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Literature
Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Catching Fire

by Suzanne Collins

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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Objectives

By the end of this unit, the student will be able to:

1. summarize the main events of the novel and identify those that Katniss brings about.
2. give detailed descriptions of the various settings of the novel.
3. identify the type of narration used and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of using this form of narration.
4. analyze Katniss in detail, especially her strengths, weaknesses, sense of self-worth, and role as the symbol of the rebellion.
5. compare and contrast Peeta, Gale, and Finnick, especially the aspects of each character that makes him stand out in comparison to others.
6. identify and describe the following characters and explain the role they play in the development of the story:
 - Beetee
 - Johanna Mason
 - Plutarch Heavensbee
 - President Snow
 - Wiress
7. examine Katniss's relationships with Gale and Peeta and discuss how developments in the plot affect these relationships.
8. explain how Katniss attempts to resolve her conflicting feelings for Gale and Peeta.
9. describe Haymitch Abernathy and analyze his relationship with Katniss.
10. illustrate how Cinna plays an important role in Katniss's development as a symbol of the rebellion.
11. recognize and discuss the use of Katniss and the mockingjay as symbols of the rebellion.
12. explain how Collins uses allusions to ancient Rome to highlight aspects of Panem.
13. show how the use of suspense helps to draw the reader into the story and sustain interest.

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. The rebellion against the Capitol forms the background of the story. Explain the development of the rebellion. Who or what begins to demonstrate acts of rebellion and how? Provide examples from the story to support your response.
2. Write a detailed description of the Quarter Quell arena. Include descriptions of the dangers found in the various sections of it.
3. What type of narration does Collins use in the novel? How does her narrator influence the reader's view of people and situations?
4. What aspects of Katniss's personality are revealed by the various events in the novel? What are her strengths and weaknesses?
5. How does Katniss feel about herself at various times during the novel?
6. Do you think Katniss is the right person to lead the rebellion? Why or why not? Support your opinion with examples from the story.
7. Compare and contrast Peeta, Gale, and Finnick. Examine their strengths and weaknesses, special abilities, and similarities and differences. Give examples of what each one does or says that reveal these characteristics.
8. Describe Katniss's relationship with the following characters. How is each important in highlighting the motifs in the novel and helping develop the plot?
 - Darius
 - Finnick
 - Johanna Mason
 - Katniss's mother
 - Madge Undersee
 - Mags
 - Plutarch Heavensbee
 - President Snow
9. Katniss is unable to decide who she loves: Gale or Peeta. Describe her relationship with each of them. Identify examples that show she feels strongly about both of them. What events in the story affect her feelings about each of them? How do these events either clarify her feelings or deepen her confusion?
10. Describe the personality of Haymitch Abernathy and give details of his personal history.
11. Describe Haymitch's relationship with Katniss. What are their differences, and what do they have in common?

Part I: “The Spark”

Chapter 1

Vocabulary

claustrophobic – causing an irrational fear of confined spaces
concocted – made up
exorbitant – unreasonably high
exudes – gives off slowly and steadily
futile – pointless; useless
guttural – harsh sounding
intermingled – mixed together
pneumonia – a lung infection
predators – animals that prey on others
profanity – offensive language
protocol – an official and formal set of rules
provocation – an action taken to bring about a specific response
retrospect – a review of a past time or event
strategy – a plan of action designed to achieve an aim.
ushered – shown or guided; brought
vaguely – unclearly
withdrawal – the process of overcoming an addiction

1. What is the Victory Tour, and why is Katniss dreading it?

2. Katniss says that she is hated by the authorities in the Capitol. Why do they hate her?

3. What fiction did the Capitol create to explain Katniss’s relationship with Gale Hawthorne? Why did it create this fiction?

11. What do the opening two paragraphs of this chapter suggest President Snow could be compared to? Why would this comparison be appropriate?

12. What talent has been chosen for Katniss? What are her real talents, and why was neither of them used?

13. How do Katniss and Haymitch manage to talk privately? What does Haymitch tell Katniss? What do his comments make her realize?

4. The mockingjay is an important symbol in the novel. What does it represent to the people in the Capitol? What could it symbolize to the people in the districts?

5. During banquets in ancient Rome, people vomited what they had eaten so that they could continue to feast. In addition, people and animals fought to the death in arenas as a form of public entertainment. How does the author hint at these ancient practices?

6. How do Katniss and Peeta react to the excesses of the banquet and the behavior of the other guests?

7. Who is Plutarch Heavensbee?

8. What is unusual about Heavensbee and the way he treats Katniss?

9. Who is Madge Undersee, and what is her connection to Katniss?
