THE HUNGER GAMES

*The Hunger Games* begins with 16-year-old Katniss and her friend Gale hunting in the woods around their impoverished District 12. When her younger sister Prim is chosen to be a “tribute” in the annual “reaping,” Katniss volunteers to go to the Games in her place, along with Peeta, the baker’s son. Once in the Games, Katniss must marshal all her skills to stay alive. In the end she outwits the Capitol by attempting a double suicide, which forces Capitol leaders to allow both her and Peeta to live.

CATCHING FIRE

In *Catching Fire*, Katniss has become a symbol of defiance. It’s now the Quarter Quell, the 75th anniversary Games. Every 25 years the Capitol devises a new twist, and this year the tributes will be chosen from the victors of previous Games. Katniss is thrown into the arena once more with Peeta, but again she manages to thwart the Capitol’s plans and escapes—but Peeta is taken prisoner.

MOCKINGJAY

In *Mockingjay*, Katniss becomes the face of a full-scale rebellion in TV “propos” (propaganda movies) filmed by the rebels. Determined to be the one to kill President Snow, Katniss once again finds herself in an arena—only this one represents a life or death struggle for the entire society. Katniss faces critical choices: Whom should she trust? What should her role be? Do ends justify means? What is right and wrong? What truths must she follow?

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Suzanne Collins has had a prolific career writing for children’s television. She first made her mark in children’s literature with the *New York Times* bestselling series *The Underland Chronicles*. In *The Hunger Games*, Collins continues to explore the effects of war and violence on those coming of age. In a starred review, *Publishers Weekly* described the final book in the trilogy, *Mockingjay*, as “a beautifully orchestrated and intelligent novel that succeeds on every level.” Collins lives with her family in Connecticut.

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A more detailed discussion guide is available at www.scholastic.com/thehungergames

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In The Hunger Games, 16-year-old Katniss and her friend Gale hunting in the woods around their impoverished District 12. When her younger sister Prim is chosen to be a “tribute” in the annual “reaping,” Katniss volunteers to go to the Games in her place, along with Peeta, the baker’s son. Once in the Games, Katniss must marshal all her skills to stay alive. In the end she outwits the Capitol by attempting a double suicide, which forces Capitol leaders to allow both her and Peeta to live.

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| 1. Why are the “tributes” given stylists and dressed so elaborately for the opening ceremony? Does this remind you of ceremonies in our world? |
| 2. When Peeta declares his love for Katniss, does he really mean it, or did Haymitch create the “star-crossed lovers” story for the show? |
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| 1. How does Katniss’s participation in the Games change her relationship with Gale? |
| 2. How does the Victory Tour affect Katniss and Peeta, their relationship to each other, and their feelings about their future? |
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** Mockingjay**

| 1. What influences Katniss’s decision to become the Mockingjay? |
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- **Beyond the Myth: The Story of Joan of Arc**, by Polly Schoyer Brooks (Sandpiper, 1999). A young girl becomes the symbol of a rebellion.
THE HUNGER GAMES

The Hunger Games begins with 16-year-old Katniss and her friend Gale hunting in the woods around their impoverished District 12. When her younger sister Prim is chosen to be a “tribute” in the annual “reaping,” Katniss volunteers to go to the Games in her place, along with Peeta, the baker’s son. Once in the Games, Katniss must marshal all her skills to stay alive. In the end she outwits the Capitol by attempting a double suicide, which forces Capitol leaders to allow both her and Peeta to live.

CATCHING FIRE

In Catching Fire, Katniss has become a symbol of defiance. It’s now the Quarter Quell, the 75th anniversary Games. Every 25 years the Capitol devises a new twist, and this year the tributes will be chosen from the victors of previous Games. Katniss is thrown into the arena once more with Peeta, but again she manages to thwart the Capitol’s plans and escapes—but Peeta is taken prisoner.

MOCKINGJAY

In Mockingjay, Katniss becomes the face of a full-scale rebellion in TV “propos” (propaganda movies) filmed by the rebels. Determined to be the one to kill President Snow, Katniss once again finds herself in an arena—only this one represents a life or death struggle for the entire society. Katniss faces critical choices: Whom should she trust? What should her role be? Do ends justify means? What is right and wrong? What truths must she follow?

Author Suzanne Collins remembers in third grade reading the story of Theseus, in which King Minos of Crete demanded that Athens periodically send seven boys and seven girls to be thrown in the Labyrinth and sacrificed to the Minotaur. “Even as a third grader,” she says, “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.” Suzanne was also fascinated by gladiator movies. The idea for The Hunger Games came to Suzanne when she was channel surfing between reality TV shows and actual war coverage.

Suzanne Collins has had a prolific career writing for children’s television. She first made her mark in children’s literature with the New York Times bestselling series The Underland Chronicles. In The Hunger Games, Collins continues to explore the effects of war and violence on those coming of age. In a starred review, Publishers Weekly described the final book in the trilogy, Mockingjay, as “a beautifully orchestrated and intelligent novel that succeeds on every level.” Collins lives with her family in Connecticut.

A more detailed discussion guide is available at www.scholastic.com/thehungergames