



# THE HUNGER GAMES: DISCUSSION GUIDE #6



## CHAPTERS 24–25

### Comprehension:

- Why does Katniss kiss Peeta's forehead as he falls asleep? How is this kiss different from the others?  
Katniss kisses Peeta's forehead because she's grateful that he's still alive and that she doesn't have to face Cato alone. It's different because it's not done for the cameras or the audience, just for herself.
- Why does Katniss think that the Games are almost over?  
Katniss knows that the Gamemakers are going to want to put on a good show for the ending. Foxface died almost a day before, so there has been plenty of downtime for the audience to place bets. They'll want to end the Games before people get bored.
- How do the Gamemakers manipulate the arena to force the remaining tributes together? Why do they choose this method?  
The Gamemakers dry up the stream and the pond, leaving the lake near the Cornucopia as the only source of water left in the arena. This will force all of the remaining tributes to go there or risk dehydration. The Gamemakers choose this location because they can guarantee "a bloody fight to the death with nothing to block their view."
- Why doesn't Cato attack Katniss and Peeta?  
Cato doesn't attack because he's too busy running away from the mutts that are chasing him. He also doesn't have to defend himself because he's wearing body armor.
- How does Katniss use her last arrow?  
Katniss initially uses her last arrow in the tourniquet for Peeta's leg to prevent him from bleeding out. Eventually, she uses it to end Cato's suffering as he's attacked by the mutts.
- What final manipulation do the Gamemakers announce? What is the purpose?  
After Cato dies and is taken away, Claudius Templesmith announces that the earlier rule change allowing for two victors has been revoked. Katniss and Peeta think they never intended for there to be two victors, and that the Gamemakers wanted to give the audience "the most dramatic showdown in history."
- How do the Games finally end?  
The Games finally end when Katniss and Peeta both put the poisonous nightlock berries in their mouths, which would kill them both instantly, meaning there would be no victor of the Games. Before they can ingest the berries, though, the Gamemakers announce them both as the winners.



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### Analysis:

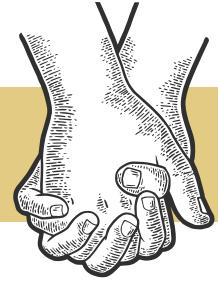
- Why are the mutts more terrifying than just dogs or humans? What specific attributes do the mutts have that are meant to unsettle the remaining tributes?  
**The mutts are terrifying because they're a horrible combination of both wolves and humans. They are huge with four-inch, razor-sharp claws, they can balance on their hind legs like humans, and they have the eyes and hair color of the dead tributes. The mutts' resemblance to the dead tributes is meant to confuse and terrify Katniss, Peeta, and Cato as they assess the capabilities of the mutts. It also brings back horrible memories of gruesome deaths and losses of allies, distracting the remaining tributes and making the fight more intense.**
- Describe what happens to Cato. Why do the Gamemakers allow this to happen?  
**Katniss shoots Cato's hand, which causes him to fall into the pack of mutts. Cato is attacked and tortured all night long. The Gamemakers allow this because it makes for exciting television, providing entertainment for the residents of the Capitol and horror for the rest of Panem. The more emotional and action-packed the Games are, the more the citizens of Panem will submit to the government, either out of reverence or fear.**
- How do Katniss and Peeta each respond after the announcement of the rule change? What does this reveal about each character's personality?  
**Peeta immediately throws his knife in the lake because he knows he would never kill Katniss. He would rather die and let her win. This shows that Peeta is altruistic and cares for Katniss more than he cares for himself. Katniss thinks that he's going to attack her, so she draws her arrow and aims at Peeta's heart. When she realizes his true intentions, she feels ashamed and decides that she will never be able to live with herself or mentally escape the arena if Peeta dies. Katniss is a survivor, and her instincts and life experiences have made her reactionary and defensive. Giving up doesn't come naturally to her.**

### Personal:

- What does it mean to win? How does it typically feel? How does our society view and treat winners?  
**Student answers will vary.**



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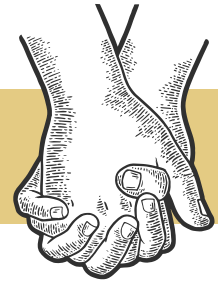
## CHAPTERS 26–27

### Comprehension:

- How does Katniss behave immediately after being removed from the arena? Why?  
**She tries to hold on to Peeta and behaves like a wild thing. She's been through extensive trauma and is trying to hold on to the one person who was there experiencing it with her.**
- Why does Katniss stay and watch while the doctors are tending to Peeta?  
**Katniss says she has "no choice" but to stay and watch. She cares about Peeta and can't bear to leave him until she knows he's safe.**
- Why are there usually a few days between the end of the Games and the presentation of the victor?  
**It takes a few days to make the victor healthy and beautiful enough that they're presentable to the Capitol audience.**
- Why does the Capitol keep Katniss and Peeta separate?  
**They want Katniss and Peeta's reunion to happen on live TV because it would be more entertaining for the audience.**
- What does Katniss notice about her prep team's comments about the events of the Games? How are their reactions different from the usual reactions in District Twelve?  
**She notices that all of their comments are actually about themselves. They're more focused on their own experience as audience members than they are on the experiences of the children dying in the arena. The prep team and others in the Capitol find the Hunger Games truly entertaining, whereas the people in District Twelve only watch the Games because it's required. In the district, they don't talk about the Games much, and they "try to get back to business as soon as possible."**
- Describe the dress that Cinna designs for Katniss after the Games. How is it similar to and different from her previous outfits?  
**The dress is soft and yellow, like the glow of candlelight. Although it's still playing on the theme of "the girl on fire," this dress is meant to make Katniss appear young and innocent, as opposed to the fierce and unforgettable image intended with her previous outfits.**
- What does Haymitch secretly tell Katniss before the interview?  
**He warns her that the Capitol is angry with her for the stunt with the berries and that she needs to do everything she can to make it seem like she only did it because she was so desperately in love.**



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## CHAPTERS 26–27

- How does Peeta respond after learning that Haymitch has been coaching Katniss through the last few days in the Capitol?

Peeta is surprised and hurt because he realizes that Katniss was only acting like she was in love with him as part of a strategy for the Games and the subsequent interviews.

### Analysis:

- Who is the real winner of the Hunger Games—Katniss and Peeta, or the Capitol? Explain your answer with reasons and evidence from the text.

Katniss and Peeta are the real winners of the Games. They were able to outsmart the Gamemakers by using the nightlock berries. Even though the Capitol is in control of almost everything, they had to allow both Katniss and Peeta to live or face the possibility of outrage and unrest among the audience.

The Capitol is the real winner of the Games because they still retain control over virtually every aspect of life for the citizens. Even though Katniss outsmarted the Gamemakers with the berries, she now has to live in constant fear of the Capitol retaliating, either against her or her loved ones.

- Will Katniss ever truly be safe in Panem? Why or why not?

Katniss will never truly be safe in Panem because the Capitol has virtually unlimited surveillance and control. She will have to pretend to be in love with Peeta and act as an accomplice to the Capitol for the rest of her life.

Katniss can be safe in Panem because she is now a victor, meaning she will have plenty of money and food for the rest of her life. If she keeps her head down, the Capitol will leave her alone.

- How is the ending of this novel different from the ending of most novels?

Instead of Katniss and Peeta living happily ever after as victors in love, they go back home in even more danger than before. Katniss angered the Capitol and now has to worry about everyone she loves because in a dystopian society like Panem, the Capitol has significant power and control over everyone's lives. It's also not a typical love story ending because Katniss isn't sure what her true feelings for Peeta are.

### Personal:

- Make a prediction about what you think will happen when Katniss returns to District Twelve.  
Student answers will vary.