

THE HUNGER GAMES

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Table of Contents

Part I Questions: p. 2-4

Part II Questions: p. 5-7

Part III Questions: p. 8-10

End of Novel “Making Connections” Questions: p. 11-13

Paper Saver Handout: p. 15-18

Answers can be found in the Teacher’s Guide, beginning on
page 19.

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THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART I QUESTIONS

1. The story is set in the future, so when Katniss references her ancestors, she is referring to us. What has happened to North America? How might we have contributed to the destruction of it?
2. Gale makes the comment that the Capitol wants the districts to be divided, that it is to their advantage. What does he mean by this?
3. Katniss lives in the “Seam” of district 12. Why do you think it is named the “Seam”? What is a seam and how might it apply to her neighborhood?
4. Would you volunteer for your little sister (or brother, or older sibling, or friend)? Why or why not? What does it tell you about Katniss?
5. Why couldn't Katniss's mother take care of Katniss or her sister Prim? If they lived somewhere other than the Seam, would things have been different for her mother?
6. How do you feel about the victors of the Hunger Games earning free food for their fellow citizens? What problems might arise?

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part I questions, continued

7. Why doesn't Katniss want to get close to any of the tributes, including Peeta?

8. Why is it ironic that Effie calls district 12 barbaric?

9. Do you think it is merely coincidence that the red-headed Avox girl is serving the district 12 tributes, the nearest district from where she was captured? Could it be possible that the Capitol knows Katniss was in the woods that day? Why or why not?

10. Compare the modern conveniences in the Capitol with the primitive living conditions of District 12. List them below.

Examples of Capitol Modern Conveniences	Examples of District 12 Primitive Living Conditions

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part I questions, continued

11. Why the stark contrast between the two? What other differences do you see between the Capitol and District 12?

12. How would you respond to Katniss's private session if you were a Gamemaker? Why?

13. Why does Haymitch have difficulty coaching Katniss for her interview? How would you coach her if you were him?

14. Describe Caesar Flickerman. Does he remind you of any current TV personalities or talk show hosts?

15. What do you think Peeta's motivation is with his announcement at the end of part 1?

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART II QUESTIONS

1. Peeta says that he doesn't want to lose himself once the Games begin and that he wants to prove he's not just a "piece in their Games." What does he mean by this?
2. What is the purpose of a district token? Can you think of any events in real life where people might bring a token with them? Explain.
3. How will the Capitol and audience be able to locate the tributes in the arena? What does this remind you of?
4. How do you feel about Capitol residents touring the past arenas? How does it make Katniss feel? Can you think of places that people vacation to that might be similar to the Hunger Games arenas? Why do people visit them? Are we any different than the Capitol residents in this regard? Why or why not?
5. Would you join an alliance or play the game on your own? Why?
6. Where are the cameras? They aren't visible to Katniss, therefore they aren't visible to the readers. Where do you think they are hidden? Or are they so high-tech that they are invisible? Elaborate.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART III QUESTIONS

1. Katniss's first reaction when she hears the news about the rule change is to call out Peeta's name, despite the dangers of alerting the tributes to her presence. Our first reactions are usually the truest; so how does Katniss really feel about Peeta? Is it true that she thinks she must seek him out because no one in district 12 would forgive her. Or is there more to it?
2. Katniss is constantly thinking about how the audience is perceiving her, whereas Peeta (we think, anyway) just says what he feels. Why?
3. Why is Katniss willing to go to the feast to get the medicine for Peeta?
4. In order to go to the feast, Katniss must drug Peeta. Of course, we know it's never a good idea to drug your friends. Is this an exception? Does it make that act morally acceptable? Why or why not.
5. Further discuss the moral dilemma Katniss faces with saving Peeta's life with the phrase: "The end justifies the means." She reasons that the means to get the medicine (knocking Peeta out) justifies the end result (saving his life). How do we use this reasoning in real life? Do lawmakers/politicians make decisions based on this? How? (Give examples.)

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part III questions, continued

6. Discuss the issue of “paybacks.” List examples of characters who feel as though they owed another character something.

7. Why do you think some characters (like Katniss and Thresh) feel as though they “owe” someone for kindness, and others (like Peeta) never expect “payment” for their kindness shown.

8. Katniss wonders if her family will stay at home to watch the feast or go to the town square, where it will be broadcast and certainly school will be canceled so people can view it live. Where do you think her mother and sister will watch it? What does it say about their society that it is not only mandatory viewing, but worthy of canceling school for? What sort of events do we cancel school for or have a holiday break? Does this reflect our community’s priorities? Why/why not?

9. What psychological impact could the wolf mutts have on a tribute? Why? Is this worse than the physical threat? Explain.

10. Why does Katniss wait so long to kill Cato? How does she feel when she finally does?

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part III questions, continued

11. Right before the rule change is announced Katniss is looking around for a stick for Peeta's tourniquet and finds her arrow instead (page 342). **We** know why Katniss picks up the arrow, but the audience does not hear her thought process. From their viewpoint, what might it look like instead?

12. Katniss's first reaction to the second rule change (which revokes the first rule change) is to shoot Peeta when she sees his hand grabbing the knife. When she realizes that he does not intend to defend himself or kill her, she feels ashamed of her gut reaction to kill him. Do you think she could really kill him, as she almost did? Why or why not?

13. Why is the moment with the berries an act of rebellion against the Capitol?

14. How we behave when we are placed into uncomfortable or terrible situations says a lot about our character. Which tributes showed humanity toward others, showed they had good character, in the arena? Which tributes gave in to cruelty and went along with the inhumanity of the Games? How did they show their true colors?

15. When the victors greet their mentor, escort, and stylist, why do they wear the same outfit they wore when they entered the arena? How might this be perceived by the Capitol audience?

16. What will happen next? Will Katniss and Peeta begin a relationship? How will Gale react? How will their lives change?

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

END OF NOVEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - MAKING CONNECTIONS, PART I

1. Who is your favorite character in *The Hunger Games*? Why? What made you like this character?
2. Who was your least favorite character in *The Hunger Games*? Why? What did this character do to make you dislike him/her?
3. Which character reminds you of someone you know? Why? Explain why the character reminds you of that particular person.
4. Which character can you most relate to in *The Hunger Games*? Give specific examples from the novel.
5. If you could be any character in the novel, which character would you choose to be and why?
6. What quality or trait of that particular character (in #5) is one that you would like to develop within yourself? Why? How does that character demonstrate that trait/quality in the novel?
7. What happened in *The Hunger Games* that reminds you of your own life or something you have experienced? Explain by telling what happened in the book then what happened to you (or how it reminds you of something in your life).
8. What is the most important choice made by a character in the novel? Why does that character make that choice? Would you make the same choice? Why or why not.
9. Would you change the ending of *The Hunger Games*? If yes, tell your ending and why you would change it. If no, explain why the ending is perfect the way it is.
10. Which character matures the most in *The Hunger Games*? Give specific examples of how that character changes.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

END OF NOVEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - MAKING CONNECTIONS, PART 2

Quote connection: Consider the following quotes, then write how they may relate or apply to a particular character, event/situation, theme, etc..

"I have learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances." -Martha Washington

"What you really value is what you miss, not what you have."
-Jorge Luis Borges

"The world is dangerous to live in, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and let them do so." -Albert Einstein

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." -Dwight D. Eisenhower

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to my fellow-creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." -Stephen Grellet

"In a consumer society there are inevitably two kinds of slaves: the prisoners of addiction and the prisoners of envy." -Ivan Illich

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." -
Albert Einstein

"It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare." -Mark Twain

"The measure of a man is what he does with power." -Pittacus

"What's done to children, they will do to society." -Karl Menninger

"We should often be ashamed of our very best actions, if the world only saw the motives which caused them." -Francois de La Rochefoucauld

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read the quote. Then answer the following questions:

1. What does the quote mean?
2. Which does it relate to: a particular character, event/situation, theme, and/or symbol from the novel?
3. What is the connection between the quote and the character, event/situation, theme, and/or symbol? Be specific.

Read the quote. Then answer the following questions:

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PAPER SAVER HANDOUT

The following pages are the discussion questions as a handout (not a worksheet) that can be re-used for other classes. Students should write/type their answers separately or in a journal/notebook.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART I QUESTIONS

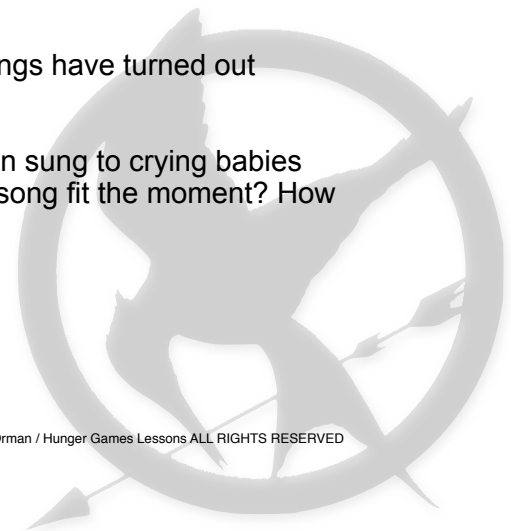
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5. Would you join an alliance or play the game on your own? Why?
6. Where are the cameras? They aren't visible to Katniss, therefore they aren't visible to the readers. Where do you think they are hidden? Or are they so high-tech that they are invisible? Elaborate.
7. What is the Capitol's attitude about living things? What about their creations, like the muttations? The Capitol people/government left the male jabberjays to die out and did not destroy the tracker jacker nests around the districts (only those near the Capitol). What does this say about the Capitol?
8. Peeta aligns with the Careers and Katniss eventually aligns with Rue. What are the benefits of alliances? What are the downfalls?
9. How do the conditions in District 11 differ from those in District 12? Explain
10. Why doesn't the Capitol want the viewers to learn about the other districts? How does it benefit the Capitol?
11. Why does Rue like mockingjays? Why does Katniss like mockingjays? How are the two girls similar to the bird?
12. Describe the Careers' survival skills. In what ways are they superior to Katniss's and the other tributes? In what ways are they lacking?
13. What does the word "rue" mean? What does it mean to "rue the day"? How is this symbolic of the events at the end of part II?
14. If Katniss had given Rue her knife when they separated, would things have turned out differently for Rue? Why or why not?
15. Analyze the meadow song Katniss sings to Rue. She says it's often sung to crying babies (think about "Rock-a-bye, Baby" or other lullabies). How does the song fit the moment? How does it relate to Rue?



THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART III QUESTIONS

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THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Part III questions, continued

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ANSWERS

to the

Discussion Questions

Written by Tracee Orman for Hunger Games Lessons

All questions and responses are written by Tracee Orman of Hunger Games Lessons, unless otherwise noted. If you quote or paraphrase any part of this in an article, review, or reference material, please cite it accordingly:

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THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

TEACHER'S GUIDE

PART I QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(Although some of these may be opinion, others do have specific answers. Even so, answers may vary from what I have.)

1. The story is set in the future, so when Katniss references her ancestors, she is referring to us. What has happened to North America? How might we have contributed to the destruction of it?

I believe this is a statement the author is making about the effects of climate change and our slow reaction to taking preventative measures. The Capitol is symbolically the U.S. in its excessive materialism and lack of care that may go into funding our wants/needs (such as stripping the coal mines, putting people's lives in dangerous and deadly situations as they have to go further down into the earth).

2. Gale makes the comment that the Capitol wants the districts to be divided, that it is to their advantage. What does he mean by this? **page 14**

Gale is implying that if there is separation of the districts, the people will always be at odds with one another, rather than directing their anger toward the true enemy, the Capitol (or government). We see this in district 12, where there is resentment between the classes: the lower class Seam workers, the merchant class business owners, the wealthier government employees, and the victors. This is a direct reference to Karl Marx's theory of a classless society in which the state is the true enemy because it represses the lower class citizens (from Encyclopedia Britannica):

classless society, in [Marxism](#), the ultimate condition of social organization, expected to occur when true [communism](#) is achieved. According to [Karl Marx](#) (1818–83), the primary function of the [state](#) is to repress the lower classes of society in the interests of the ruling class. However, after the [class struggle](#) has resulted in the victory of the [proletariat](#) and the establishment of a socialist society, there will be no further need for such a repressive institution; with the disappearance of classes, the state is expected to “wither away.”

3. Katniss lives in the “Seam” of district 12. Why do you think it is named the “Seam”? What is a seam and how might it apply to her neighborhood?

A seam has several definitions. We normally think of seam as the place in which two pieces of fabric is sewn together. But seam also has a couple of other definitions that are interesting as applied to *The Hunger Games*:

- an underground layer, as of ore or coal
- a long thin indentation or scar

A seam is also seen as something that joins things together. Obviously, the coal reference is particularly relevant. This is where the coal miners live. The other neighborhoods of District 12 are for the market owners or the wealthier residents who work Capitol jobs, like the Peacekeepers or the mayor.

I find the scar reference intriguing, though. These people are heavily scarred, both inside and out.

4. Would you volunteer for your little sister (or brother, or older sibling, or friend)? Why or why not? What does it tell you about Katniss?

Answers will vary to first part. It shows that Katniss is not only protective, but willing to die for her sister. She has unconditional love for her. It shows a strong sense of character, of selflessness. She will sacrifice her life for her sister. But would she for her mother? Contrast her relationship with her mom to that of her sister. She is like a mother to Prim, and even like a mother to her own mom. Yet she does not feel that same love for her mom. Instead she feels resentment, a sense of abandonment.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

5. Why couldn't Katniss's mother take care of Katniss or her sister Prim? If they lived somewhere other than the Seam, would things have been different for her mother?

Katniss's mother becomes deeply depressed after her husband's sudden death and cannot take care of her children. She was raised as a market-owner's daughter, so she doesn't have that mental "toughness" that the Seam people have. They have seen more tragedy and have had to deal with it more, which has actually helped them become better survivors (which is ironic, since they are usually the ones who are reaped).

If her mother was still a merchant owner, perhaps she would be able to take medicine for her illness and be able to care for her children. But sometimes it doesn't matter where you live or how much money you have--no amount will bring back her husband, the man she so deeply loved, and that sort of grief will remain with her no matter where she lived.

6. How do you feel about the victors of the Hunger Games earning free food for their fellow citizens? What problems might arise?

Since this is essentially rewarding bad behavior (rewarding kids for killing one another), it is going to reinforce the belief that killing is not so bad, and is actually good if you "win." In education, we all know the downfalls of rewarding bad behavior. The morals and ethical standards of the people fall as they become more accepting of this unethical treatment of one another. They will no longer value human life, which, in the end, could destroy them all.

7. Why doesn't Katniss want to get close to any of the tributes, including Peeta?

Katniss doesn't want to become friends with anyone because it would make it all the harder to kill them, which is what she will have to do to win the Games. The lesson here is that once we do get to know people, we understand them better, and won't want to cause them harm. We also see that even though they may look differently from us, we are more alike as humans than we think. Perhaps instead of making war on other countries, we should try to look at their perspectives and negotiate peace. Although, some people are not rational and will never try to make peace. Then what?

As the book progresses, we'll see Katniss mentally grappling with this, trying to figure out who her enemies really are.

8. Why is it ironic that Effie calls district 12 barbaric?

She is a Capitol citizen and the Games themselves are truly barbaric. Because she buys into them as forms of entertainment, she fails to see them as barbaric, and therefore labels the second class citizens as barbarians, not those who actually create the Games and keep them going.

9. Do you think it is merely coincidence that the red-headed Avox girl is serving the district 12 tributes, the nearest district from where she was captured? Could it be possible that the Capitol knows Katniss was in the woods that day? Why or why not?

Answers will vary. If it is not coincidence, then it is a sick, psychological trick they are playing on Katniss. Basically telling her: 1. we've been watching you, 2. we know you hunt illegally, 3. we know you could have helped this girl but didn't, and 4. look what we did to her, and perhaps you are next!

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

10. Compare the modern conveniences in the Capitol with the primitive living conditions of District 12. List them.

Examples of Capitol Modern Conveniences	Examples of District 12 Primitive Living Conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High-speed transportation (trains, hovercraft) -Colorful, glistening buildings -Wide-paved streets -Glass elevators that travel quickly -Food that pops up from tables -Bountiful all-you-can-eat buffets -Wardrobes at the touch of a button -Showers that can be programmed (with hot & cold water) -Mat that dries your body when you stand on it -Hair-drying/styling with one touch -Windows that zoom in on parts of the city -Food menu that allows you to whisper what you want & receive your food in less than a minute -Soft, plush bedding -High-tech forcefield surrounding top of building so anything that goes over it bounces back up -Bizarre hair styles, heavily made-up people -Surgical alterations available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Travel on foot, wagons, very few cars -Drab dingy buildings -Dirt paths or cobbled roads -Stinky old elevator in Justice building -Many residents don't use silverware -Oranges are a rarity, hot chocolate unheard of, sugar is scarce -Must hunt/gather for own food -Hand-me-down clothes -No hot water -Rough, canvas cover for a mattress -Chain-link fence with barbed wire & electrified (that sometimes works) and has holes in it

11. Why the stark contrast between the two? What other differences do you see between the Capitol and District 12?

Answers will vary. The Capitol has created this society where those living in the Capitol receive all the goods the surrounding districts provide. To keep people enslaved and dependent upon the Capitol, they create the Games, punish those who rebel, and make sure they remain uneducated and unable to communicate with one another.

Other differences include the Capitol's emphasis on entertainment rather than work/surviving. Katniss notes that if she didn't spend all her waking time trying to find food for survival, she doesn't know what she would do. She just can't imagine not having to do that.

12. How would you respond to Katniss's private session if you were a Gamemaker? Why?

Answers will vary.

13. Why does Haymitch have difficulty coaching Katniss for her interview? How would you coach her if you were him?

Haymitch struggles to find a persona that Katniss can pull off. She is angry about being there, about the Capitol treating them as pawns for their entertainment, and she in no way wants to open up to them. It is obvious she does not see that she could use the interview as a strategy to win over the audience. She has too much hatred and bitterness coursing through her.

Answers will vary on how they would coach Katniss.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

14. Describe Caesar Flickerman. Does he remind you of any current TV personalities or talk show hosts?

Caesar is an older man (he's been hosting for 40 years), but does not look aged because of the surgical alterations. His face is covered in white makeup, with dyed hair (a different color each year).

Answers may vary. He may remind them of The Joker with his white face, but I always pictured Dick Clark (not because of his face/hair, but because for so long he was ageless hosting American Bandstand and the New Year's Eve shows).

15. What do you think Peeta's motivation is with his announcement at the end of part 1?

Answers will vary.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART II QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Peeta says that he doesn't want to lose himself once the Games begin and that he wants to prove he's not just a "piece in their Games." What does he mean by this? **pages 141-142**

First part: Peeta does not want to turn into some sort of killing machine or monster; he wants to stay true to himself, which is a kind, loving, caring human being. But he knows that given the environment they are going in to, he will have to defend himself, thereby killing others.

Second part: He does not want to be manipulated by the Capitol, or anyone else, into playing these Games--doing things to give the audience a show or gain sponsors. He doesn't want to partake in this manipulation of the audience because he knows that is what they want all the tributes to do so they can put on a good show. It's the reason they're given make-overs and put in elaborate costumes--it's all a show. He does not want to become that in the arena. he wants to die doing something dignified and true to himself.

Katniss has no idea what he means, and she's a little offended by his self-righteousness. She just wants to win, and she doesn't see the manipulation of the audience as a problem. She's been acting since she stepped onto the stage to take Prim's place, whereas Peeta let his emotions show. Eventually, though, she will understand his meaning.

2. What is the purpose of a district token? Can you think of any events in real life where people might bring a token with them? Explain.

In part 1, Madge tells Katniss, "They let you wear one thing from your district in the arena. One thing to remind you of home." She also makes Katniss promise to wear it in the arena. (p. 38) It acts as sort of a reminder of home, a representation of your district, and/or a good luck charm.

People carry good luck charms for many things - professional athletes or performers, or anyone competing in an event. I remember watching game shows as a child and enjoying seeing the different good luck tokens people would bring on "The Price is Right" or "Wheel of Fortune." On BINGO nights at church, my siblings and I would each have our own good luck tokens on display above our BINGO card. (Mine was a shiny, polished black rock that had flecks of gold, silver, and deep blue. I have no idea what happened to that rock or even what kind it actually was, but I always took it with me and even to school when I needed "luck." I must have forgotten about it or lost it by the time I was in 5th grade, though. Not my best year in school! LOL)

3. How will the Capitol and audience be able to locate the tributes in the arena? What does this remind you of?

The have tracking devices inserted (shot) into their arms so they can keep tabs on their whereabouts. It may remind students of ankle bands worn by criminals who are on home arrest or dogs/pets who have microchips inserted in case they run away, and even cows, livestock, that we mark to keep track of before slaughter. We don't track people unless they are criminals, so the idea of it is an indication that these tributes are, again, not really human, or not worthy of being treated the same as a Capitol citizen.

4. How do you feel about Capitol residents touring the past arenas? How does it make Katniss feel? Can you think of places that people vacation to that might be similar to the Hunger Games arenas? Why do people visit them? Are we any different than the Capitol residents in this regard? Why or why not?

Katniss uses sarcasm on page 145, indicating she does not think of these past arenas as historical sites/vacation destinations as very entertaining at all. For her, it's another way to treat the whole thing as just a show, not real life. And certainly not about those who have died.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Yet, we practice this all the time in the real world: battle fields from the Civil War and other conflicts, Pearl Harbor, Civil War Reenactments. Why do we do this? Most places are somber, are for remembering those who lost their lives. But aren't some a form of entertainment, as well? Here's a description of one event from [The Civil War Reenactment Headquarters website](#):

Civil War Event

Appomattox, VA

October 22, 2011

www.nps.gov/apco

Appomattox Court House presents Joel Sweeney banjo concert, horse-drawn wagon ride, cavalry demonstration, Civil War era children's games & period food, African-American exhibit, chaplain exhibit, artillery demonstration, Civil War medicine exhibit, and extra fun: Outdoor Drama - Secret Service presented by the Appomattox Courthouse Theater starts at 6:00 p.m. Bring your own chair or blanket.

This [same website](#) explains why people reenact the Civil War:

Civil War Reenactment is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States, and with good reason. Not only does it reinforce our sense of pride in our heritage, but it's something in which the entire family can participate. It's educational and, finally, it's a great way to escape the worries of today and "pretend" in the great outdoors.

I do understand that showing these events is a way to prevent them from ever happening again. To educate our youth that war is not the solution to our problems. But, I do not think this is the message that is being transmitted loud and clear. It seems as though it IS a form of entertainment. *Hey, let's go pretend to shoot some Yankees! (Or Confederates! depending on which side of the Mason-Dixon you were on.)*

To me, we should not be PROUD of this time in our history. It should make us feel ASHAMED. The event should not be a fun-filled family event. The events should sicken us and make us feel so terrible that we never, ever, ever want to see that kind of suffering, pain, killing, and conflict ever again. But when I saw one in Virginia while chaperoning a D.C. trip of 8th graders, the comments from the kids were, "Cool! I want to shoot that gun!" I had to walk away from the event. I don't think the organizers meant for that type of reaction, but that's what they got.

I think the author is making a serious statement that we need to look at what we value in our society as far as entertainment. Why don't we have Vietnam Reenactments? Reenactments of 9-11? Reenact the invasion of Baghdad!? It would seem very sick, right? But how are the current reenactments any different? Who is to say in 20-30 years we won't have those types of reenactments? Are we then breeding a new generation of kids who see war as a form of entertainment?

5. Would you join an alliance or play the game on your own? Why? **Answers will vary.**
6. Where are the cameras? They aren't visible to Katniss, therefore they aren't visible to the readers. Where do you think they are hidden? Or are they so high-tech that they are invisible? Elaborate.

Answers will vary. Here is Stephen King's take on the absence of cameras (from [EW.com September. 08. 2008](#):

Balancing off the efficiency are displays of authorial laziness that kids will accept more readily than adults.

When Katniss needs burn cream or medicine for Peeta, whom she more or less babysits during the second half of the book, the stuff floats down from the sky on silver parachutes. And although the bloody action in the arena is televised by multiple cameras, Collins never mentions Katniss seeing one.

I honestly don't find it lazy on the author as King states. In fact, he gives it an overall good review because it's what made me decide to pre-order it on Amazon in the first place. But, why don't we see these cameras? I guess the movie will probably explain this for us.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

7. What is the Capitol's attitude about living things? What about their creations, like the muttations? The Capitol people/government left the male jabberjays to die out and did not destroy the tracker jacker nests around the districts (only those near the Capitol). What does this say about the Capitol?

The Capitol has little respect for any living things, even those creatures they created themselves. This could be a statement the author is making about cloning--that our lack of respect for life will come back to bite us. Even cloned beings are living things, but perhaps we shouldn't mess with Mother Nature at all.

The Capitol had no regard for the jabberjays, which is why the mockingjay is such an important symbol--it was created out of their disregard, and it will (perhaps) come back to eventually destroy them.

Leaving the trackerjacker nests near the districts tells us, once again, that they have little regard for human life outside the Capitol. It also tells us that they were willing to hold on to the tracker jackers because they could still use them as a weapon, even though they are not at war. Since the jabberjays were now useless, they no longer cared about them.

8. Peeta aligns with the Careers and Katniss eventually aligns with Rue. What are the benefits of alliances? What are the downfalls?

Working as a team or group has benefits: more of you to hunt, more can watch your back or look out for you, you can team up against an opponent, there is more safety in numbers, your opponents fear the group (intimidation factor).

Downfalls include: may not always trust your allies since they could turn on you or lead you astray, eventually you'll have to abandon the alliance, if you have a weaker ally it makes you weaker, large groups are easy targets--cannot hide as well.

9. How do the conditions in District 11 differ from those in District 12? Explain.

I used a Venn diagram activity [found here](#) (free download) for this question. You can have your students do that or just have them list.

District 11: Industry is agriculture, have orchards, public whippings are common, mayor is strict, fed better during harvest so they keep producing, do not attend school during harvest, everyone works (age/mentality does not factor in), Peacekeepers are willing to kill mentally-challenged child to maintain rules/order.

Both: Neither are allowed to keep any of the goods they find/produce (can't eat food they harvest in 11, can't keep coal they mine in 12), both districts have a mayor and Peacekeepers, both have starving/oppressed people, both work to provide for the people of the Capitol.

District 12: Peacekeepers allow illegal activities, such as hunting (because they enjoy the meat themselves), public whippings are uncommon, Mayor Undersee does not like public whippings (infer he is kind-hearted), they are "least prestigious, poorest, most ridiculed" district, must be adult to work in the coal mines

[Perhaps students will infer that either district 11's Peacekeepers are not as hungry--or they are better fed--than district 12's OR that the food district 11 produces is too precious to the country of Panem, therefore, they must regulate it more harshly. They may also come to the conclusion that the mayor has a lot to do with how people are disciplined; Mayor Undersee is less strict, so rules are more lax.]

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

10. Why doesn't the Capitol want the viewers to learn about the other districts? How does it benefit the Capitol?

If the districts learned about one another, they would become more educated and possibly find ways to communicate with one another, therefore setting up the possibility of another rebellion. Any sort of education for the districts will be detrimental to the Capitol because the smarter a society is, the more likely they will question policies and practices. Which is why they keep the learning in schools focused on their district industry--the one area where they want them to excel because they are working for the Capitol.

11. Why does Rue like mockingjays? Why does Katniss like mockingjays? How are the two girls similar to the bird?

Rue calls them her special friends; she sings to them to communicate a message to the rest of the workers that it's quitting time. They obviously like her voice or they wouldn't carry her song. Katniss likes them because they remind her of her father and his beautiful voice.

Rue is like a mockingjay because she is small and flies from tree to tree. She loves music.

Katniss used to love music and she finds comfort in the bird--it reminds her of her father, like sort of a protection and having a piece of him with her (p. 43-44). (Which is odd when she tells Rue she can have it, that it has more meaning for Rue. Isn't her father meaningful? Or is she trying to forget the pain she still feels?)

Both are like mockingjays because they both are oldest siblings who are protective of their younger siblings. Rue remarks that mockingjays can be dangerous if you get too near their nests, but who could blame them? This is perhaps foreshadowing Katniss killing the District 1 boy, who gets too close to her "nest" (Rue), and ultimately winning for her sister Prim.

12. Describe the Careers' survival skills. In what ways are they superior to Katniss's and the other tributes? In what ways are they lacking?

The Careers are masters in weaponry. They could easily kill other tributes and steal those tributes supplies. They were able to secure alliances in order to get all the goods at the feast. Their superior strength is an asset at the Cornucopia. But it is implied that they would be unable to scavenge or gather their own food or hunt animals very well. When the supplies are gone, they won't last long.

13. What does the word "rue" mean? What does it mean to "rue the day"? How is this symbolic of Rue's death?

Rue means regret or remorse and to "rue the day" means that the person will one day bitterly regret what they have done.

It is symbolic because Rue's death was not accidental. Even though the district 1 boy kills her, he is doing so because he is forced to kill by the Capitol. It is the Capitol who will rue the day for their actions against these kids. That they will wish they would have never created the Games.

Katniss feels remorse for killing the district 1 boy, even though he is supposed to be her enemy. But as the Games continue, she is realizing more and more that the tributes are not her enemy--the Capitol is.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

14. If Katniss had given Rue her knife when they separated, would things have turned out differently for Rue? Why or why not?

Answers will vary. It seems plausible that Rue would have been able to get out of the net if she had a knife. But how long was she netted? The time lapse in these chapters is very confusing.

It takes Katniss hours to get near the Career's camp from where she and Rue were setting up the first two distraction fires, with Katniss taking off for the Career's camp after setting up the second one. Therefore, the second fire must be hours away from the Careers, right? When Rue sets the first fire, Katniss is there observing the Career's camp, so we know that Rue had time in those hours to set up the wood for the third fire and get back to the first fire to light it. The Careers see the smoke and head off toward it. Katniss says she waits a half hour before she moves in. She observes Foxface stealing supplies, then the second fire is lit. So now we know the first and second fire are only about a half-hour to 40 minutes apart. And the third fire has to be less than 30-minutes to an hour, tops, from the second in order for Rue to have made it back to light the first in the time it took Katniss to get to the Career camp.

Even so, we know at least 40 minutes or perhaps even an hour has passed since the Careers left. So here's what I wonder first: how did they make it back to camp so quickly after the explosion?

My second question: Rue never makes it to light the third fire. Is she already netted? It is not until the following day that Katniss goes looking and sees that the third fire was never lit. So something kept her from it. Then we learn she was trapped in a net. Therefore, it seems as though the knife would have saved her life.

But, many of my students disagree. They thought she was just fine and perhaps hiding out because the Careers were close (even though I pointed out that they weren't close to her - they went back to camp, then back out hunting--plenty of time for her to go 30-40 min. to the third fire, right?). They believe since she was singing her 4 notes, that she was fine and was not netted until we hear her screams. This does make sense, but then it still leaves the question: what was keeping her from lighting that last fire the previous day?

So I still maintain she was netted earlier, but gave the call to let Katniss know where she was and she was alive (*on page 213 she teaches Katniss the 4-note call to let her "...know I'm okay, only I can't get back right away."* A net would keep her from reaching the rendezvous point, right?). Then she screams when she sees the boy coming toward her.

Perhaps the movie will make more sense of this part for us.

15. Analyze the meadow song Katniss sings to Rue. She says it's often sung to crying babies (think about "Rock-a-bye, Baby" or other lullabies). How does the song fit the moment? How does it relate to Rue?

Answers will vary. It is a lullaby that promises better days; for Rue, her life was one of suffering in District 11 and now the arena, so she will be resting peacefully in death. She won't ever have to worry about taking care of her siblings, working so hard, or worrying about how to find food ever again.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PART III QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Katniss's first reaction when she hears the news about the rule change is to call out Peeta's name, despite the dangers of alerting the tributes to her presence. Our first reactions are usually the truest; so how does Katniss really feel about Peeta? Is it true that she thinks she must seek him out because no one in district 12 would forgive her. Or is there more to it? **page 247**

Answers will vary, but they should be able to infer from her first reaction that she does, indeed, care for Peeta. Whether it is because she feels as though she owes him for her life is a possibility. But perhaps she does, deep down, truly love him.

2. Katniss is constantly thinking about how the audience is perceiving her, whereas Peeta (we think, anyway) just says what he feels. Why?

Answers will vary. One thing I wanted my students to think about (other than the reasons we discussed before about Katniss trying to make herself look strong for sponsors) is that Katniss is looking at things as though she is going to be a victor and what impact her words or actions will have on those she loves. She's careful not to admit she hunts illegally when she tells the story about getting Prim's goat. She knows it could get her and Gale in trouble.

Yet, Peeta does not censor his emotions. He lives as though each day could be his last. It could be because Peeta has not partaken in illegal activities, therefore has nothing to hide. Yet, he admits his father was in love with her mother, so that had to have an impact back home. His mother would surely make his father pay for that. Is it that Katniss cares more about her loved ones back home to look out for them even in the arena? I think Peeta is still a loving, caring person, so I think this is proof that Peeta's feelings for her are genuine and he is truly willing to die for her because he is not concerned about being punished for what he says in the arena--he is still staying true to himself and speaking the truth. (And isn't it ironic that Katniss is the one who can't trust him and thinks he is such a good liar?)

3. Why is Katniss willing to go to the feast to get the medicine for Peeta? **page 276**

Answers may vary. This may be the point where Katniss realizes she doesn't want him to die, that she does love him. She is now willing to give her life so he can live. She may be realizing that he is a truly good person and she doesn't feel as though she, herself, is. Or perhaps she is, again, concerned that the audience would never forgive her if she let Peeta die without trying. In the end, I think she still feels as though she owes him, and this way she can try to even up the score. Though I do believe she cares a lot for him, she just hasn't quite realized it yet.

4. In order to go to the feast, Katniss must drug Peeta. Of course, we know it's never a good idea to drug your friends. Is this an exception? Does it make the act morally acceptable? Why or why not.

Answers will vary. Most of my students justify it and say they would do the same thing.

5. Further discuss the moral dilemma Katniss faces with saving Peeta's life with the phrase: "The end justifies the means." She reasons that the means to get the medicine (knocking Peeta out) justifies the end result (saving his life). How do we use this reasoning in real life? Do lawmakers/politicians make decisions based on this? How? (Give examples.)

I like to use that phrase and talk a little bit about *The Prince* by Niccolo Machiavelli, who wrote about corruption in politics/the church during the Renaissance. It was used as a way to justify doing bad things if it produces a good result. Here is a summary from [BookRags](#):

Regarding how a prince should rule and act, Machiavelli states that in an ideal world, it is virtuous for a prince to be good. But in reality, princes who distance themselves from ethical concerns and do whatever it takes for the benefit of their states rule best. Therefore, it is better to be parsimonious than generous, cruel than loving, crafty than

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

honest. Machiavelli's general rule is to be as good as circumstances allow, but be willing to resort to any means necessary for the good of the state.

So I start out with Katniss's act as an example, then ask them about Robin Hood, who stole from the rich to give to the poor. Then I bring up financial institutions who will give a loan to people who can't afford it so they can have a home (making them money, but perhaps causing the people to eventually go bankrupt), and also ask about Hitler's plan to produce a superior race, which in his demented mind he justified killing millions of people...and so many went along with it.

Finally, the last thing I ask is about war (and how politicians will use this to convince people war is necessary). Is killing someone, even an innocent civilian, worth the price for ultimate peace? What if that innocent casualty was your loved one? Would it still make it okay? Because the series is ultimately a war story, I think it is good for them to think about these deeper issues. I also ask them if we justify these little things (like drugging someone), what is to stop us from doing bigger things in the future that could turn out poorly? What is Katniss dies at the feast? Peeta wakes up groggy from being drugged and all alone. Was it worth it? What if the end result does not turn out like we planned? Is it still moral/ethical?

6. Discuss the issue of "paybacks." List examples of characters who feel as though they owed another character something. **pages 292-293**

-Katniss feels indebted to Peeta because he gave her bread when they were 11.
-District 11 felt they owed Katniss for her treatment and respect for Rue, so they gave her the bread.
-Thresh felt as though he owed Katniss for becoming allies with Rue, so he spared her life.
-In a way, Peeta's love for Katniss makes him feel as though he should give his own life so she can win.

7. Why do you think some characters (like Katniss and Thresh) feel as though they "owe" someone for kindness, and others (like Peeta) never expect "payment" for their kindness shown.

Thresh and Katniss most likely have very similar upbringings (working class) in which they struggled more than the merchant class, so when someone is given something for nothing it is seen as a debt that must be paid back. Yet, Katniss, most likely, would not make Prim pay her back for sacrificing her life for Prim. So it is most likely the fact that perhaps because Katniss and Thresh have had to rely on others (in some ways) for survival that they feel this strong sense of wanting to do the same for someone so they can feel worthy as people--so they can feel as though they've contributed in a positive way.

Peeta expects nothing in return for his kindness to Katniss. This is probably because he truly loves her. Katniss truly loves Prim, but she does not make the connection that it is love that might be the factor in not owing "paybacks."

She also doesn't understand that there are people in the world who would do unlimited good deeds and kind acts for others just because they are good people. Peeta is one of them. And even though she cannot recognize it yet in her mother, we will later find that Mrs. Everdeen is also a giving person who expects nothing in return for her medical services (in *Catching Fire*).

8. Katniss wonders if her family will stay at home to watch the feast or go to the town square, where it will be broadcast and certainly school will be canceled so people can view it live. Where do you think her mother and sister will watch it? What does it say about their society that it is not only mandatory viewing, but worthy of canceling school for? What sort of events do we cancel school for or have a holiday break? Does this reflect our community's priorities? Why/why not?

Answers will vary (perhaps when the movie comes out we'll see what they do at home). It reflects that the Capitol not only likes to thrust its power upon the districts, but is sadistic, making them watch their children die publicly.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Answers will vary for your school; we cancel school for snow/severe cold and before we had air conditioning, severe heat. It shows we value students' safety in severe weather. We also holiday for Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, winter (Christmas), New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, President's Day, Good Friday, and spring break. We used to have the day off for Casimir Pulaski Day in March, but our district no longer releases for that day. Opinions may vary as to what we value by taking these days off. It is clear we are biased toward Christian holidays (Christmas, Good Friday, day after Easter) because they are the only days that are religious holidays taken off.

9. What psychological impact could the wolf mutts have on a tribute? Why? Is this worse than the physical threat? Explain.

The psychological impact of having to kill their peers is bad enough, but now seeing these vicious beasts as those tributes--even those who you allied with--trying to kill you and being forced to defend yourself against them is sick and twisted. Obviously, seeing their eyes will make you vulnerable, more susceptible to their attacks. Being mauled by your district mate? Imagine Cato's demise at the hands (paws, or claws) of Clove's wolf mutt. He obviously had feelings for her, as shown in his grief over her death. Imagine if Katniss had to face Rue's wolf. Would she be able to kill it? She would forever be haunted by Rue's eyes, knowing she killed them.

The tracker jackers are another example of using psychological warfare: causing hallucinations of your worst fears. Reliving those nightmares again and again.

Answers will vary regarding which is worse. Some may say physical injuries heal, whereas psychological injuries are much tougher to get over.

10. Why does Katniss wait so long to kill Cato? How does she feel when she finally does? pages 339-341

Katniss doesn't have any arrows left to kill him, so she takes the chance that the mutts will do it for them. Plus, he isn't in a position where she can see him--they are on top of the cornucopia and he is inside it. It isn't until he is closer to the opening that she could even shoot him. But after hours of torture, Cato is still alive and practically begging for mercy--to be killed to put him out of his misery. He moves closer to the opening. Katniss and Peeta both realize that the right thing to do is kill him to ease his pain. They see it as an act of mercy, not vengeance, so there is no remorse with his death.

11. Right before the rule change is announced Katniss is looking around for a stick for Peeta's tourniquet and finds her arrow instead (page 342). We know why Katniss picks up the arrow, but the audience does not hear her thought process. From their viewpoint, what might it look like instead?

It definitely does NOT look like a girl madly in love, that's for sure. Why would she need an arrow? They are the only two left in the arena. They have no idea she is looking for something to stop his blood flow, so it would seem very curious for her to pick up the arrow. This is further reinforced when she pulls the arrow on him in the next scene. Obviously a girl in love would never react like that.

12. Katniss's first reaction to the second rule change (which revokes the first rule change) is to shoot Peeta so she can be the winner. When she realizes that he does not intend to defend himself, she feels ashamed of her gut reaction to kill him. Do you think she could really kill him, as she almost did? Why or why not? Answers will vary; page 343 - It is obvious this reaction is not of someone who is madly in love. Most people in love would do what Peeta did: drop their weapons immediately.

Answers will vary. Some may say it is in her nature, as a hunter, to defend herself. Others may say that somewhere inside her she cares about him and could never do it.

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

13. Why is the moment with the berries an act of rebellion against the Capitol? **page 344**

The act of killing themselves so the Capitol will have no victor (i.e. no victory tour, no gala events, no recap interviews, no celebrations) is an act of rebellion because they are not following the rules of the Games. They feel no victor is better than one, so they are placing death as more desirable than life as a lone victor. That is a slap in President Snow's face (to say they'd rather die than live as his victor).

Also, they are dictating how the Games will end, not the Capitol (or Gamemakers). Tributes are not supposed to have any power in determining how it plays out.

14. How we behave when we are placed into uncomfortable or terrible situations says a lot about our character. Which tributes showed humanity toward others, showed they had good character, in the arena? Which tributes gave in to cruelty and went along with the inhumanity of the Games? How did they show their true colors?

(This question is also asked in the part 2 test) Answers may vary some:

Those who have shown humanity:

- Peeta showing Katniss humanity without ever knowing her (giving her the bread, protecting her in the Games)
- Katniss & Rue with mutual humanity toward one another (Rue warning Katniss of tracker jacker nest, becoming allies, sharing their supplies, Katniss singing to Rue)
- District 11 people showing humanity to Katniss with gift of bread
- Katniss saving Peeta's life by getting medicine at feast
- Thresh by sparing Katniss's life at the feast & forcing Cato to follow him instead of her (by taking his pack; see questionable acts)
- Katniss shooting Cato in his hand to save Peeta (though she shows inhumanity toward Cato in this respect)
- Katniss putting Cato out of his misery
- Peeta willing to give his life (again) for Katniss (by throwing his knife in the lake)
- Haymitch by not allowing Capitol doctors to perform plastic surgery (breast implants) on Katniss
- Cinna tries to help Katniss appear younger, more innocent looking (and makes the dress design so it doesn't emphasize the breast padding)

Those who have behaved inhumanely/showed inhumanity:

- Capitol punishing citizens with the Hunger Games
- Capitol/Working conditions in districts (especially 11, as described by Rue)
- Cato snapping district 3 boy's neck
- District 1 boy killing Rue
- District 11 Peacekeepers
- Capitol making the citizens watch the Hunger Games
- Careers in how they hunt the other tributes (playing offense, rather than defense)
- Cato using Peeta as a human shield/protection from Katniss
- President Snow/Capitol making victor(s) watch recaps of the Games

Questionable acts:

- Haymitch sending Katniss sleep syrup: though it was to knock Peeta out so Katniss could get the life saving medicine, it was still being used to drug him (without his consent)
- Thresh taking Cato's pack at the feast, knowing it would draw Cato away from Katniss and to him for a showdown

Some "kills" were out of self-defense, defending someone else, or accidental. Does this make them any less evil?

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Peeta killing the District 8 girl (the one who started the fire): it was done, ultimately, to protect Katniss, but it is still an act of evil. Did he kill tributes at the blood bath?
- Katniss killing district 1 boy, who killed Rue
- Thresh killing Clove, who was about to kill Katniss
- Peeta killing Foxface (really, he is not at fault for her eating the berries, since he was going to eat them and did not set them out to lure her to them.)

15. When the victors greet their mentor, escort, and stylist, why do they wear the same outfit they wore when they entered the arena? How might this be perceived by the Capitol audience?

The victors dress in the same outfit to provide the illusion that the Games were just entertainment, rather than a perverse act of inhumanity.

It further reinforces (in the minds of the Capitol audience) that the Games are somehow not quite real, or that the tributes are not really human. That this is all just “entertainment.” When they see the tributes live (in person) during the Opening Ceremony and the interviews, they look perfect. By wearing the same outfit when they greet their prep team, they look like they are good as new, no harm done. As if they just left the arena and it was all an act, an illusion, just a TV show--not really “real.”

Note: In chapter 26 on page 350 Katniss remarks, “There’s usually a lag of a few days between the end of competition and the presentation of the victor so that they can put the starving, wounded, mess of a person back together again.” On page 351 Katniss has to dress in her arena outfit to greet her team for the first time since the Games ended.

16. What will happen next? Will Katniss and Peeta begin a relationship? How will Gale react? How will their lives change?

Answers will vary.

HUNGER GAMES LESSONS

ONLINE CONNECTIONS

I began a weekly series on my blog called “Things that make me go hmm...” and feature different parts of the book and questions that seem unanswered after reading all three novels. Or just things I’m curious about. You can check them out & use them with your students. There are some teachers who have had their students comment on the threads, as well. You are welcome to have yours do the same, if you like!

<http://www.hungergameslessons.com/2011/11/things-that-make-me-go-hmmm-feast.html>

<http://www.hungergameslessons.com/2011/10/things-that-make-me-go-hmmm-part-1.html>

A search on my blog to get the latest entries:

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THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ANSWERS FOR “Making Connections”

Pages 11-13: The “Making Connections” answers will vary for each student. These are great for oral discussions or reflective questions after reading the novel. I cannot possibly predict what students would share for the personal connections.

For the quote connections, answers, again, will vary. Here are some suggestions, but these do not encompass a fraction of the responses you may get:

"I have learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances." -Martha Washington **Katniss's mother goes into a deep depression after her husband dies; Katniss has to become head of the household. She can remain bitter and angry at her mother for their circumstance, or have a more positive attitude (like Prim) to make life more bearable. Peeta looks at the Games as a way to become close to the girl he has loved all these years: looking at the positive side.**

"What you really value is what you miss, not what you have."

-Jorge Luis Borges **Katniss realizes how much she has missed her mother's touch and home in chapter 22. We see what she values most, but has been unwilling to let her feelings show about her mother because her bitterness has stood in the way.**

"The world is dangerous to live in, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and let them do so." -Albert Einstein **The people of the districts have been unable to rebel since The Dark Days, and allow these atrocities to take place. They allow it out of fear, knowing they will lose their own lives if they stick up for a loved one or even a stranger who is being mistreated. But the citizens of 12 give Katniss the silent salute, telling her that what she is doing for her sister is one step in the right direction. Katniss avenges Rue's death by killing the District 1 boy and treating Rue's death with respect and dignity, and is rewarded with bread by District 11, who makes a statement that they have not overlooked her thoughtfulness nor turn a blind eye to the injustice of the Games. Thresh confronts Clove about the atrocities the Careers unleash in the arena - he voices his opinion that what they are doing is wrong, then he lets Katniss go. Katniss won't let the Gamemakers force her to kill Peeta, and decides she'd rather kill herself than commit that act of evil.**

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." -Dwight D. Eisenhower **All the money collected from sponsors to pay for overpriced gifts in the arena surely ends up in the pockets of the Capitol citizens in some way, rather than going to the district citizens. Imagine how many mouths could be fed with that money. (We have the power to end world hunger right now with the exorbitant amount of money that is spent/made each day. But we don't. Because our society believes socialism is evil; people are not deserving unless they work hard for it. But many people work extremely hard and will never make more than \$20,000 year - below poverty level. Teaching salaries are an indication of this.)**

"I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to my fellow-creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." -Stephen Grellet **The question about the tributes who act humanely or inhumane goes with this quote.**

"In a consumer society there are inevitably two kinds of slaves: the prisoners of addiction and the prisoners of envy." -Ivan Illich **In the arena, we see the Careers as those who would be addicted to the consumer goods (the supplies) and through their alliance, they ensure they will get their hands on them first. The other tributes would be prisoners of envy, like Foxface, who must steal from the Careers for food, or even Peeta, who joins the Careers as a way to save Katniss, but knows he would not survive out on his own. Both types are going to be prisoners because they rely on consumer goods for survival. Tributes like Thresh and Katniss will be able to survive on their own because they are not reliant on consumer goods.**

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." -Albert Einstein **Katniss relies on nature for signals (the bird call when a hovercraft is near) and knowing how to hunt forces her to be especially observant of animals. She also was able to feed her family by looking deeply into the plants they could eat, which her father wrote down. Her mother was particularly observant of plants for medicinal purposes. Katniss is more alive, more herself, when she is out in the woods. We have a lot to learn about nature and, therefore, learn more about ourselves in the process.**

THE HUNGER GAMES DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

"It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare." -Mark Twain **Look at the courageousness the Careers exhibit physically; more standing up for others or doing the right thing is much, much harder. Thresh is a character who exhibits both: true physical courage and moral courage.**

"The measure of a man is what he does with power." -Pittacus **You can look at individual characters to make this commentary, or at the society in general. Mayor Undersee has the power to be as fierce or harsh as the district 11 mayor, but he isn't. Katniss remarks he doesn't like public whippings. We would measure Mayor Undersee as a more compassionate, caring human being than the District 11 mayor. President Snow has the power to end the Games, but he continues them. Thresh has the power to kill everyone in the arena, but he only kills Clove. (Perhaps more, but somehow I don't believe he does kill anyone else. It's just not in his character.) The Gamemakers have the power to make the Games less barbaric, sadistic. The only act of mercy is at the very end by not allowing Katniss and Peeta to both die, but it's for their own selfish reasons of needing a Victor for publicity shoots (to make more Capitol money).**

"What's done to children, they will do to society." -Karl Menninger **The Capitol citizens/children are examples of being products of their upbringing: they do not know any better than to think of the Games as pure entertainment and of the tributes as "pets" or nonhumans or just celebrities to fawn over, then forget. The learn this from their parents and the society in which they are raised (this is addressed further in Catching Fire). The Careers are also examples, training for the Games at a young age. It's their parents, the adults, who should know better, but they, too, were products of their upbringing. The cycle must be stopped in order for change to take place.**

"We should often be ashamed of our very best actions, if the world only saw the motives which caused them." -Francois de La Rochefoucauld **We often do not have the best intentions, even when we do something great. Katniss chooses to go look for Peeta because she knows her district would never forgive her if she didn't. Not the best intention. She goes to the feast to get the medicine, again for the same reason, but also because she does not want to be alone. She kisses Peeta not because she loves him, but for the audience, to ensure sponsors; she opens up to him and gets him to reveal when he first loved her not because she's interested in that information, but so they can get food from a sponsor.**

EXTENDED ACTIVITIES

Optional writing assignment: Use the reflective/connections questions as a prompt for an essay concluding the novel.

The quotes are great for group work: pair or group students and have them select a quote to discuss as a group; then the group shares with the class.

Please see the [Hunger Games Chapter Check Quizzes](#) for more chapter-by-chapter questions.

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