

# Novel•Ties

## Catching Fire

SUZANNE COLLINS



## A Study Guide

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**LEARNING LINKS**

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## **For the Teacher**

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with the novel *Catching Fire*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks.

The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION: *The Hunger Games*

*It is not necessary to read the first book in The Hunger Games trilogy in order to appreciate Catching Fire, the second book. But to better understand all the allusions to Book #1, read this short synopsis.*

North America is now the nation of Panem. The country has been divided into twelve districts, all controlled by the brutal and powerful Capitol. The Hunger Games were instituted as punishment for a rebellion in District 13, now reputed to be wiped off the face of the earth. Every year, the Capitol holds a Reaping, a lottery that determines which two young people from each district will be sent to engage in fierce combat that won't end until there is a single victor.

Katniss Everdeen, a young girl from District 12, volunteers to take her beloved younger sister Prim's place in the Games. Leaving behind Gale, her friend and hunting partner, as well as her mother and sister, Katniss is spirited away with Peeta, the baker's son, to the Capitol to enter the combat that could end their lives.

Preparation for the Games involves turning the tributes, as the competitors are called, into celebrities. Haymitch, the eccentric mentor for the tributes of District 12, develops a strategy for survival: Peeta and Katniss must pretend to be in love, which will win over audiences who are following the Games on television and gain them influential allies. Peeta is so convincing as he shows his romantic interest in Katniss that she vacillates between worrying that she cannot return his feelings of love and worrying that his feelings are part of a strategy to be sole victor.

As the Games begin, there are two tributes chosen from each of the twelve districts. Each kill narrows the field. During the Games, Katniss forms an alliance with Rue, the female tribute from District 11, until Rue is killed by the male tribute from District 1. One by one the tributes kill off one another until only Cato, the most ruthless of the tributes, Peeta, and Katniss remain. The Capitol, meanwhile, has changed the rules of the Games by declaring that for the first time ever, two victors, if they are from the same district, can claim the prize.

When it is clear that Katniss and Peeta have outlasted all of the other tributes, the rule change is revoked. Assuming that the Gamemakers would rather have two victors than none, Katniss threatens to commit suicide by eating poisonous nightlock berries. The ploy works and Katniss and Peeta are both declared victors.

## PART I: THE SPARK; CHAPTERS 1 – 3

**Vocabulary:** Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1. futile    | a. very happy; overjoyed                                  |
| 2. predator  | b. having several different meanings; equivocal           |
| 3. strategy  | c. noisy disturbance; turmoil                             |
| 4. stern     | d. easily broken; delicate                                |
| 5. itinerary | e. incapable of producing any result; useless             |
| 6. ambiguous | f. detailed plan for a journey                            |
| 7. elated    | g. any organism that lives by preying on another organism |
| 8. fragile   | h. absolutely firm; uncompromising                        |
| 9. commotion | i. soften or reduce in feeling or temper                  |
| 10. mollify  | j. plan used to obtain a specific goal                    |

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- The teacher had a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ expression on his face when he learned that I had not completed my homework assignment.
- I was \_\_\_\_\_ when our school's track team won a state-wide competition.
- Fearing that a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ might be nearby, the mouse scurried back to its hole in the wall.
- There was such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ in the cafeteria that I could not carry on a conversation with the people at my table.
- I hoped that a hug or a piece of candy would be enough to \_\_\_\_\_ my little sister who worried that her runaway dog would not return.
- It was raining so hard and the wind was blowing so strongly that it was \_\_\_\_\_ to carry an umbrella.
- I think I will win in this game of checkers because I have a carefully thought out \_\_\_\_\_, while my opponent is depending on good luck alone.
- In case you need to reach me while I am on vacation, I am giving you my complete \_\_\_\_\_.
- A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ answer on a math quiz will be considered incorrect.
- We placed the \_\_\_\_\_ crystal bowl on a high shelf, far from the hands of small children who might break it by accident.