



THE HUNGER GAMES: DISCUSSION GUIDE #3



CHAPTERS 10–11

Comprehension:

- What effect does Peeta's declaration of love have on the Capitol audience?
The crowd feels pity for the "star-crossed lovers from District Twelve." They want to see Katniss's response to the declaration, and they cheer loudly at the end of his interview.
- Why does Katniss respond the way she does after the interviews?
She shoves Peeta in anger because she thinks he made her look weak. She's also probably embarrassed that he announced his love on live TV without talking to her first.
- What insights or advice about the Games does Haymitch share with Katniss and Peeta? How will this be important in the arena?
He tells Katniss, "It's all a big show. It's all about how you're perceived." This will matter in the arena because the Games are fully televised, and Haymitch will be trying to get sponsors for Katniss and Peeta. He also tells them to avoid the Cornucopia and find a water source for their best chance of survival.
- Describe the landscape in the arena.
The Cornucopia is in a flat, open stretch of hard-packed dirt near a lake and a steep downward slope or cliff. There are also sparse, piney woods that go downhill and turn into denser woods with a variety of trees.
- Describe Katniss's conflicting emotions when she realizes that Peeta has survived the first day.
Katniss is relieved that Peeta has survived, and she tells herself it's because his winning would be the next best thing for her family if Katniss is killed. She also feels gratitude for the advantage he gave her in confessing his love, anger at his moral superiority on the roof, and dread at the prospect of having to kill him.
- What wakes Katniss up the first night in the arena? Why is Katniss mad about it?
Another tribute started a fire to keep warm near the tree where Katniss is sleeping. Katniss thinks it's incredibly foolish for someone to start a fire at night because now every other tribute in the area knows where to look for another victim, and Katniss is dangerously close by.



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Analysis:

- Is Peeta's confession of love real or a manipulation? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.
Opinions and evidence may vary. His declaration isn't real because he calls it "a bluff" when talking to Katniss after the interview. His declaration is real because he said in earlier chapters that Katniss didn't know "the effect" she has on people, indicating he is attracted to her.
- Peeta says the following on the roof the night before the Games: "I want to die as myself . . . I don't want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind of monster that I'm not." How might his comments be seen as rebellious?
In a dystopian society like Panem, people are controlled and manipulated by those in power. Peeta's comments show that he is unwilling to be fully controlled by the Capitol in the arena because he wants to "maintain his identity" and "his purity of self." He adds that he wants to show the Capitol that he's "more than just a piece in their Games."
- After Katniss describes how the arenas of past Hunger Games are used as historic sites, the author includes a single sentence: "They say the food is excellent." What device is this an example of, and what is its effect?
The sentence is an example of irony, and it's meant to draw readers' attention to the absurdity of Panem's dystopian society. The juxtaposition of excellent food in a place once used for something called the Hunger Games where children kill each other or starve to death highlights the stark difference between the residents of the Capitol and those in the districts.
- Describe the Cornucopia. What do cornucopias represent in our world? What does it represent in the Games?
The Cornucopia is a giant metal horn filled with food, supplies, and weapons that could help the tributes survive in the arena. In our world, cornucopias, or "horns of plenty," represent abundance, particularly abundant harvests. In the Hunger Games, the cornucopia also represents plenty, but it represents danger and death, too. The fight over the supplies at the beginning of the Games is known as the "bloodbath" because of the number of tributes who die there right after the Games begin.

Personal:

- Just before Katniss goes into the arena, Cinna returns the gold mockingjay pin for Katniss to wear as her district token. We also learn that the girl from District One wasn't allowed her district token—a ring that could be used as a weapon. What item from your own life would you choose as your district token? Why would you choose it? *Student answers will vary.*



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CHAPTERS 12-13



Comprehension:

- Why do the Career Tributes keep Peeta around?
Peeta is with the Career Tributes because they want to find and kill Katniss, and they think that Peeta is their best chance. They also think Peeta might be able to tell them what Katniss's strengths are, which would give them an advantage when fighting her.
- How does Katniss's knowledge that the cameras are always watching her influence her decisions in the arena? Give a specific example from the text.
After overhearing the Careers' conversation while she was in the tree, Katniss knows the audience must be excited to see her reaction, so she stages a "knowing smile" to make the audience think she's one step ahead of the game. She also shows off her hunting skills in the hopes that sponsors will take notice of her.
- How is dehydration affecting Katniss?
Katniss is exhausted, shaky, and weak. Her urine is brown, her mouth is dry, and her head aches. She's having trouble thinking and her heart is beating too fast.
- Describe some of Katniss's survival skills that help her in the arena.
Katniss is familiar with not having enough to eat, so she knows to ration out what little food she has. She knows how to set snares, hunt, and forage for food. She knows how to find water and how to sanitize it with iodine before drinking it so she doesn't get sick. She knows how to climb trees and hide from other tributes.
- How is the fire that wakes Katniss up at the end of chapter 12 different from the fire that woke her the first night?
Unlike the small campfire built by a fellow tribute that woke her the first night, this fire is a man-made wall of flames designed by the Gamemakers to add excitement to the Games. It was created for the audience's entertainment and to force the tributes together.
- How does Katniss escape from the Careers when they find her resting in the pond? How has her experience back in District Twelve prepared her? What surprising advantage does Katniss have over the Careers in this situation?
Katniss is able to get a minute head start when she hears them walking toward her, so she climbs a nearby tree to get away from them. Katniss has climbed lots of tall trees in District Twelve when foraging in the woods with Gale. Since she's much smaller and lighter than the Careers, she can go higher up without breaking branches.



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CHAPTERS 12-13



Analysis:

- Katniss is desperate for water and remembers that Haymitch could send her a bottle of water from a sponsor. Yet he doesn't. Explain how Katniss's relationship with Haymitch helps her in the arena.
Katniss and Haymitch don't get along, but Katniss believes that he is genuinely trying to help her. She reasons that if he isn't sending her water, it's because she's close to a water source in the arena. This causes her to keep going in the direction she's traveling and eventually find the pond.
- Give a few examples of manipulations in the arena so far. Who is manipulating whom, how, and for what purpose?
Katniss is manipulating the audience by staging her reactions so they think that she's a survivor and worthy of sponsors.
Haymitch is manipulating Katniss by not sending her water to get her to keep going so she can find the pond in the arena.
The Gamemakers are manipulating the tributes by sending man-made fire to force the tributes together, causing more bloodshed and excitement for the audience.
The Careers are manipulating Peeta by keeping him alive so he can help them find Katniss. But Peeta is manipulating them right back by using their expertise in order to give him a greater chance of survival.
- Is Peeta's alliance with the Careers real or a manipulation? Justify your answer with reasons and examples.
Opinions and evidence may vary. Peeta's alliance with the Careers is real. He knows that allying with the strongest tributes will help him survive longer and possibly get sponsors.
Peeta's alliance with the Careers is a manipulation. He is hiding things from them to protect Katniss and keep himself alive as long as possible.

Personal:

- Alliances are a common part of reality TV shows. What are some examples of alliances from reality TV shows you've seen? What kinds of people make the best allies? What kinds of people make the worst allies?
Student answers will vary.