

7th Grade Summer Reading Assignment

Due: Monday, September 14, 2026

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins



Standards:

- ELA.7.R.1.1 – Text Structure & Meaning
- ELA.7.R.1.2 – Figurative Language Analysis
- ELA.7.R.1.3 – Character & Conflict Development
- ELA.7.R.2.1 – Perspective & Point of View
- ELA.7.R.3.2 – Theme & Central Idea
- ELA.7.C.1.3 – Evidence-Based Writing
- ELA.7.V.1.3 – Vocabulary in Context

Synopsis:

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen lives in the nation of Panem, where each district must send two tributes to compete in the deadly Hunger Games. When her younger sister is selected, Katniss volunteers in her place and is forced to fight for survival in a televised competition. As she navigates dangerous challenges, alliances, and the pressures of the Capitol, Katniss begins to question the world around her and the cost of survival.

Book Purchase: [The Hunger Games Book 1 -Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000APCZ4K)
<https://tinyurl.com/2c4wyprh>

To fully engage with the summer reading assignment, students are strongly encouraged to purchase a personal copy of the novel. Having a hard copy allows students to actively annotate the text by highlighting important passages, recording thoughts and questions, and identifying key literary elements. Annotation is an essential part of the learning process and will help students prepare for meaningful discussions, written responses, and classroom activities at the start of the school year.

PART ONE: THE TRIBUTES

Chapter 1: The Reaping

- Q1.** What details does Katniss share about life in District 12 and the Seam that show how poor and oppressed her community is? Cite at least two specific details from the text.
- Q2.** How does the setting of District 12 and the reaping ceremony shape Katniss's character and her sense of responsibility toward her family?
- Q3.** Katniss describes the Capitol as a place that "murders" children for entertainment. What is the connotation of the word "murder" in this context, and how does it set the tone of the novel?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss volunteers to take Prim's place without hesitation. What does this tell you about the kind of person she is? What would you do in her situation, and why?

Chapter 2: Goodbyes

- Q1.** What does Peeta's father give Katniss before she leaves, and what does this gesture reveal about the relationships between the districts and their tributes?
- Q2.** How does Katniss's point of view shape the way she describes her goodbyes with Prim, her mother, and Gale? How does she try to stay emotionally distant?
- Q3.** How does Katniss's past experience hunting with Gale interact with her understanding of survival in the Games?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss forces herself not to cry during her goodbyes because she does not want to appear weak. Do you think hiding your emotions is ever a sign of strength? When is it okay to show vulnerability?

Chapter 3: The Train to the Capitol

- Q1.** How does the luxury of the train contrast with life in District 12, and what does this contrast reveal about the power and inequality of Panem?
- Q2.** When Haymitch stumbles onto the train drunk, Katniss says he is "useless." What is the connotation of this word, and how does it establish tension between Katniss and Haymitch?
- Q3.** How does Katniss's reaction to the Capitol's wealth differ from how she imagines Effie Trinket sees it? What does this contrast reveal about each character's perspective?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss wonders if Peeta's helpfulness toward Haymitch is a strategy or genuine kindness. Have you ever questioned someone's motives for being nice? How do you decide whether to trust someone?

Chapter 4: Sizing Up the Competition

Q1. What advice does Haymitch give Katniss and Peeta about finding sponsors? Why does he say likability matters more than strength alone? Cite evidence from the text.

Q2. What theme about image vs. reality begins to emerge as Katniss and Peeta prepare to present themselves to the Capitol?

Q3. How does Katniss's understanding of the Games begin to shift in this chapter? What new elements of strategy does she have to consider?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Haymitch says the tributes must be "likable" to survive. Do you think it is fair that survival depends partly on how entertaining you are to others? What does this say about media and entertainment in real life?

Chapter 5: The Remake Center

Q1. How does Katniss describe her prep team and their treatment of her body? What do these details reveal about the Capitol's values?

Q2. Cinna tells Katniss he wants her to be "on fire." What does this metaphor foreshadow, and what does it suggest about Cinna's approach to using appearance as a weapon?

Q3. How does Katniss's point of view toward Cinna differ from her attitude toward the rest of the Capitol? What makes Cinna stand out to her?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Cinna creates an identity for Katniss — "the girl on fire" — that becomes a symbol. How can appearance, style, or image be a form of power or protest? Can you think of real-world examples?

Chapter 6: The Opening Ceremonies

- Q1.** How does the reaction of the Capitol crowd to Katniss and Peeta's opening ceremony costumes affect the mood of the chapter and Katniss's confidence?
- Q2.** Katniss notes that the crowd "can't take their eyes off" Peeta and her. What does this suggest about the power of spectacle and performance in Panem's society?
- Q3.** How does this chapter begin to develop the theme that performance and image are tools of survival in the Games?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* The Capitol citizens treat the tributes like celebrities before watching them fight to the death. What does this say about how societies can dehumanize people while still admiring them?

Chapter 7: Training

- Q1.** What strategy does Katniss decide to use during the tribute training sessions, and why? What does she choose to conceal and what does she choose to reveal?
- Q2.** How does Katniss's interaction with Rue during training plant the seeds for their later alliance?
- Q3.** How does Katniss's narration reveal her internal conflict about whether to trust Peeta? What clues does she pick up on during training?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss chooses to hide her best skill during training to use as a surprise. Is it ever smart to downplay your abilities? What are the risks and benefits of that strategy?

Chapter 8: The Private Sessions

- Q1.** What does Katniss do in her private session with the Gamemakers that shocks them, and why does she do it? Cite evidence from the text.
- Q2.** When Katniss fires the arrow at the Gamemakers' table, she thinks "they can't hurt me more than they already have." What does this reveal about her attitude toward authority and dignity?
- Q3.** How does Katniss's action in this chapter develop the novel's theme of rebellion against an unjust system?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss acts impulsively in the face of disrespect from those in power. Have you ever stood up to someone or something that felt unfair, even when there was risk involved? What happened?

Chapter 9: The Interview

Q1. How does Peeta's revelation that he loves Katniss during the interview change the dynamic between them and affect both of their positions in the Games?

Q2. How does Katniss's reaction to Peeta's declaration on stage contrast with the Capitol crowd's reaction? What does this difference reveal?

Q3. Haymitch frames Peeta and Katniss as "star-crossed lovers." What does "star-crossed" mean, and why is this narrative so powerful to the Capitol audience?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Peeta uses the interview to tell a truth that also serves as a survival strategy. Is it possible for something to be both genuine and strategic at the same time? Does intention matter?

PART TWO: THE GAMES

Chapter 10: Entering the Arena

Q1. What advice does Haymitch give Katniss right before she enters the arena, and why is it important? Cite the specific instruction and explain its purpose.

Q2. How does the setting of the arena — the forest, the Cornucopia, the other tributes — immediately create tension and danger for Katniss?

Q3. Katniss describes the countdown before the gong as "the longest minute of my life." How does this hyperbole convey her emotional state?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Haymitch tells Katniss to run and not look back. Sometimes survival means making choices that feel wrong in the moment. Can you think of a time when following someone's advice felt hard, but turned out to be right?

Chapter 11: Cornucopia Chaos

Q1. What decisions does Katniss make at the Cornucopia, and what do her choices reveal about her priorities and survival instincts? Cite evidence.

Q2. How does the death of the first tributes at the Cornucopia affect Katniss emotionally and physically? How does it change the tone of the novel?

Q3. Collins describes the chaos at the Cornucopia with vivid imagery. Identify one example of imagery from this chapter and explain what feeling or idea it creates.

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss sees the boy from District 9 die right in front of her. The Games force children to witness extreme violence. What effect do you think watching or experiencing violence has on a person's psyche?

Chapter 12: Surviving the Wilderness

Q1. What are the greatest threats Katniss faces in the early hours in the arena, and how does she use her skills to address them? Cite specific examples.

Q2. How does Katniss's training and upbringing in District 12 give her an advantage over some of the other tributes in surviving the wilderness?

Q3. How does this chapter develop the theme that the Capitol's system is designed to destroy people from the poorer districts in more ways than just combat?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss relies heavily on survival skills she learned out of necessity, not privilege. What skills have you learned that you think would be genuinely useful in a difficult or dangerous situation?

Chapter 13: Fire and Tracker Jackers

Q1. How does the fire in the arena seem intentional rather than accidental? What evidence suggests the Gamemakers are manipulating events, and what does this reveal about the Games?

Q2. Tracker jackers are genetically engineered wasps that cause hallucinations. What do they symbolize about how the Capitol uses fear and pain as tools of control?

Q3. How does the tracker jacker attack change Katniss's physical and mental state, and how does this affect the plot going forward?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* The Capitol creates creatures specifically designed to cause suffering. What does this suggest about how power can corrupt the use of technology or science? Can you think of real-world parallels?

Chapter 14: The Nest Attack

- Q1.** How does Katniss use the tracker jacker nest as a weapon against the Careers? What does her plan reveal about her intelligence and resourcefulness?
- Q2.** How does Katniss's narration of Glimmer's death from the tracker jacker venom reflect her complicated feelings about killing?
- Q3.** Katniss hallucinates during the tracker jacker attack. How does Collins use the hallucination sequence to reveal Katniss's fears and emotional vulnerabilities?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss feels conflicted about killing, even in self-defense. Do you think it is possible to do something necessary but still feel moral discomfort about it? How do you think people process that kind of conflict?

Chapter 15: Alliance with Rue

- Q1.** How does Rue earn Katniss's trust? What does Rue do while Katniss is recovering that convinces Katniss to form an alliance? Cite evidence.
- Q2.** How does Katniss's relationship with Rue mirror her relationship with Prim? How does this parallel shape Katniss's behavior toward Rue?
- Q3.** What theme about connection and humanity in the face of violence does the Katniss-Rue alliance develop?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss and Rue form a bond quickly in a place designed to make them enemies. What does this friendship suggest about human nature — are people naturally more inclined to connect or compete?

Chapter 16: Sabotaging the Careers

- Q1.** What is Katniss and Rue's plan to destroy the Careers' supplies, and how does Katniss carry it out? Describe the key steps with evidence from the text.
- Q2.** How does the destruction of the Careers' supplies shift the power balance in the arena? How does this change the plot?
- Q3.** When the supplies explode, Katniss describes it as a moment of joy despite the danger. What does this reveal about her character and her sense of justice?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss uses strategy and problem-solving rather than brute force to gain an advantage. Think of a situation in your own life where using your mind was more effective than using physical force or aggression.

Chapter 17: Rue's Tragic Fate

Q1. What happens to Rue at the end of this chapter? How does Katniss respond? Cite specific details from the text.

Q2. How does Collins use Rue's death to create an emotionally devastating moment? What specific details make it so impactful?

Q3. How does Rue's death develop the novel's central theme about the cruelty of the Capitol and what it costs the districts?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Rue's death is one of the most emotional moments in the novel. Why do you think Collins chose to include such a heartbreaking event? What effect does it have on your feelings about the Capitol and the Games?

Chapter 18: Singing for Rue

Q1. How does Katniss honor Rue after her death? Why does she choose to do this in full view of the cameras? Cite evidence from the text.

Q2. Katniss covers Rue's body with flowers, an act she knows the Capitol will see. What does this symbolic act communicate to the Capitol and to the districts watching?

Q3. How does this chapter develop the theme of defiance and resistance against an oppressive power?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss's act of covering Rue with flowers is a small but meaningful protest. Do you think small acts of protest or defiance matter? What power can symbolic gestures have in the real world?

PART THREE: THE VICTOR

Chapter 19: Rescuing Peeta

- Q1.** How does Katniss find Peeta, and what condition is he in? How does she manage to keep him alive? Cite specific details.
- Q2.** How does the rule change — that two tributes from the same district can win — affect Katniss's goals and the plot going forward?
- Q3.** How does Katniss's point of view shift when she begins caring for a wounded Peeta? How does this change the reader's understanding of their relationship?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* The rule change gives Katniss hope but also puts her in a complicated position with Peeta. Have you ever had a situation where a change in circumstances forced you to reconsider how you felt about someone?

Chapter 20: Feast at the Cornucopia

- Q1.** What is the Feast, and why does Katniss feel she must go despite the danger? What does she hope to get, and what actually happens there? Cite evidence.
- Q2.** How does Thresh's decision to spare Katniss's life reveal an unexpected element of moral complexity in the Games?
- Q3.** The announcement of the Feast is described as a "gift" from the Gamemakers. What is ironic about calling something so dangerous a gift?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Thresh spares Katniss because of what she did for Rue. Do you believe in the idea of "paying it forward" — that acts of kindness or decency ripple outward? What examples can you think of?

Chapter 21: Clove and Thresh

- Q1.** What does Clove reveal to Katniss while pinning her down at the Feast? What information does this give the reader about the Careers' knowledge of the "star-crossed lovers" strategy?
- Q2.** Clove taunts Katniss by describing what the Careers plan to do to her. How does Collins use this moment of cruelty to deepen the reader's understanding of what the Capitol's system produces?

Q3. How does Thresh's intervention at the Feast create a turning point in the Games and in Katniss's understanding of the other tributes?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* The tributes come from very different districts with very different lives, yet they are all victims of the same system. How does the Games pit people against each other who might otherwise be allies or even friends?

Chapter 22: Storm in the Cave

Q1. How does Katniss continue to use the "star-crossed lovers" performance to keep sponsors interested while also genuinely beginning to care for Peeta? Cite evidence of both.

Q2. How does Peeta's conversation with Katniss about wanting to die as himself — not as the Capitol's piece — develop his character and the theme of identity?

Q3. What is the central theme that Peeta's speech about staying himself introduces, and how does it connect to the novel's broader message?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Peeta says he wants to die as himself, not as a piece in the Capitol's game. What does it mean to stay true to yourself under extreme pressure? Have you ever felt pressure to act against your own values?

Chapter 23: Nightlock and Strategy

Q1. How does Foxface die, and what role does Katniss's knowledge of plants play in this moment? Was it intentional? Cite evidence.

Q2. How does Foxface's death change the number of remaining tributes and raise the stakes for the final confrontation?

Q3. Katniss reflects on Foxface with some admiration after her death. How does Collins use this moment to challenge simple "hero vs. villain" thinking in the Games?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Foxface survives through intelligence and stealing rather than combat. What does her character suggest about the different ways people survive under pressure? Is every form of survival equally honorable?

Chapter 24: Lake and Muttation Attack

- Q1.** The mutts that attack at the lake have the eyes of the dead tributes. What does this detail symbolize about the Capitol's cruelty and its desire to break the survivors psychologically?
- Q2.** How do Katniss, Peeta, and Cato respond to the mutt attack? What does each tribute's response reveal about their character?
- Q3.** How does the mutt attack force the final confrontation between Katniss, Peeta, and Cato? How does the setting intensify the danger?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* The mutts are designed to look like fallen tributes — people Katniss knew. Why do you think the Capitol would want the survivors to see the faces of those they've lost in their final enemy? What is the psychological purpose?

Chapter 25: Double Suicide

- Q1.** How does Katniss come up with the idea to use the nightlock berries, and what is she hoping will happen? Does the plan work? Cite evidence.
- Q2.** How does the act of defiance with the berries develop the novel's central theme about resistance to the Capitol's power?
- Q3.** Katniss's berry gamble is described as both terrifying and triumphant. How does Collins balance these two emotions through word choice and pacing in this chapter?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* Katniss refuses to play by the Capitol's rules and forces them to change the outcome. Can one person's act of defiance really change a powerful system? What gives individuals the courage to stand up to authority?

Chapter 26: Recovery in the Capitol

- Q1.** How has Katniss physically and emotionally changed by the time she is recovered after the Games? Cite specific evidence from her reflections in this chapter.
- Q2.** How does the joyful Capitol atmosphere during the victor celebrations contrast with Katniss's internal emotional state? What does this contrast reveal?
- Q3.** How does Haymitch's warning about Katniss's safety shape the reader's understanding of what lies ahead for her, even after winning?

◆ **Reflection:** Winning the Games does not mean Katniss is free or safe. What does this suggest about the difference between surviving and truly being free? Can a person ever fully "win" in an unjust system?

Chapter 27: Final Interview

Q1. How does President Snow's expression during the victory ceremony reveal his true feelings about Katniss? What specific detail does Katniss notice, and what does it mean?

Q2. How does the revelation that Peeta believed the love story was real — while Katniss did not — set up conflict for future events and affect the reader's understanding of both characters?

Q3. What theme about the cost of survival and the nature of freedom does the final chapter leave the reader with? How does the ending feel — hopeful, ambiguous, or dark?

◆ **Reflection:** *[Personal Response]* The novel ends with Katniss realizing she is still not safe, and with uncertainty about what is real between her and Peeta. What questions are you left with? What do you think the author wants you to take away from this story?
