

# THE HUNGER GAMES

## MEANING OF PANEM



**CREATED BY TRACEE ORMAN**

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**All references to the novel are referring to the following edition(s):**

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# TEACHER'S KEY

## Meaning of PANEM answers

**1. PANEM in Latin is panem et circenses** (If they come up with the Phillippine Association of Northeastern Michigan, they've found the wrong meaning!)

**2. Panem means “bread and circuses.”**

**3. Answers may vary slightly**, but they should explain that the phrase “bread and circuses” was used to describe a political strategy in which the rulers provided provisions (bread) and entertainment (circuses) to keep the people content and appeased. (They may also mention the phrase was coined by the poet Juvenal circa 100 C.E. and instigated by the Roman politician Gaius Sempronius Gracchus in 123 B.C.E.)

**4. Answers may vary slightly**, but students should be able to make the connection between the Roman politicians using free bread and entertainment to appease people & President Snow using not only tesserae but Victor's winnings as representing the free bread and the Hunger Games representing the entertainment. They could go further in depth with the injustice of the Romans using slaves, criminals, foreigners, etc. against wild animals in the “circuses” with thousands of lives lost for entertainment purposes. Then they should make the connection of the injustice of President Snow with the Hunger Games for killing innocent children year after year for the Capitol citizen's entertainment.

### Further Discussion:

**-Is Suzanne Collins foreshadowing anything with this name?**

**- What happened to Rome?**

**-Which character is linked to bread? (Peeta as the baker's son & giving Katniss the bread that saved her life.)**

**-How is the Capitol like a circus? Can you find references in the book to suggest this?**

### From Merriam-Webster's Dictionary online resource:

Main Entry: **pa-nem et cir-cen-ses**

Pronunciation: \ˈpā-nem-et-kir-ˈkān-sās\

Function: foreign term

Etymology: Latin

: **bread and circuses** : provision of the means of life and recreation by government to appease discontent

### From Dictionary.com, word origin:

**panem et circenses**

1787, L., lit. “**bread and circuses**,” supposedly coined by Juvenal, the cynical formula of the Roman emperors for keeping the masses content with ample food and entertainment.

### **Sources Used:**

“panem et circenses.” Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 9 February 2010

<[http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/panem\\_et\\_circenses](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/panem_et_circenses)>

“panem et circenses.” Online Etymology Dictionary. Douglas Harper, Historian. 09 Feb. 2010.

<Dictionary.com [http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/panem\\_et\\_circenses](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/panem_et_circenses)>.

“Panem et Circuses.” Capitulum.org. Comune di Roma. Microsoft. 1999

<[Capitolium.org](http://Capitolium.org) - Imperial Fora Official Website - Rome, Italy>

# What's In a Name?

Research other names in the novels and make additional connections. You'll be surprised how much you'll learn! Use the organizer below to chart your findings.

Name	Literal Meaning and Origin of Name	Connection to <i>The Hunger Games</i> Trilogy

# Teacher's Guide

## Character Names and their Meanings (From *Hunger Games* & *Catching Fire*)

Information from the fan website: [Quarter Quell - Extras](http://QuarterQuell-Extras.com) (QuarterQuell.webs.com)  
written by Bethany S. and Stefanie K., 2009

I added notes to some sections because there were some things I wanted to add. These are shown after the original text in brackets (and bolded & in green), like this. So MY NOTES are in green, Bethany & Stefanie's are in black.

We all know that Katniss and Prim were named after plants (Katniss being a root found in wet, muddy areas and Primrose being a flower) but what about the rest of the people in the story? Many of the names used in *The Hunger Games* derive from the Latin, Greek and Roman languages and more and some of the meanings, matched with respective characters, may shock you. Thanks to member "[mlwl](#)" for the idea and kickstart of this page.

I have reorganized this list from the original on the website. It is divided into characters introduced in *The Hunger Games* (THG) and characters introduced in *Catching Fire* (CF).

### THE HUNGER GAMES CHARACTERS

**Katniss** is not only a plant, but was commonly used as a *broadleaf arrowhead* for Native American Indians. [My Notes: Katniss symbolizes survival--her father tells her as long as she can find herself--which she takes literally as the katniss root/plant--she will survive. But figuratively, the statement has even more symbolism. The arrowhead shape is symbolic of her archery skills--which have allowed her to survive. She also has to examine what type of person she really is as she goes into the Games. It is all so fake and she "acts" for the camera. At the end of THG, she's confused with her identity. Throughout CF, she struggles with it, and at the end of CF, she begins to see who she really is. This will most likely be explored and resolved in *Mockingjay*. So perhaps her father was not only implying that she'd survive if she was able to hunt & gather, but also if she could recognize her true self and not compromise those beliefs.]

**Primrose** is fairly simple - it means first rose, "prim" being Latin for "first". [My Notes: It's also the name for a pale yellow flower (evening primrose) or flowers that come in multiple colors. It symbolizes renewal, love, devotion, beauty, fertility, and youthfulness.]

**Cinna** was a poet in one of Shakespeare's plays who tried to start a rebellion. He conspired against the leader Julius Caesar and was thus killed... does this give us any hints? [My Notes: Actually, there were two different Cinnas in Shakespeare's play: Cinna the poet, and Cinna the conspirator. Cinna the poet was mistaken for Cinna the conspirator, but when his identity was revealed as being a poet--not a conspirator--the angry mob killed him anyway for his "bad verses."]

**Effie** derives from the name Euphemia, or "fair speech" (eu = well, good; pHEME = voice) which makes sense, because she is an escort and public speaker. However, there is more to the name Euphemia than just being able to talk well - there is a whole story behind the name that is rather shocking when compared with Suzanne's *Hunger Games*. Euphemia was a young Christian girl who was martyred because of her faith. Where she lived, the governor made a decree that all citizens had to take part in ritual *sacrifices*. Euphemia, or Effie, however, refused to take part in these sacrifices, and she and her friends were thereby tortured. One of these tortures--being trapped in an *arena* with a wild bear--ended up killing Euphemia. So, by refusing to follow in her government's footsteps and not take part in the sacrifices, she inadvertently brought about her death. [My Notes: I believe Bethany & Stefanie are on to something here. I think there's more to Effie than what we see & she is part of the rebellion. But, I could be wrong.]

**Gale**, or "Galel", is Hebrew for "The wave of God." Another form of the name, "Galen", is Greek for "Calm". [My Notes: Gale is also known as a strong force or wind. Gale's last name, Hawthorne, is also significant. Hawthorn is a type of rose tree/bush--thorny with flowering blooms.]

**Madge** is Greek for pearl. Fairly simple, but let's go into detail for the heck of it. The pearl, being a circle, is a symbol of God because it has "no beginning and no end." The circle, or pearl, is known to represent love and knowledge, which, combined, is symbolic of wisdom. Also, the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem are apparently each made of pearl. 12, anyone? 12 districts? I don't know why I wanted to point that out since it's pointless. [My Notes: Since they mentioned pearl, how about the fact the Peeta finds a pearl in *Catching Fire* & gives it to Katniss--which she was unable to find after she blew up the arena? I don't think their observations are the least bit pointless--they seem to be very important. Madge gave Katniss the mockingjay symbol, Madge brought Gale medicine--Madge will indeed play a bigger role in *Mockingjay*. It seems inevitable.]

**Flavius** is a Latin word that means "Golden". It almost automatically makes you think of Flavius's trademark golden lipstick, no? And his bouncy orange-ish curls? As an educational fact, Flavius was also the name of a historical Jewish man who survived and recorded the Destruction of Jerusalem in 70. [My Notes: For some darn reason, every time I read Flavius's name I have to hold back from calling him "Flava Flav" after the rapper & VH1 star. Anyone else have that problem? sorry...]

**Octavia** literally means eighth or 8th. Not very interesting. However, Octavia was also a character in a Shakespeare play (like *Cinna*) who followed the relationship between Cleopatra and Marc Antony from the time of the Parthian war all the way up to Cleopatra's suicide. [My Notes: Octavius was Caesar's grand nephew & adopted son, who then becomes Caesar Augustus--the first and one of the greatest emperors of Rome.]

**Venia** is Latin and short for Lavinia, the Legendary Mother of the Roman people.

**Portia** means pig in Latin. Plain and simple. [My Notes: Portia was Brutus's wife in Shakespeare's *Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. She ended up killing herself by swallowing hot coals because she was upset that Marc Antony & Octavius Caesar had become so powerful.]

**Peeta** has no definition or history unless you type it as "Peta". Peta is a town in Greece, and is the Buddhist word for "Hungry Ghost." PETA is also an acronym for **People for the Ethical Treatment for Animals**. And, we can't forget that pita bread is pronounced "**Peeta**" bread! [My Notes: Pita bread is flat hollow unleavened bread that can be split open, holding a filling. Pita in Greek literally means 'cake or pie.' Pitta is a small ground-dwelling thrushlike bird with brightly colored plumage and a very short tail, found in the Old World tropics. It means 'many species' or 'young bird.' And let's not forget "**Mellark**": the lark. Many believe Peeta is the sacrificial Christ figure in the series; the bread & lark connections seem appropriate.]

**Caesar** \*snickers\* means "Head of Hair." Other than the famous ruler Caesar, that's all the relatedness I have. [My Notes: Caesar's character reminds me of Dick Clark--never ages as he does the interviews year after year. But I think his name is foreshadowing of his impending death: Caesar was killed by those he thought were his trusted friends/followers. He was betrayed. I believe Caesar will be betrayed, as well. His last name, **Flickerman**, is reminiscent of a TV screen "flickering." I believe his death will represent the end to the reality TV genre in Panem--the end of the public's entertainment by and fascination of other people's suffering.]

**Johanna** is Hebrew for "God is gracious." [My Notes: Johanna plays a larger role in CF, but is introduced in THG. See my CF entry for more info.]

**Cato** means acute, and shrewd (insightful, wise, clever, on the ball.)

**Thresh** definition: To beat severely, thrash; to thrash about; toss. [My Notes: Thresh also refers to the act of threshing, or removing the inedible part of the grain from the edible part. With agriculture being District 11's industry and considering Thresh's size and power, both definitions seem to suit him well.]

**Rue:** to feel regret, remorse, or sorrow. To affect with grief, to repent. [My Notes: Rue is also a yellow flower. Shakespeare used rue to symbolize adultery and repentance for those who wronged others. Rue was also believed to cause abortions. HOWEVER, other medicinal uses include the “cure” for blindness. In Homer’s *Odyssey*, Hermes gives Odysseus the tuber-root plant “moly” to cure any of Circe’s poisons. The English word for “moly” is “rue.”]

**Haymitch** has absolutely no definition, meaning or history whatsoever. The name is completely made up by Suzanne Collins. However, Haymitch's last name, **Abernathy**, is the name of a famous *Civil Rights Leader*. [My Notes: That civil rights leader is Ralph David Abernathy. Abernathy’s autobiography is titled *And the Walls Came Tumbling Down*, published in 1989. Seems fitting after reading CF, knowing not only the arena “walls”, but District 12’s “walls” came tumbling down due to Haymitch’s efforts.]

#### My additions to *The Hunger Games* Characters:

**Glimmer:** means to shine faintly with a wavering light or a faint sign of a feeling or quality.

**Clove:** means to split or sever (the past tense of cleave), or is the dried flower bud of a tropical tree used as a pungent aromatic spice. Appropriate, since she’s the one with all the knives & almost sliced Katniss to shreds.

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### CATCHING FIRE CHARACTERS

**Vick** is one of Gale's little brothers. His name, surprisingly, is Latin for victor, or victory. The feminine alteration of his name; Vicky; means both victor and conqueror. Hmm... any foreshadowing here? [My Notes: Was in CF, not THG]

**Rory** is Gale's other little brother. His name is Gaelic for "Red King." [My Notes: Was in CF, not THG]

**Posy**, Gale's little sister, is Hebrew for "He will enlarge." [My Notes: Posy also means trying to impress someone, or being pretentious. Posies can also refer to a bouquet of flowers. And many will remember the old nursery rhyme: “Ring around the rosy, a pocket full of posies, ashes, ashes, we all fall down.”]

**Darius** was one of the peacekeepers of District 12. His name means "to possess" and to "maintain well" or "good". However, Darius was also the name of a Great King of Persia in the 5th and 6th centuries - he was a great financier and fought against the Greeks at marathon. Note that Darius in THG was the peacekeeper who stood up for Gale when he was being whipped. [My Notes: Darius was in CF, not mentioned in THG.]

**Cray** (head peacekeeper) means curly-headed, and prolific, or abundant, plentiful.

**Seneca** means "old". Seneca was also a Roman orator/public speaker with a son, also named Seneca, who was a philosopher and a dramatist. [My Notes: Last name Crane is significant. Read about the legend of the crane here: <http://www.squidoo.com/divine-birds>. It symbolizes longevity, health, happiness, wisdom, and luck. But Seneca Crane’s demise was anything but these. Perhaps it is his decision to allow Peeta & Katniss both to live in the 74<sup>th</sup> Games that will ultimately bring Panem health, happiness, and luck. Or perhaps he wasn’t really executed??]

**Plutarch** was one of two priests at the temple of Apollo at Delphi. He was a great and well-known writer. Also, in addition to being a priest, Plutarch was a magistrate in Chaeronia, and held the office of archon in his native municipality. He had several influential friends, including 2 senators, and published a book called "Parallel lives". **Spelling correction “Parallel Lives”** He, like Plutarch in the books, obviously was important and held a lot of power in his hands. [My Notes: I think the “Parallel lives” is significant, since he was basically living two lives as an undercover rebel. And his last name, Heavensbee, seems related to his predecessor, Seneca Crane, in its reference to heaven/immortality.]

**Finnick**, along with being a Scottish city, means a variety of things when one "n" is taken away. Finick means "to affect extreme daintiness or refinement", "to trifle or dawdle", and finicky means "excessively particular or fastidious, difficult to please, fussy, exacting, demanding, meticulous, choosy and picky." [My Notes: It is similar to "Fredrik," which means "shelter, protector, peace, and 'rich' as in powerful or mighty." (from "Finnish Name Meanings" by Kai Nikulainen [Kai.Nikulainen@sci.fi](mailto:Kai.Nikulainen@sci.fi)). His last name, **Odair**, could be a variation of the German surname Adair, which means "wealthy or noble spear." The Irish version of Adair, spelled O'Dair, is said to have derived from a family dispute when one of the family members married a Catholic. The Adair disgusted with his family for being prejudiced against his Catholic bride, changed the spelling to O'Dair. Does it have anything to do with Finnick & Annie? Probably not. But it's interesting.]

**Cecilia** is Latin for blind.

**Brutus** is Latin for heavy, slow, foolish. Brutus was the name of the murderer of Julius Caesar. [My Notes: Brutus is known as "the noblest Roman of them all" because he was the only conspirator who acted out of what he thought was best for the country, rather than personal reasons.]

**Chaff** is the inedible, dry, scaly casings of cereal seeds and grains. In agriculture, it is used as livestock fodder or is a waste material plowed or burn into the soil. [My Notes: Additional definitions include: - strips of metal foil or metal filings released in the atmosphere from aircraft, or deployed as missiles, to obstruct radar detection or confuse radar-tracking missiles; AND -noun: lighthearted joking; banter; -verb: tease.]

**Blight** is a disease that kills plants. [My Notes: Blight also means anything that spoils or damages, or to neglect.]

**Cashmere** is a kind of wool and **Glimmer** and **Clove** are self-explanatory. [My Notes: Cashmere is a fine soft wool and considered a luxury.]

#### My Additions for Other Characters from *Catching Fire* Not Mentioned:

**Marvel** (District 1 tribute in THG--the first boy Katniss killed & who killed Rue) means to be filled with wonder or astonishment or a wonderful or astonishing person or thing. We do not learn of his name until *Catching Fire* when Katniss visits his district on her & Peeta's victory tour.

**Johanna** is Hebrew for "God is gracious." [My Notes: Since Johanna plays a larger role in CF, I decided to add my notes here. Her first name, as stated, means "God is grace" and many of the early female disciples of Christ were named Johanna. Because CF's Johanna seems anything but gracious or graceful, perhaps this is foreshadowing a different side of Johanna we'll see in *Mockingjay*. Also, her last name is **Mason**--meaning constructed of stone. This seems much more telling about Johanna's personality; at the end of CF, the reader will realize that even though Johanna was very "cold" toward Katniss, she did save her life. However, it's interesting that Johanna, being from a lumber district, would be named Mason. The blue forget-me-not flower is a symbol of the Masons, representing their members they have lost (especially during WWII when they were targeted by the Nazis). Will this flower pop up in *Mockingjay* for Johanna? We can only wait and see.]

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