

The Hunger Games Discussion Guide

GRADES 5 - 10



Before using this book with your class or recommending the book to students, we suggest reading the book closely to determine if it is a good fit. Consider saying to your students:

“This book contains topics that may be sensitive. Not all books fit all readers. If you are uncomfortable with this book, you have the right to stop reading it, but please pick another.”

Before Reading: to activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Have students complete the [Anticipation Guide](#) to prepare for understanding and connecting with the deeper themes and messages of the story.
- Frontload vocabulary with the [Vocabulary Guide](#).

During Reading: to engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

Chapters 1 - 9

- When Katniss volunteers to take Prim’s place at the reaping, what does that choice show about her? What clues in the text tell you how she feels while doing it?
- Katniss believes she can’t afford to show emotion in District 12. What evidence shows how survival has shaped who she is?
- How do Katniss’s and Peeta’s memories of the bread reveal the difference in their circumstances and their characters?
- What is the purpose of the pre-Games styling, ceremonies, and interviews? Who is the audience, and why does that matter?

Chapters 10 - 18

- Inside the arena, which of Katniss’s choices are pure survival and which are strategy for the cameras? Find text evidence for each.
- How does the alliance with Rue change Katniss? What does Rue’s death reveal about Katniss and about the Capitol?
- When Katniss covers Rue’s body with flowers, what is she trying to say, and to whom?
- The Gamemakers change the rules mid-Games. What does that tell you about who really holds power in the arena?

Chapters 19 - 27

- When a rule allows two victors from the same district, how does it change Katniss and Peeta’s relationship and their strategy?
- How much of the romance is real and how much is performance? What makes it hard to tell, even for Katniss?
- At the end, the rule is reversed and Katniss reaches for the berries. What is she risking, and what is she really challenging?
- By the final chapter, how has Katniss changed from the girl at the reaping? What has staying alive cost her?

The Hunger Games Discussion Guide

GRADES 5 - 10



After Reading: to summarize, question, and reflect.

- What do the Games reveal about how the Capitol keeps control? Support your answer with evidence from at least two parts of the book.
- Is Katniss a hero, a survivor, or both? Defend your answer with text evidence.
- The novel asks what people will do to survive — and what they refuse to do. Where does Katniss draw her line? Where would you draw yours?
- What is Collins saying about spectacle, entertainment, and looking away from suffering? Connect it to the world outside the book.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.