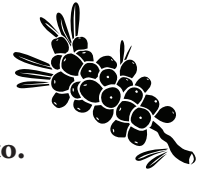




THE HUNGER GAMES: POST-READING RESPONSE PROMPTS

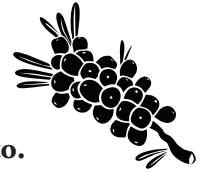


After you finish reading *The Hunger Games*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

A.	<p>According to the novel, what is the purpose of the Hunger Games in Panem? Do the games ultimately achieve that purpose?</p> <p>The purpose of the Hunger Games is to remind the citizens of Panem of the Dark Days when the districts rebelled against the Capitol. The annual tradition is meant to remind the districts that they are completely at the mercy of the Capitol and they would never survive another rebellion. This system has kept the “peace” and prevented rebellions in the districts for 74 years, but this peace is fragile. The Hunger Games are the Capitol’s weapon, and no one is supposed to be able to defeat it, which is why Katniss’s trick with the berries angers President Snow.</p>
B.	<p>A <i>dystopia</i> is a society in which people lead fearful, dehumanized, and highly controlled lives. What specific elements make Panem a dystopian society?</p> <p>Panem is a dystopian society because there is extreme government control and inequality. Most of the people living in the districts face oppression and poverty. They aren’t given a choice in what they do for work because each district is responsible for a specific industry. People in the districts are often sick and starving, despite the fact that the Capitol has advanced technologies and an excess of food. In addition to the vast inequality, the Capitol uses harsh means to control the population and squash rebellion; they keep the districts isolated from one another, encourage division within and between districts, use violence and torture against people they deem criminals, and force everyone to watch the Hunger Games on television.</p>
C.	<p>Compare and contrast the televised version of the Hunger Games with modern reality TV shows.</p> <p>Both the televised version of the Hunger Games and reality TV shows star real people who become celebrities to the viewers. The cameras follow the subjects as they go through experiences. In the Hunger Games, children are forced to fight for their own survival against the artificial elements that the Gamemakers create in the arena. Though the setting is created for the games, the actual danger and death are real. In reality TV, there is less violence and people aren’t actually forced to fight for their survival. In reality TV, the dangerous and dramatic scenarios are devised by the showrunners, but the participants are rarely, if ever, in actual danger.</p>
D.	<p>Describe Peeta in detail, including his relationship with Katniss and with the Capitol. How does Peeta contribute to the development of the plot and themes of the novel?</p> <p>Peeta is the male tribute from District 12. He is the baker’s son and has loved Katniss from afar since they were young. He’s strong, kind, gentle, and charming. He brings up his crush on Katniss during the televised interview, which establishes Peeta and Katniss as “the star-crossed lovers from District 12,” which is a strategy that plays out throughout the games. The night before the games, he tells Katniss that he wants to show the Capitol that he’s “more than just a piece in their games.” He wants to remain true to himself in the arena, which feeds into the larger theme of rebellion against control.</p>



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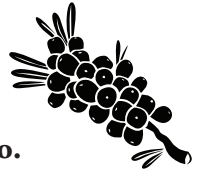


After you finish reading *The Hunger Games*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

E.	<p>Choose one of the symbols or motifs that appear throughout the story (mockingjays, fire, dandelions, cornucopia, etc.). Explain how it appears throughout the novel. What is the significance of the symbol or motif? Answers will vary.</p> <p>Mockingjays, the bird on Katniss’s pin and the birds that carry Rue’s song, represent the limitations of the Capitol’s power. They are “something of a slap in the face to the Capitol” because they are a mix between the Capitol’s failed mutations (jabberjays) and mockingbirds.</p> <p>Fire represents danger, volatility, and lack of control. The use of fire in Katniss’s and Peeta’s costumes before the games makes them appear more attractive to the crowd and more threatening to the other tributes. The Gamemakers use fire in the arena to create more danger for the tributes.</p> <p>Dandelions represent hope and survival for Katniss. She saw a dandelion as a child after Peeta gave her bread when she was starving. She remembered that dandelions could be eaten, which gave her the idea of foraging and hunting to keep her family alive.</p> <p>The Cornucopia represents plenty, hoarding, and danger. The Gamemakers fill the Cornucopia in the arena with supplies and weapons that will help the tributes survive, but it’s extremely dangerous to try and get any of these items. The stronger Career Tributes fight to defend the supplies in order to keep them all for themselves. The Cornucopia also represents the deeper inequalities between the Capitol and the districts. The Capitol hoards all the wealth and food supplied by the districts, similar to how all of the supplies in the games are stored in the Cornucopia. But the districts must fight to scrape by and survive, just as the tributes do in the games.</p>
F.	<p>How is love exhibited throughout the story? Give specific examples. Who does Katniss truly love?</p> <p>Love shows up in many different ways. Katniss’s love for her sister is evident when Katniss does everything she can to protect Prim, even volunteering in her place for the Hunger Games. Katniss shows love for Gale when she trusts and relies on him for companionship and her family’s survival. Gale shows love for Katniss by asking her to run away with him before the reaping so that they could survive away from the horrors of District 12. He also shows his love by promising to look after Prim and her mother when Katniss leaves for the Hunger Games. Peeta’s love for Katniss is more romantic. He declares his feelings on live TV and we find out that he’s always looked out for and paid attention to Katniss. He does everything he can to make sure Katniss survives and gets back to District 12, including lying to the Careers, warning Katniss to run, and taking care of her in the cave.</p> <p><i>Answers to the second part will vary but should feature sound reasons and text evidence.</i></p>



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After you finish reading *The Hunger Games*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

G.	<p>What role does fashion play in the novel? Why does the author spend so much time focusing on the dresses Cinna creates for Katniss?</p> <p><i>Although Katniss doesn't care for fashion, the citizens of the Capitol do. Appearances matter a lot to them; they are more likely to care about, and therefore sponsor gifts for, tributes who look attractive and exciting. The author spends a lot of time discussing the dresses that Cinna designs for Katniss because he's dressing her in a way that is intended to communicate messages about Katniss to the audience. Katniss's clothes are meant to help her survive her time in the Capitol. Her outfits before the ceremonies make her look like she's on fire—mysterious, unforgettable, full of potential, and dangerous. But her dress after the games is meant to make her look young, delicate, and romantic—a girl desperately in love, not one trying to defy the Capitol.</i></p>
H.	<p>In your opinion, is Haymitch a good mentor to Katniss and Peeta? Why or why not? Give details from the text to support your answer.</p> <p><i>Student answers will vary but should be supported with text evidence.</i></p> <p><i>Haymitch is a good mentor to Peeta and an even better mentor to Katniss. Once Haymitch realizes that Peeta and Katniss are determined to stay alive and haven't already given up like all of his previous tributes, he is more willing to talk to them about strategies. Along with Effie, Cinna, and Portia, Haymitch helps to make Peeta and Katniss memorable to the Capitol audience. He understands how to manipulate the audience to win more support and sponsors so that Katniss and Peeta have a fighting chance of winning the games. However, Haymitch believes more in Katniss's ability to win than in Peeta's, which is why he only sends parachutes to Katniss.</i></p>
I.	<p>How does Katniss's role in her family affect her behavior in the Hunger Games?</p> <p><i>Katniss has been the provider and protector in her family ever since her father died. She makes sure they always have food by hunting, gathering, and putting her name in for tesserae, never allowing Prim to do the same. Because she has spent so many years hunting and surviving off of the woods outside District 12, she is more suited to being hungry, finding food, and making that little food last. She's also more familiar with the landscape, and she can use her bow as a weapon against other tributes. All of these experiences give her an advantage in the games.</i></p>
J.	<p>What are Katniss's greatest strengths and weaknesses in the Hunger Games? Explain.</p> <p><i>Student answers will vary but should include logical reasons and text evidence.</i></p> <p><i>Katniss's greatest strength is her determination to survive because of her love for her family. In Katniss's mind, dying is not an option because she has to get home to her family so she can take care of her sister and mother. She uses all of her skills, such as hunting, trapping, and climbing, and her knowledge of the woods and plants to find food and defeat the other tributes.</i></p> <p><i>Katniss's greatest weakness in the games is her impulsiveness. Her rash decisions throughout the games constantly put her in danger. She runs for the backpack in the Cornucopia, which almost gets her killed. She releases the tracker jacker nest, which gets her stung. She goes to the feast to get Peeta's medicine, which almost gets her killed.</i></p>