

The Hunger Games

Discussion Questions

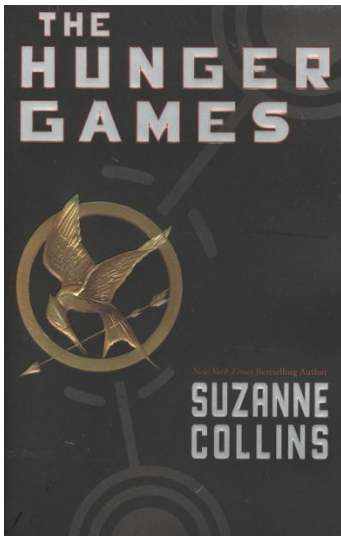
1. Is the reaping fair? Does the practice of tesserae have a significant effect on the outcome of the reaping? Would you accept tesserae so that your family could have more food?
2. Were you surprised when Prim's name was the one drawn during the reaping? Why did Katniss volunteer to take Prim's place? Would you voluntarily enter the Games to save your brother or sister?
3. Why don't the citizens of Panem speak out against the Games? Do you think any of the citizens enjoy watching the games? Would you watch?
4. Describe Katniss' relationship with Gale. Are they in love?
5. The day of the reaping, Katniss tells Gale that she never wants to have children. Is it just the Games that make her feel this way? Why do you think the citizens of Panem continue to have children knowing that those kids will one day face the reaping?
6. Why does Katniss say about Peeta, "I feel like I owe him something, and I hate owing people." How does her early encounter with Peeta affect their relationship after they are chosen as tributes?
7. How does the fact that the tributes are always on camera affect their behavior from the time they are chosen? Does knowledge that they're always being watched make it easier or harder for them to accept their fate?
8. What does Haymitch mean when he says, "It's all a big show. It's all how you're perceived." Why do the tributes need to impress potential sponsors? What are those sponsors looking for when they are watching the Games?
9. When Peeta declares his love for Katniss in the interview, does he really mean it or did Haymitch create the "star-crossed lovers" story? Why would Peeta lie about being in love with Katniss?
10. Before the Games start, Peeta tells Katniss, "...I want to die as myself...I don't want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind of monster that I'm not." What does this tell you about Peeta? What does he fear more than death? Is he able to stay true to himself during the Games?
11. Why does Katniss ignore Haymitch's advice to head directly away from the Cornucopia? Did she do the right thing to fight for equipment? Which of her skills prove to be the most valuable in the arena?
12. Why does Peeta join with the Career Tributes in the beginning of the Games? What does he hope to gain? Why do they accept him when they start hunting as a group? Why do groups form in the beginning when they know only one of them will be able to survive?
13. What makes Katniss and Rue trust each other to become partners? What does Katniss gain from this friendship besides companionship? Is Katniss and Rue's partnership formed for different reasons than the other groups'?
14. Discuss the ways in which the Gamemakers control the environment and "entertainment" value of the Games. How does it affect the tributes to know they are being manipulated to make the Games more exciting for the gamblers and viewers? Does knowing that she is on live TV make Katniss behave differently than she would otherwise?
15. When does Katniss first realize that Peeta does care for her and is trying to keep her alive? When does she realize her own feelings for him? Did Haymitch think all along that he could keep them both alive by stressing the love story? Are they actually in love?
16. Do you think Katniss and Peeta are the same people at the end of the games as they were when they stepped into the arena? How have they changed? Why did they survive?
17. What do you think is the cruelest part of the Games? What kind of people would devise this spectacle for the entertainment of their populace?

About the Author

Suzanne Collins made her mark in children's literature with the The New York Times bestselling series, the Underland Chronicles, for middle grade readers. Her debut novel, *Gregor the Overlander*, received numerous accolades in both the United States and abroad. *Alice in Wonderland* provided inspiration for this series. Suzanne was struck by how pastoral the setting must seem to kids who, like her own, lived in urban surroundings. In New York City, you're much more likely to fall down a manhole than a rabbit hole and, if you do, you're not going to find a tea party. What you might find...? Like Alice, an eleven-year old boy named Gregor takes a very long fall beneath his world.



Suzanne is breaking new ground with *The Hunger Games* trilogy. Poignant and rich with edge-of-your-seat pacing, this series is set in a district that evolved from the ruins of what was once known as North America. "It's hard to choose one element that inspired *The Hunger Games*," says Suzanne. "Probably the first seeds were planted when, as an eight-year-old with a mythology obsession, I read the story of Theseus. The myth told how in punishment for past deeds, Athens periodically had to send seven youths and seven maidens to Crete where they were thrown in the Labyrinth and devoured by the monstrous Minotaur. Even as a third grader, I could appreciate the ruthlessness of this message. 'Mess with us and we'll do something worse than kill you. We'll kill your children.' Other early influences would have to include watching too many gladiator movies (which dramatized the Romans' flair for turning executions into popular entertainment), my military specialist dad who took us to battlefields for family vacations, and touring with a sword fighting company in high school. But it wasn't until the much more recent experience of channel surfing between reality TV programming and actual war coverage that the story for this series came to me."



Suzanne Collins has had a successful and prolific career writing for children's television. She has worked on the staffs of several Nickelodeon shows, including the Emmy-nominated hit *Clarissa Explains it All* and *The Mystery Files of Shelby Woo*. She received a Writer's Guild of America nomination in animation for co-writing the critically acclaimed Christmas special, *Santa, Baby!*

Suzanne currently lives in Connecticut with her family and a pair of feral kittens they adopted from their backyard. For more information, please visit www.suzannecollinsbooks.com