

THE HUNGER GAMES STUDY GUIDE

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Progeny Press

FOR THE
NOVEL BY:

SUZANNE COLLINS

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439

THE HUNGER GAMES STUDY GUIDE

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Synopsis

Katniss Everdeen provides for her family, her mother and sister, by hunting and gathering with her friend Gale outside the fence that surrounds District 12, a coal mining town in the coal-rich region formerly known as Appalachia. North America has collapsed after a series of apocalyptic events, and Panem, made up of 13 districts and the Capitol, has risen from the ruins. Almost 75 years ago, the districts rebelled against the oppressive rule of the Capitol, resulting in the total annihilation of District 13 and even tighter control of the remaining 12 districts.

It also gave rise to the Hunger Games, an annual event in which one boy and one girl are selected from each district as “tributes” for the Games. The 24 tributes are put into an advanced arena, where the children must fight to the death over a number of days as the Games are televised across Panem for the viewing entertainment of the Capitol and as a brutal reminder to the districts of exactly who is in charge.

When Katniss’s young sister Prim is chosen as a tribute at the reaping, Katniss volunteers to take her place. With Peeta, the boy chosen from District 12, Katniss is taken to the Capitol to prepare for the Hunger Games.

But Katniss slowly learns that not everyone has to be an enemy, and there may be far more dangerous things than 23 people trying to kill you. . . .

Chapters 19–21

Vocabulary:

The *synonym* of a word is another word that has the same or nearly the same meaning as the original word. One or more synonyms for the missing word is given in parentheses. Choose the vocabulary word from the list below that best completes each sentence.

Word Box

assailants	dissipate	irreparable	loathe	scrupulously
incapacitated	navigate	peruse	levity	demeanor
squeamish	stalemate		arduous	pariahs

- I wait, frozen, for the woods to come alive with _____ (attackers, muggers, assaulters).
- “You know, you’re kind of _____ (put off, nervous, easily nauseated) for such a lethal person.”
- It’s a slow and _____ (onerous, laborious, exhausting) process, but after a lot of sweating and shifting things around, I’m pretty pleased with my work.
- My eyes _____ (scrutinize, examine, inspect) the bank, but there’s nothing.
- Whatever doubts I’ve had about him _____ (vanish, evaporate, disappear) because if either of us took the other’s life now we’d be _____ (outcasts, lepers, undesirables) when we returned to District 12.
- I don’t know what the explosion did, but it damaged something deep and _____ (irreversible, hopeless, beyond repair).
- I’ve just about decided I’m on the wrong track entirely, that a wounded boy would be unable to _____ (negotiate, traverse, make one’s way) getting to and from this water source, when I see the bloody streak going down the curve of a boulder.
- But if he’s that _____ (disabled, debilitated, impaired), how has he managed to stay alive?
- We’re at something of a _____ (draw, impasse, standoff). I know I can’t argue him out of this one, so I don’t try.

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10. In fact, I know if I was watching I'd _____ (hate, detest, abhor) any tribute who didn't immediately ally with their district partner.
11. I try to capture the calm _____ (attitude, look, behavior) my mother assumes when handling particularly bad cases.
12. Today I'll have to be _____ (diligently, thoroughly) careful.
13. But when I start to help him to the stream, all the _____ (lightheartedness, fun, laughter) disappears.

Questions:

1. Immediately after the announcement of the rule change, Katniss thinks through what it means. What does she realize about Peeta? What is her reaction to this news?
2. How did Peeta manage to hide from the Careers?
3. Despite Katniss's revulsion to treating wounds and bad injuries, she forces herself to do what is needed to help Peeta. What does this tell you about her character?
4. After she finds him, where does Katniss hide Peeta?
5. What message does Haymitch send Katniss with the gift of the broth?
6. How does Katniss prepare for and evaluate her situation at the beginning of Chapter 21?
7. Why does Katniss drug Peeta before going to the feast?

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8. How does Foxface get her backpack at the feast?

9. What does the girl Clove intend to do to Katniss when she catches her? How does Katniss get away?

10. How is Katniss injured and what is the last thing she forces herself to do before passing out?

Thinking About the Story:

11. What does Katniss tell Peeta is the happiest day she can remember? Describe it briefly. What does this tell us about Katniss?

12. Why does Katniss risk her life by going to the Cornucopia for the feast? What is she after and why is the risk worth it to her? What are Katniss's choices in this situation?

13. Who saves Katniss when Clove is about to kill her? Why does this person save Katniss and not kill her?

Dig Deeper:

14. In Chapter 20, the Gamemakers announce a feast at which something each tribute or team needs will be available. Peeta and Katniss have very different perspectives on whether she should go to the feast. Next to their names below, briefly describe each character's opinion and why

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believes that she *should* feel badly about killing someone, even if she is forced to for survival. She clearly sees each human life as important.

16. Answers will vary. When Katniss runs forward, she believes she is volunteering to die to save her sister's life because she believes she has no chance to survive the games. The verses tell us that dying for someone else is the greatest show of love possible, and we usually will only die for someone good. God showed his love to us by sacrificing his son, Jesus Christ, to die to save us even when we were still sinners and didn't deserve it.

17. The context of this passage is what happened to their family after Katniss's father died; Katniss is explaining how they survived. Her mother had become depressed and could not function; she did nothing to provide for her family, so it was up to Katniss to do. They all almost starved while their mother sat and stared into nothing. After this, Katniss no longer trusts her mother. She fears that if anything happens, her mother will disappear again. Katniss has not forgiven her mother. She is filled with anger, bitterness and distrust. The verses teach us to get rid of bitterness and anger and to forgive. We are supposed to forgive others as God forgave us.

Chapters 5–7

Vocabulary:

1. ~~personable~~/unintelligible; 2. ~~shallow~~/amiable; 3. ~~resentful~~/fixated; 4. ~~coiled~~/surly; 5. ~~median~~/mediocre; 6. ~~deceate~~/demean; 7. ~~impulsive~~/exertion; 8. ~~subdued~~/flamboyant; 9. ~~betrayal~~/contempt; 10. ~~myriad~~/underrate; 11. ~~entitled~~/venture; 12. ~~aversions~~/adversaries; 13. ~~immaculate~~/emaciated; 14. ~~intriguing~~/despicable

Questions:

1. Katniss expected someone dyed, stenciled, and surgically altered, perhaps to the point of grotesque. She expected someone flamboyant, old trying to look young, and someone who viewed her like a piece of meat. Cinna is actually normal looking with close-cropped naturally brown hair, simple black shirt and pants, and a light application of gold eyeliner to accent his green eyes. He seems to treat her with consideration and respect.

2. For the opening ceremonies, rather than dress Katniss and Peeta in coal miner outfits, Cinna and Portia concentrate on coal and what it does. They dress Katniss and Peeta in black unitards with flaming capes and headdresses, burning with safe, manmade fire. The crowd goes wild, throwing flowers, shouting their names and admiring them.

3. First Katniss reacts to Peeta's smile with a rush of unexpected warmth, then she has a warning bell go off in her head and she reminds herself that he wants to kill her and is luring her in to make her easy prey. She decides two can play at that game and she kisses his cheek.

4. An Avox is someone who's been convicted of a crime against the Capitol and had their tongue cut so they can't speak anymore. It seems then they must work as servants in the Capitol.

5. The red-headed girl is a servant that Katniss sees at dinner the day after the opening ceremonies. Katniss recognizes her and tries to speak with her, but the girl quickly hurries away. The others explain that the girl is an Avox, so Katniss couldn't know her, but Katniss recognizes her from an encounter in the woods of District 12. The girl and a boy were running through the woods, and a hovercraft appeared and captured her and killed the boy. Katniss and Gale did not move to help them, but Katniss knows the girl saw her and asked for help. Katniss believes the girl must hate her.