



# THE HUNGER GAMES: DISCUSSION GUIDE #2



## CHAPTERS 5-6

### Comprehension:

- What can you tell about the importance of physical appearances in the Capitol based on the information in Chapter 5? How is this different from District Twelve?

Appearances are extremely important to people in the Capitol. Katniss's prep team all have significant modifications to their appearances, from dyed hair and skin to bright makeup. Surgical alterations are extremely popular in the Capitol. The team spends a lot of time "fixing" Katniss's appearance by removing her body hair and applying lots of makeup so that she looks presentable to the audience. This is different from District Twelve, where Katniss says they "don't have much cause to look nice." The people of District Twelve are also more worried about basic necessities, such as food, than they are about their physical appearance.

- Who is Cinna? How is he different from the other Capitol citizens Katniss has met?

Cinna is Katniss's stylist who designs her outfits for the Hunger Games and related events. He is different from other Capitol citizens in that his appearance is mostly natural and very understated. He's also more down-to-earth and empathetic than most of the other people Katniss has met in the Capitol.

- We know that District 12's principal industry is coal. What are the principal industries of some of the other districts that we learn about in Chapters 5 and 6?

District 11 is agriculture. District 4 is fishing. District 3 is factories. District 1 makes luxury items. District 13, which was demolished in the rebellion, used to mine graphite.

- Describe the crowd's reaction to Katniss and Peeta at the opening ceremonies.

The crowd is initially alarmed to see them on fire, but then they're delighted by the spectacle. They yell and cheer for Katniss and Peeta, shouting "District Twelve!" The people wave and toss flowers, and the cameras spend a lot of time focusing on Katniss and Peeta compared to the other tributes.

- Describe Effie Trinket.

Effie is the chaperone for the District Twelve tributes. She's from the Capitol, so she wears strange, fancy clothes. Effie places a lot of importance on manners. She's "maniacally upbeat," and makes sure Katniss and Peeta get everywhere on time. She doesn't get along well with Haymitch, and she's not the most intelligent person (she thinks coal under pressure turns to pearls), but she is friendly to Katniss and Peeta.

- What is an Avox?

An Avox is someone who has committed a crime, such as treason, and has had their tongue cut out as punishment. They are servants in the Capitol.



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- How does Katniss know the redheaded Avox?

Katniss was hunting in the woods with Gale when they saw the redhead and a boy “running as if their lives depended on it” through the woods outside District Twelve. Then, a hovercraft appeared out of nowhere, capturing the girl and killing the boy. The girl saw Katniss and cried for help, but Katniss and Gale stayed hidden.

### Analysis:

- What do Venia’s, Flavius’s, and Octavia’s comments reveal about how Capitol citizens view the districts? And what do Katniss’s inner thoughts reveal about how district citizens view the Capitol? Give specific text evidence to support your answer.

Flavius tells Katniss, “you almost look like a human being now,” and “you’re not horrible at all” after her makeover. The prep team seems surprised at Katniss’s civility and relative beauty because they seem to think everyone in the districts is barbaric, uncivilized, and hideous. Katniss thinks the people of the Capitol, and especially her prep team, are “despicable” and “total idiots.” She thinks the people in the Capitol are shallow, and she wonders what they could possibly do with their time, since they don’t have to hunt or work for anything.

- What does the presence of Avoxes in the Capitol reveal about Panem?

Having Avoxes as servants shows how strict and brutal the Capitol is. Instead of sending people to jail for crimes, they cut out their tongues—removing their ability to speak—and force them to be servants in the richest place in the country.

- How does the author build tension in Chapter 6? Give specific examples of language that helps create this feeling in the chapter.

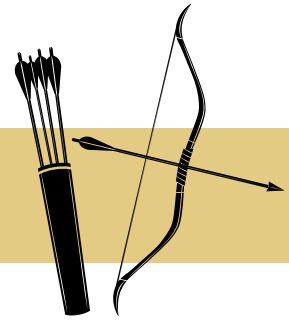
When Katniss says she knows the redheaded Avox, her insides are “contracting with anxiety and guilt at the sight of her,” and “an expression of terror” crosses the Avox’s face. Then the four adults at the table are watching Katniss “like a hawk,” and Peeta lies to cover for Katniss. Later, Peeta wants to talk about the situation at dinner, but Katniss feels “the sense that [they] might be under surveillance.” So they go up to the roof where the sound of the wind chimes is “enough to drown out two people who are trying not to be heard.” *Text evidence may vary.*

### Personal:

- Think of the region where you live. What do you think your costume in the opening ceremonies would look like based on your area’s main industry? **Student answers will vary.**



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## CHAPTERS 7-9

### Comprehension:

- What does the conversation at breakfast reveal about Katniss and Peeta?

We learn that Katniss is excellent at archery and that Peeta has noticed it. We also learn that Peeta is strong and good at wrestling. The conversation also reveals how much Katniss and Peeta have noticed each other over the years despite having never spoken. We start to get an idea that Peeta admires Katniss, but Katniss is in denial and thinks everything is an insult.

- Explain what happened at Katniss's private session with the Gamemakers. What does this reveal about Katniss's personality?

Katniss was the last tribute to present her skills, and none of the Gamemakers were paying attention to her. They were busy eating, drinking, and talking. Katniss got angry and shot an arrow at the apple in the roast pig's mouth, terrifying the Gamemakers, before walking out of the gymnasium. This shows that Katniss can sometimes let her anger get the best of her, causing her to do things before thinking about the consequences.

- How does the rest of the team react when they find out about what Katniss did in her private session?

Effie is horrified. Cinna is careful and tries to get more information. Haymitch and Peeta end up cheering Katniss up, reasoning that the Gamemakers won't arrest her, hurt her family, or even let word spread about what happened. Then they all laugh together about the way the Gamemakers looked when Katniss shot the arrow. Even Effie speaks up, saying, "just because you come from District Twelve is no excuse to ignore you."

- What score does Katniss get from the Gamemakers? What does this mean?

Katniss gets a score of 11 out of 12, which is the highest score of all the tributes this year, even higher than the Career Tributes' scores. This means that Katniss impressed the Gamemakers during her private session and is more likely to get sponsors during the games.

- How does the new information about Gale in Chapter 8 influence the reader's understanding of the relationship between Gale and Katniss?

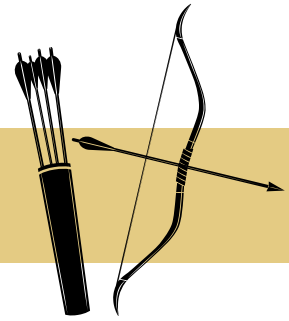
Learning about how Gale and Katniss met and became friends shows how deep their bond is. Gale gives Katniss a sense of security and companionship. He is her hunting partner, confidant, and friend. In the last year, Katniss has begun to feel that "friend" is too casual a word for their relationship, indicating that they have an even deeper bond.

- How does Cinna help Katniss with her interview strategy?

He encourages Katniss to be herself and to be honest. He reminds her that he'll be there in the audience, and she can look at him when giving an answer so she isn't so nervous talking to the whole country.



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## CHAPTERS 7-9

- Who is Caesar Flickerman, and what is he like?

Caesar Flickerman is the host of the interviews that take place before the Hunger Games. At this year's interviews, he wears a midnight blue suit with electric bulbs that twinkle like stars, a powder blue wig, and makeup. Caesar is charismatic and friendly. He tries to put the tributes at ease, helping each one make a good impression on the audience.

### Analysis:

- *The Hunger Games* is narrated in the first-person point of view from Katniss's perspective. Explain how this first-person narration affects the reader's understanding of the conversation at breakfast in Chapter 7. How would this scene be different if it were told from a third-person perspective?

Since the reader only experiences Katniss's point of view, Peeta's true meaning and intentions are interpreted through Katniss's eyes. We understand Katniss's unspoken thoughts and feelings, but we can only infer Peeta's. If the scene were written in the third person, it would likely be less emotional, and the unspoken thoughts, feelings, and memories might not be present. We might also have a clearer, less subjective understanding of Peeta's own thoughts, feelings, and motivations.

- Using evidence from the text, compare and contrast the beauty standards in the Capitol with those in District 12. How are the Capitol's beauty standards similar to or different from our own society?

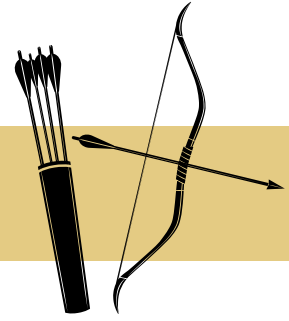
In addition to the colorful wigs, makeup, and other enhancements, many people in the Capitol undergo cosmetic surgery to appear younger and thinner. In District Twelve, though, looking old or plump is considered a good thing because it means the person has survived or has plenty to eat, unlike most other people in the district. *Student answers to the second part will vary but should include thoughtful reasoning and evidence.*

- In Chapter 9, Katniss says that "trust will only be a weakness." What do you think she means by this? What does it indicate about her character? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Katniss is accustomed to depending only on herself for survival. She is the provider for her family, and she takes pride in being able to do what needs to be done to survive. The trauma of her dad dying when she was 11 and her mom sinking into a depression probably made it hard for Katniss to trust anyone else. She doesn't let people in easily, and she knows that trusting Peeta will make it that much harder to kill him when the time comes.



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- Compare and contrast Katniss's relationships with both Gale and Peeta.

Katniss has been friends with Gale for five years, and they've developed a deep, trusting bond. She feels safe and relaxed with Gale. She knows she can survive without his help, but she enjoys his company all the same. Katniss has known Peeta since childhood, but her only close interaction with him was when he tossed her the burnt bread, essentially saving her and her family's lives. Although they've never spoken, they've kept track of each other over the years. In getting to know him after the reaping, Katniss is distrustful of his kindness, but she wonders if part of her can't help trusting him.

### Personal:

- Cinna tells Katniss, "No one can help but admire your spirit," helping Katniss realize that even though she may not be friendly or charming, people like her because she's brave and a fighter. Think of someone you know or a fictional character outside of *The Hunger Games*. What do you admire about that person that they might not see in themselves? What kind of "spirit" do they have? **Student answers will vary.**