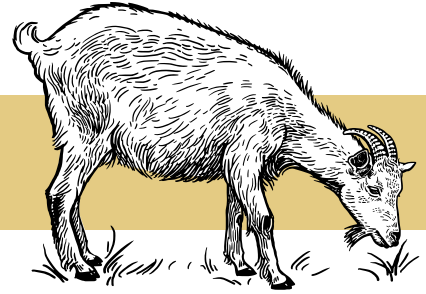




THE HUNGER GAMES: DISCUSSION GUIDE #5

CHAPTERS 19–21

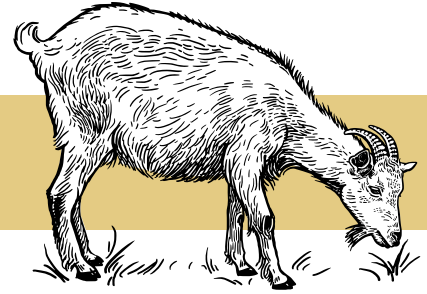


Comprehension:

- Explain Katniss's reasoning when she decides that Peeta is now her ally.
Katniss knows that if either she or Peeta took the other's life after the rule change allowing for two victors from the same district, they would be pariahs back home in District Twelve. She also knows that teaming up with him will help sell the star-crossed lovers act and help them get more sponsors, and she thinks that it "just makes sense to protect each other."
- Where does Katniss find Peeta? How has he survived?
Katniss finds Peeta near the bank of the stream. He's survived by camouflaging himself under mud and plants.
- Why does Katniss say that Prim would be of more use to Peeta than herself?
Prim has more healing skills and is better at dealing with illness and injuries. Katniss normally clears out of the house when people come to her mother to be healed because she's more squeamish.
- How did Katniss get the goat for Prim? What does the story about the goat reveal about Katniss—to Peeta, to the audience, and to the reader?
Katniss got the money to buy Prim's goat by selling the meat from a deer that she and Gale killed. She tells Peeta and the cameras that she sold a silver locket from her mother. She used the money to buy the goat from the Goat Man for a discounted price because the goat was injured. The story shows how much Katniss loves her sister and the lengths she will go to to make Prim happy. Katniss's comments about the goat being a "gold mine" also show that she tries to hide her true feelings by focusing on practicality.
- How does Foxface get her backpack at the feast? What does Katniss think of the other girl's strategy?
Foxface hides inside the Cornucopia overnight and immediately runs out to grab it when the backpacks are placed. Katniss is impressed by Foxface's cleverness and a little mad that she didn't think of the idea herself.
- Why does Thresh spare Katniss's life?
Thresh spares Katniss's life after he kills Clove because he realizes that Katniss helped and tried to save Rue, the girl from his district. He lets Katniss go because he feels like he owes her a debt for being kind to Rue.



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CHAPTERS 19–21

Analysis:

- Katniss knows that teaming up with Peeta while he's ill makes her more vulnerable. Why does she stay with him anyway? Is this something she would have done back home? Why or why not?
Katniss hopes that "whatever instinct sent [her] to find him was a good one." She knows that she'd face the judgment of the people back home in District Twelve if she let him die now, and she also cares about him and doesn't want him to die. Answers to the second part will vary but should include thoughtful reasons and text evidence.
- What are some specific ways that the presence of the cameras impacts Katniss's words and actions?
Katniss smiles at the cameras when she realizes that the rule change will allow her to find and ally with Peeta because she knows the audience will be invested in the "star-crossed lovers" angle. She avoids insulting Haymitch because she knows he's watching and is responsible for sending them sponsor gifts. She kisses Peeta and plays up the "star-crossed lovers" angle in the cave to try and get more sympathy from the audience, and therefore more gifts from sponsors. She doesn't tell the full story about how she got the money for Prim's goat because she doesn't want to get people back home in trouble.
- Summarize the events of the feast. What effect will this likely have in the rest of the Games?
As soon as the backpacks are placed in the arena, Foxface runs out from the Cornucopia to grab hers and get away. Then Katniss runs in from the woods to grab hers, but Clove catches her and is threatening to kill Katniss when Thresh shows up. He hears Clove talking about killing Rue, so Thresh smashes Clove's head with a rock. Then he lets Katniss go for the kindness she showed to Rue, takes his backpack and the one for District Two and runs into the fields. Katniss gets the backpack with medicine for Peeta and runs back to him in the cave, even though she's bleeding. Since Thresh killed Clove, Katniss and Peeta are the only two tributes from the same district left, meaning they're the only ones who could benefit from the rule change. Cato is more likely to immediately go after Thresh because he took the backpack with the item Cato desperately needs. But Katniss and Peeta are probably going to be a target for the remaining tributes.

Personal:

- Do you think Katniss did the right thing when she tricked Peeta into taking the sleeping syrup? Why or why not? *Student answers will vary.*



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CHAPTERS 22-23

Comprehension:

- As Peeta is talking to her, what does Katniss realize about her own reluctance to sing?
Katniss realizes that perhaps the reason she doesn't sing anymore is because it reminds her too much of her father, whom she still misses.
- What does Katniss start to suspect after Peeta tells his story about the first day of school?
After hearing the grains of truth from Peeta's story, Katniss starts to suspect that maybe his feelings for her are real and not just a strategy for the Games.
- What sponsor gift does Haymitch send to Katniss and Peeta after Peeta tells his story? Why does Peeta think Haymitch sent it now? Why does Katniss think he sent it?
Haymitch sends a feast of fresh rolls, apples, goat cheese, and lamb stew with wild rice. Peeta thinks Haymitch must be tired of seeing the two of them starve, but Katniss thinks it's because of the emotional conversation they had that will play on the audience's sympathies.
- What does Katniss learn about Peeta and his family that surprises her? Why is this surprising to Katniss?
Katniss learns that Peeta and his family only ever get to eat stale food. This is surprising to Katniss because she had assumed that all shopkeepers and their families had plenty of money and food. She thinks that only ever having stale food would be kind of sad, because even though her family struggled, the food she managed to bring back from the woods was always fresh.
- How has Peeta's time in the alliance with Cato and the Careers helped him and Katniss?
Peeta knows more about Cato's personality and is able to give warnings to Katniss about what Cato is most likely to do next.
- What happens to Foxface?
Foxface dies because she stole some of the food that Peeta had gathered while Katniss was hunting, including the nightlock berries that Peeta didn't realize were poisonous.



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CHAPTERS 22-23

Analysis:

- Discuss the difference in Katniss's opinions of being on live TV at other times compared to her time with Peeta in the cave after the feast. Why does she suddenly wish she could block the cameras out?
Katniss has been okay with the cameras because she knows that she can play to the audience in the hopes of getting more sponsors. But in the cave with Peeta, she's having lots of different emotions and doesn't want the whole country to see her being emotionally vulnerable.
- How is Peeta's perspective on life different from Katniss's perspective? What are some reasons for these differences?
Peeta tends to take things at face value, such as the food from Haymitch, while Katniss sees the strings attached and the deeper messages. Peeta is also used to being provided for, while Katniss has had to do the providing for her family. Peeta isn't used to the outdoors or the woods, believing that they're dangerous as he's been told his whole life, but Katniss feels safe and free in the woods because she's relied on them for so many years. A big reason for their different perspectives is because Peeta grew up as the baker's son, while Katniss grew up in the Seam. Another reason is that they just have very different personalities. Peeta is optimistic and trusting, while Katniss is more distrustful and practical.
- Katniss allows herself to imagine life as a victor returning home to District Twelve after the Games. She realizes that she doesn't know what she'd do with her time if she didn't have to consume her days acquiring food for her family. How does this relate to the theme of dystopia?
Katniss, like most other citizens in Panem, spends most of her time just trying to survive, which means she doesn't have time to question or rebel against the Capitol. In a dystopia, people don't have much choice or freedom in their own lives. The only people who have the luxury of freedom in most districts are the surviving victors from previous Hunger Games.

Personal:

- According to Katniss, the "star-crossed lovers" act is solely a strategy for the cameras. Do you think people on reality TV shows also put on acts for the cameras? Why or why not? Give an example.
Student answers will vary.