggest enemies in Olympus, but finds that these god-like people not only break the rules, but feel that they live above the rules. Darrow, an intelligent man, manages to outsmart them on several occasions, in part thanks to the help he has received from his



own Proctor, and in part simply from his own intelligence and the trust and loyalty of his army.

When Darrow has taken all but Pluto and Mars, he learns that Mustang has been taken by Apollo and Jupiter. Darrow does the most daring thing he could, he attacks Olympus. By doing this, Darrow seems to prove to the reader that his growing affection for Mustang is stronger than simple friendship. Eo has been dead for two years. Darrow is beginning to move on emotionally. However, guilt overwhelms him when he reaches out to Mustang. Then Darrow learns that Mustang is the Jackal's twin sister. Darrow has been weary of Mustang's loyalty from the beginning because of his experiences with Tamara, Cassius, and Antonia, but this betrayal seems deeper than all of those. However, it turns out that Mustang is still loyal to Darrow and never intended to hurt him. In fact, Darrow comes to the conclusion that Mustang is the kind of person all Golds should be, but are not.

As the novel comes to an end, Darrow has achieved what he wanted to by being a Gold. He now has the highest apprenticeship he could have ever wanted. Darrow has achieved his goal. However, he has made powerful enemies in Cassius and the Bellona family, and in the Jackal, Adrius au Augustus. This could prove to be trouble for Darrow in the next novel in the series.

Discussion Question 1

Why does Mustang rescue Darrow after Cassius stabs him? How does she heal him? Why does Darrow trust her? Should Darrow trust her?

Discussion Question 2

How does Darrow build an army after being cast out of House Mars? Who is now in charge of House Mars? Why does Darrow begin attacking the houses, beginning with House Ceres? What does Darrow hope to achieve on his own?

Discussion Question 3

Why does Apollo continuously try to make Darrow stop conquering houses in the south? Why does Apollo help the Jackal? Why is the Jackal so important? What will happen if the jackal loses?

Vocabulary

Confused, command, entrails, disposition, mercilessly, movements, starters, betrayal, armor, absence, assumed, vengeance, rebellion, symbol, difference, declaration, hesitation, beautiful, defeat, relic, exception, noose, register, humorous, starving,



recognize, embrace, delivers, defenders, mended, thistle, enemies, terror, different, impervious.



Characters

Darrow/Reaper/Darrow au Andromedus

Darrow is a Helldiver in the bowels of Mars. Darrow likes his job and is content in his life. Darrow is married, lives with his mother, sister, and his brother's family. The only things missing from Darrow's life are more food and supplies for his family. When Darrow thinks he has won an award that will provide these needs, he discovers that he has not.

Darrow's father was a rebel who was put to death for dancing. Darrow has always admired his father, and missed him deeply, but he has never wanted to follow his footsteps. Eo, however, encourages Darrow to do so. When Eo is executed for singing a song, Darrow is willing to give his life to bury her body. However, he is rescued and given the opportunity to fight for the dream Eo had.

Darrow becomes a Gold, allowing his name to be changed to Darrow au Andromedus, and is placed in a school where he must compete with and against other Golds his own age. Darrow fits in well with the other Golds and for a time begins to forget who he is and where he is. However, Darrow always holds on to Eo's memory and fights to make her dream come true. For this reason, Darrow fights against overwhelming odds and becomes the winner of the competition, becoming one of the elite. Darrow accepts a position within the household of the ArchGovernor, ensuring he will rise to a position of power, just as the Sons of Ares wanted.

Darrow earns the nickname of Reaper toward the end of the novel because of the reaper blade he carries and his deadly determination to win.

Eo

Eo is Darrow's wife. Eo is a kind, beautiful sixteen year old when the novel begins. Eo believes that the Society is cruel and wrong in the way it treats its citizens. For this reason, Eo encourages Darrow to be more, to live for more. Unfortunately, Eo is not destined to live for more. Eo sings a forbidden song in front of the ArchGovernor while receiving a punishment for entering a garden reserved for the higher Colors. For this reason, the ArchGovernor orders her execution. However, footage of Eo singing is hijacked and broadcast all over Mars, spurring a small rebellion as people learn to sing 'Persephone's' song.

Uncle Narol

Uncle Narol is the brother of Darrow's father. Uncle Narol has taken Darrow and his siblings under his wing after the death of Darrow's father. However, Uncle Narol is an alcoholic whom Darrow has begun to look down on. Therefore, it is a surprise to Darrow



to learn that Uncle Narol has been an informant for the Sons of Ares for several years and it was Uncle Narol who helped to arrange Darrow's escape from the mines.

Dancer

Dancer is the leader of the group of Sons of Ares who rescue Darrow from death in the mines. Dancer tests Darrow before showing him how the leaders have lied to the lowReds. Dancer explains how the Society came to be and why the lowReds continue to be forced to mine in the depths of Mars. Dancer then arranges for Darrow to be transformed into a Gold so that the Sons of Ares might have a high placed ally in the event of an uprising. Dancer proves to be a good friend to Darrow. However, Dancer also seems to be a liar. Dancer tells Darrow that all other Reds they have attempted to transform into Golds have died. However, Darrow discovers that Titus is a Red.

Cassius au Bellona

Cassius is a young student Darrow meets first while he is taking the test for the Institute. Darrow meets Cassius again after he is chosen for House Mars. Cassius proves to be one of his top competitors for the role of Primus of House Mars. Cassius and Darrow become friends and work together for the first part of the competition. Cassius even congratulates Darrow when he becomes Primus. However, when Cassius is given a holo by the Jackal and he sees the recording of Darrow killing Julian, Cassius becomes overwhelmed with rage. Cassius duels with Darrow and leaves him for dead. When Darrow survives and becomes the projected winner of the competition, Cassius vows to get revenge at a later date.

Julian au Bellona

Darrow meets Julian on the transport to the Institute. Julian is excited, but he worries about his test scores because they were surprisingly low. Darrow learns that Julian is Cassius' brother. It seems an interesting contrast to Darrow and he wonders how the next few months will be competing with Cassius with Julian as a friend. However, during the Passage, Darrow discovers that they are each required to kill one student. Darrow is forced to kill Julian to continue at the Institute. Darrow is filled with guilt for doing this because he liked Julian. As Darrow's relationship with Cassius continues to develop, he begins to fear Cassius learning the truth about Julian's death. When Cassius does learn, he attempts to kill Darrow, but fails.

Mustang/Virginia au Augustus

Mustang is the Primus of the House Minerva. Darrow begins calling her Mustang because of the horse she is riding the first time they meet. Darrow uses House Minerva, and Mustang, to take Castle Mars back from Titus. Believing Castle Mars to be weak, House Minerva attacks and conquers. However, Darrow quickly takes it back with his



own tribe and Antonia's tribe. Later, Darrow makes a deal with House Diana that allows him to conquer House Minerva and their castle. Darrow allows Mustang to escape in the aftermath because he does not trust the two men from House Mars who are hunting for her with him.

After Cassius stabs Darrow in their duel and leaves him to die, Mustang finds him and helps him recover with some medication she finds in the woods. Darrow and Mustang remain together because neither has anywhere to go. Mustang shares with Darrow her theory on leadership and he puts it into practice. Mustang remains at Darrow's side, helping him build a large army and conquer multiple houses. As time passes, Darrow finds himself growing fond of Mustang and he eventually kills for her before sharing a kiss with her.

As the competition begins to draw to a close with Darrow leading the way to being the winner, Fitchner takes his confidence from him by telling him the truth about Mustang. Mustang's real name is Virginia au Augustus. She is the daughter of the ArchGovernor and the twin sister of the Jackal. Darrow is convinced that Mustang has been playing him all along and will join with her brother to defeat him in a final battle. Mustang, however, remains loyal to Darrow, convincing him that some Golds are more humane than others.

The Jackal/Adrius au Augustus

Darrow first hears of the Jackal when he negotiates the surrender of Castle Mars from Mustang, Primus of House Minerva. Mustang tells Darrow that there is a student just as ruthless and intelligent as him, someone who would enslave them all if they continued to act like animals, such as Titus. Darrow later asks Fitchner about the Jackal and learns that he is the son of the ArchGovernor.

The Jackal is the Primus of House Pluto. Shortly after the competition began, the Jackal and his army became stuck inside a cavern where they faced complete enslavement. To prevent this, the Jackal set off charges that destroyed the entrance to the cavern, killing ten of his own people. The Jackal then ordered his army to eat their own in the month it took them to dig their way out of the cavern.

When Darrow meets the Jackal, he tries to use politics to free himself and encourage Darrow to stop fighting. When Darrow refuses, the Jackal cuts off his hand and escapes, but not without trying to kill Darrow, killing Pax instead. After the attack on Olympus, Darrow learns that the Jackal, whose real name is Adrius au Augustus, is the twin of Mustang, Darrow's trusted friend and lieutenant. Mustang surprises Darrow, however, by turning Adrius over to him, ending the competition with Darrow as the winner.



Titus au Ladros

Titus au Ladros is a large, intelligent student in House Mars. Titus believes he could become Primus, therefore he is reluctant to let either Darrow or Cassius declare themselves leader of House Mars before a Primus is chosen. Instead, Titus organizes his own tribe and takes over most of the Castle Mars. Titus is ruthless in his actions. Titus participates in brutal raids on the nearby castle of House Ceres. He also takes slaves whom is not hesitant to treat poorly. Titus cuts off the ears of slaves who annoy him. He also rapes the females that appeal to him.

Titus's rule of Castle Mars is so strong that Cassius and Darrow decide to enlist help to rid themselves of him. To do this, Cassius and Darrow trick House Minerva into attacking Castle Mars. When Titus is defeated, Darrow is left with the choice of punishments for him. Darrow speaks to Titus and is shocked when Titus says certain things that leave him convinced that Titus is a Red. Titus uses slang that is only used in the mines and he calls the reaper blade Darrow carries a sling blade, which is a weapon used in the mines. This idea leaves Darrow with no choice but to kill Titus to prevent him from revealing the truth to the Golds and outing Darrow and others like him. Cassius, who believes Titus killed his brother and maimed his girlfriend, kills Titus in a duel sanctioned by Darrow.

Sevros

Sevros is an outcast from the moment he boards the transport to the Institute. Sevros is chosen last for House Mars. Sevros is small and seems as though he should not have made it through the Passage. Sevros, however, killed one of the highDraft students who would have been competition for the Primus position. Sevros does not remain in Castle Mars after the beginning of the competition, but instead lives in the woods alone. When Darrow and Cassius become trapped in a lake by House Minerva, Sevros rescues them and helps them steal the Minerva standard to use as blackmail over House Minerva after they have taken Castle Mars from Titus.

Sevros is an odd student, but he is fiercely loyal to Darrow for reasons that even Darrow does not understand. Not only does Sevros become an important part of Darrow's army, he also becomes Darrow's trusted friend. At the end of the novel, Darrow trusts Sevros to kill Proctor Jupiter and then to edit the video that will be viewed by the Drafters to show only what Darrow wants shown. Sevros is even careful to edit out a lowRed word Darrow said in his anger. This suggests to the reader that Sevros either guesses or has been told the truth about Darrow.

Proctor Fitchner

Proctor Fitchner is the Proctor of House Mars. Fitchner is unlike the other Proctors in that he is more of a Bronze than a Gold: he is less attractive and his body leans toward overweight rather than the perfect thinness of other Golds. However, Fitchner does



nothing to fix his difference and instead embraces them. Fitchner tries to help Darrow on many occasions by feeding him information about his fellow students and to guide him into figuring out what his actions should be on the battlefield. Fitchner also tells Darrow about the Jackal and that the Proctors are cheating to help the Jackal. Fitchner wants Darrow to stop fighting and simply survive the competition, but helps Darrow see the truth when he continues to fight. Fitchner also returns to Darrow two items given to him by the Sons of Ares before he entered the competition, a Pegasus necklace and an L-shaped ring with a blade hidden inside. This makes the reader suspect Fitchner is either a part of the Sons of Ares or is being used by someone who is.

Proctor Apollo

Proctor Apollo is one of the Proctors who has made a deal with the ArchGovernor to help the Jackal win the competition at the Institute. Apollo approaches Darrow and his friends on several occasions in an attempt to keep them away from the Jackal. Apollo also interferes with the competition, giving the Jackal and his army weapons that Darrow and his do not have and by helping a member of House Apollo escape with the standard. When Apollo confronts Darrow and tells him that Mustang has been kidnapped to force Darrow to behave, Darrow flies into a rage and kills Apollo. Darrow then attacks Olympus and the surviving Proctors.

ArchGovernor of Mars, Nero au Augustus

The ArchGovernor of Mars is Nero au Augustus. Darrow first meets the ArchGovernor on the day he is lashed for going into the Grays' garden. As Darrow watches, his wife begins to sing. The ArchGovernor allows her to sing, but then he orders her execution for singing the forbidden song. Darrow is filled with hatred for the ArchGovernor, feeling that he did not have to order her execution for such a pitiful show of rebellion. Later, when Darrow is rescued by the Sons of Ares and given the chance to become a part of the rebellion, his first thought is how he will exact revenge on the ArchGovernor and his kind. This hatred only grows when Darrow listens to the ArchGovernor's speech on his first day at the Institute.

As Darrow's time at the Institute progresses, he learns that the ArchGovernor's son is one of the students, the Primus of House Pluto, and that he is getting help from the Proctors at the ArchGovernor's request. This angers Darrow further and he becomes determined to win the game in order to show the ArchGovernor and the Proctors that they cannot control everything. In the end, however, Darrow is offered the opportunity of a lifetime, to become a member of the ArchGovernor's household. Aware of the irony of the situation and the fact that he could learn more elsewhere, Darrow takes the position.



Symbols and Symbolism

Pegasus Necklace

Darrow is given a Pegasus necklace before leaving for the Institute. The pendant opens when Darrow says Eo's name. Inside, Darrow keeps a petal from a flower Eo gave him.

L-shaped Ring

Darrow is given an L-shaped ring that is supposed to represent a symbol that Spartans put on their shields. To Darrow it represents Lambda, his family clan. The ring conceals a blade that is revealed with a special movement of Darrow's hand. Darrow uses this ring to kill Proctor Apollo.

Gold Rings

Each surviving student has a gold ring won during the Passage. These rings not only are marked with the name of the student's house, but they also have the capacity to transmit video and audio that is distributed to the Drafters. Drafters choose which students will be offered an apprenticeship through their houses.

Haemanthus

The haemanthus is a flower that grows on Mars. Its petals are blood red and its name means blood blossom. Eo brings one of these flowers to Darrow's family the day his father is executed. Eo gives another of these flowers to Darrow the night of the Laureltide dance. Darrow keeps this flower with him in his grief for Eo and he takes a petal of it with him in the Pegasus necklace when he goes to the Institute as a Gold.

gravBoots

Most of the Golds in the cities and the Proctors at the Institute move around with gravBoots, boots that allow them to levitate off the ground and fly at reasonable speeds. Darrow steals these boots from Fitchner, allowing him to save himself when Apollo attempts to drop him to his death. Darrow also uses these boots to invade Olympus and take the Proctors prisoners in his attempt to find Mustang.

ionBlades

IonBlades are super sharp swords that can cut through any material. These swords also emit an electronic pulse that cauterizes wounds as it makes them. This is the type of



sword with which Cassius duels with Darrow, but Cassius has disabled the cauterizing property.

Standards

Standards are gold rods that when pressed to a Gold's forehead will leave the mark of the house to which the standard belongs. This is how slaves are marked at the Institute. When the standard is pressed to the mark of another house it can either change it or remove it. These standards must be in the possession of the conquering house in order for the house to be considered fully conquered and out of the game as an individual house.

Colors

Each group of people within the Society is marked by the color of their eyes, hair, and skin. Darrow's people are lowReds. They are born to work the mines in the bowels of Mars. There are also Pinks, those bred to provide pleasure, Lavenders who are artists, Grays who are soldiers and police, Obsidians, Silvers, Whites, and others. The top echelon of the Society is that of the Golds. Among each Color there are sub-colors, such as the Pixies and Bronzes among the Golds and the lowReds and highReds among the Reds.

Houses

All the students at the Institute belong to a house that is represented by the gods of the Roman pantheon. Each house begins with one hundred students and begins the competition with fifty students after the Passage. Darrow belongs to House Mars. There are also houses named for Diana, Minerva, Apollo, Pluto, Jupiter, Ceres, Mercury, Venus, Juno, Vesta, and Vulcan.

Whips

Darrow receives lashes from a whip twice in the novel. The first time is when he is punished for sneaking into a garden with Eo. This is the day Eo dies. The second time is when he insists that he receive the same punishment as his soldiers in order to receive the loyalty of his army.

Sons of Ares

Sons of Ares is a group of rebels. The group commits acts of terrorism in order to fight against the Society.



Settings

Lykos

Darrow lives under the surface of Mars in a township called Lykos. Darrow is a Helldiver, the operator of the large drill that mines helium 3 from the bowels of Mars. Darrow and his family live in a home carved out of rock. It is in Lykos that Darrow's wife Eo is put to death for singing a forbidden song and where Darrow is hung for burying Eo's body.

Yorkton

Yorkton is the city that sits above Lykos. Yorkton is the first city Darrow sees and the city that convinces him of the lie the Society has been telling his people for generations. Yorkton is also where Mickey's club is located. Mickey's club is the location of Darrow's physical transformation into a Gold.

The Institute

The Institute is a secretive school where Golds go to learn and compete to be future leaders. The only Golds allowed into the Institute are Golds who pass rigorous testing. No one knows what happens in the Institute. Darrow is admitted into the Institute after passing the tests with high scores. While there, Darrow is forced to kill a fellow student in a test called the Passage and is placed in battle against the eleven other houses of the school in a competition to see who can be the only surviving house.

Castle Mars

Castle Mars is where Darrow lives during most of the competition at the Institute. The castle is large and medieval in design. Titus takes over Castle Mars during much of the early months of the competition, but Darrow soon wins it back. However, Darrow's reign as the Primus of House Mars only lasts a short time and he is exiled from the castle after Cassius duels with him and leaves him for dead.

Castle Minerva

Darrow conquers Castle Minerva with House Diana, only forced to abandon it when he has to destroy the stores and spoil the water source to get House Diana to surrender during a brief siege. This leaves Castle Minerva useless for most of the remaining competition.



Castle Apollo

Darrow uses Sevros to invade Castle Apollo while Darrow and his lieutenants distract the Proctor Apollo. Darrow and his army successfully conquer the castle and take it as their own. However, their stay is brief as Darrow is anxious to move on to Castle Jupiter.

Olympus

Olympus is a floating castle where the Proctors of the houses at the Institute watch the competition taking place below them. When Darrow learns that Apollo and Jupiter have kidnapped Mustang, he invades Olympus and takes the Proctors hostage.



Themes and Motifs

Rebellion

Darrow's father once believed that the best way to get Society to change was to protest non-violently. For this reason, Darrow's father staged a forbidden dance that was meant to get attention and to hopefully begin a dialogue of change. Instead, Darrow's father was hung along with his co-conspirators. Ten years later, Darrow is married to the love of his life. Eo thinks the same way Darrow's father thought, that things need to change. To promote this, Eo sings a forbidden song while receiving punishment for going into a garden where she was not permitted. Eo is executed.

Darrow is not a rebel. Darrow is perfectly happy in his life despite the discrimination he experiences every day of his life. He was never a rebel, never thought of being a rebel. Darrow sees no achievement in dying a martyr. However, after Eo is put to death, Darrow breaks the rules and buries her body. Darrow is hung for his act of compassion. He does not die, however, but is saved by the rebellion group, Sons of Ares.

Darrow is given the chance to change things. At first, all Darrow can think of is revenge. In the end, however, he comes to see the power in building a resistance and fighting not just against the generic hierarchy, but those in power. Darrow fights for what he believes in, not because it is his dream, but because it was Eo's.

Friendship

Darrow is a Red who has learned to despise the Golds for their governments actions and rules against the Reds. However, when Darrow is transformed into a Gold and becomes a part of their world, he begins to see the differences between the different people. Darrow begins to see their humanity. This leads Darrow to begin building friendships with people he once despised.

Darrow is a rebel who is fighting to make his wife's dream come true. However, as he lives and fights with the Golds, he begins to see in them more than he ever imagined. Darrow is called brother by Cassius and Roque. Darrow is accepted as one of them. Darrow's life is even saved by Mustang, a girl who has no reason to save him or to help him build an army.

Darrow makes friends among the Gold despite his determination not to do so. These friendships grow and become more than just a group of kids working together for a common goal. Darrow's friendship with Cassius ends and with it Darrow loses something. In its place, Darrow grows so fond of Mustang that he begins to move past his grief for Eo. At the same time, Darrow develops such a strong friendship with Sevros that he trusts him to edit footage of his fight with Jupiter that could reveal his true identity to the Society. These friendships are an important part of Darrow's growth as a person and his understanding of what it means to lead a Society.



Vengeance

When Darrow's wife, Eo, is executed for singing a forbidden song, he is so filled with rage and hatred for the ArchGovernor that his only desire is for vengeance. Darrow dwells on it, what it would be like to kill this man who took away the only girl he ever loved. However, when he becomes a part of the Sons of Ares, Darrow is warned that vengeance will not get him the justice he deserves.

Darrow must bury his emotions in order to become a Gold. This is difficult for Darrow as he continues to harbor a great deal of anger and hatred. It is only when Darrow sees vengeance in another person does he realize how damaging it can be. Titus is a Gold who seems a likely candidate for Primus of House Mars despite being a midDraft. Titus gathers a tribe, leading his people on raids against House Ceres and collecting slaves. However, Titus is cruel, abusing his own tribe members as well as killing his enemies unnecessarily and raping the female slaves. Titus is brutal. When Darrow confronts him and asks him why, Titus reveals someone he loved was repeatedly raped by Golds. It is this, and Titus's use of the word slingBlade for Darrow's reaper blade that leads Darrow to realize he is a Red. Titus is filled with a need for vengeance and this is what leads to his downfall.

Darrow learns to curb his need for vengeance. By doing this, Darrow is able to funnel his energies into winning the competition. Darrow is even capable of setting his vengeance aside to agree to become a surrogate son to the ArchGovernor in order to place himself in a place of power when his education is competed, just as the Sons of Ares wanted.



Styles

Point of View

The novel is written in the first person point of view. The author uses Darrow, the main character, as the narrator. Darrow narrates the story as though he is telling it to the reader as it happens. This narration draws the reader in close to Darrow and allows the reader to know only what Darrow is thinking and doing.

The point of view of this novel works with the plot because it tells the story through Darrow's eyes, drawing the reader in so tightly that they feel as if they are one with Darrow. The reader cares about Darrow, wants Darrow to survive his ordeal to fight another day. This is important because Darrow is the hero of the novel and the one person that the reader should be rooting for. However, the author attempts to kill Darrow twice in the plot, but the reader knows Darrow will not die because he is the only narrator and there are more pages after his supposed death.

Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is simple English. The author tells the story with a language that is appropriate to the character and the intended audience. The author also injects into the story a language that is particular to this novel and this genre. There are many words that are written oddly or have odd grammar that allow the reader to know that they are special to this book and these characters.

The language of this book works with the plot because it includes a number of words that are particular to this book, but are not so poorly designed or foreign that they give the reader trouble following the story. The language is authentic to the character, using a simple English that is not too simple or too sophisticated. The language fits the person the reader comes to understand Darrow to be.

Structure

The novel is divided into four parts, a prologue, and forty-four chapters. The chapters tend to be fairly lengthy, telling a full story with multiple scenes in each. The novel is written in a linear fashion and tells the story both with dialogue and narration.

The novel has one main plot and several subplots. The main plot follows Darrow through the tragedy of his wife's death to his reincarnation as a rebel. One subplot follows Darrow's struggles to hide the truth of Julian's death while dealing with his own guilt over it. Another subplot follows the evolution of Darrow's grief as he finds himself falling in love again. There is also a subplot that follows Darrow's struggles with the Proctors and his desire that they be defeated in their attempts to cheat. All plots come to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

I would have lived in peace. But my enemies brought me war.

-- Darrow (Prologue paragraph 1)

Importance: This is the opening line of the novel. This line suggests that Darrow would have been happy living a peaceful existence if something had not happened to change that. The reader must wonder what might have changed things for him.

My existence is vibration, the echo of my own breath, and heat so thick and noxious it feels like I'm swaddled in a heavy quilt of hot piss.

-- Darrow (chapter 1 paragraph 5)

Importance: This quote shows the reader how uncomfortable the environment in which Darrow works really is. This goes to Darrow's physical condition and his ability to tolerate high degrees of pain and discomfort later in the novel.

But Eo doesn't let me boil in it. She doesn't let my knuckles turn white as I clench my fists in fury.

-- Darrow (chapter 4 paragraph 3)

Importance: This quote shows how well Eo knows her husband, allowing the reader to suspect that her later actions were calculated to get a specific response from Darrow.

On Mars there is not much gravity, so you have to pull the feet to break the neck. They let the loved ones do it.

-- Darrow (chapter 6 paragraph 7)

Importance: This quote shows the insult given to families of those condemned to die as they are forced to cause death themselves rather than watch their loved one suffer as they slowly suffocate. Darrow is forced to do this for Eo, a memory he will carry with him all his life.

Earth has come to Mars and we pioneers were left below, slaving, toiling, suffering to create and maintain the foundation of this...this empire. We are as Eo always said--the Society's slaves.

-- Darrow (chapter 9 paragraph 9)

Importance: These words are stated the moment Darrow realizes the full extent of the lie he and his people have been told for generations.

You have made me give up the hair Father gave me, the eyes Mother left me, the Color I was born to, so I will keep the name they granted me, and you can make it work.

-- Darrow (chapter 13 paragraph 29)

Importance: This quote is Darrow's reaction to the news that Dancer and his people will



be changing Darrow's name to something more Gold-sounding. Darrow refuses to give up his name, leaving Dancer with the fear that he will be found out by his name. Darrow assures Dancer he will be so perfect that no one will question him.

I don't want to do this. I can't explain how badly I don't want to hurt Julian. but when has what I wanted ever mattered? My people need this.

-- Darrow (chapter 19 paragraph 30)

Importance: Darrow has just come to the realization that he is expected to kill Julian. Although not happy with the idea, Darrow knows he either has to kill or be killed.

Though we all still sleep under the same roof, it took only four days for the House to dissolve into four tribes.

-- Darrow (chapter 23 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote shows the reader how fast the house fell apart without leadership and too many students with ambition. This also shows that it will take a strong leader to bring them all back together.

Titus's instability puts every Red ever carved into a Gold at risk. He puts Eo's dream at risk, And that is something I cannot abide. Eo did not die so that Titus can kill a few kids.

-- Darrow (chapter 29 paragraph 1)

Importance: This quote shows the reasoning behind Darrow's decision to put Titus to death.

But he had the name Bellona. A name which our enemy loathes. And so our enemy used bureaucracy, used his title, his duly appointed powers, to murder a kind boy.

-- Cassius (chapter 33 paragraph 12)

Importance: Cassius explains to Darrow how and why he believes Julian was murdered during the Passage. Cassius still grieves his brother and has just learned Darrow was his killer.

When the rebellion comes, these boys and girls will be my enemies, and I will replace them with Reds. How fanatical then will those Reds be? And will that fanaticism matter a lick if they have to stand against creatures like Sevro, like Tactus, like Pax and Mustang?

-- Darrow (chapter 39 paragraph 6)

Importance: Even as his army wins conquest after conquest and they shower him with loyalty and love, Darrow must remember he is here to defeat these people and their leaders. It is a thought that becomes more difficult for Darrow as time passes and he develops close friendships.

Augustus and Bellona. The blood feud between the families runs deep, and I feel its riptide pulling at my legs.



-- Darrow (chapter 44 paragraph 17)

Importance: This quote shows how close Darrow has become to this feud because he had killed Julian au Bellona and is in love with the daughter of ArchGovernor Augustus, whom he will soon pledge loyalty to. The reader suspects this feud will play heavily into the next two books in the series.