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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Mockingjay

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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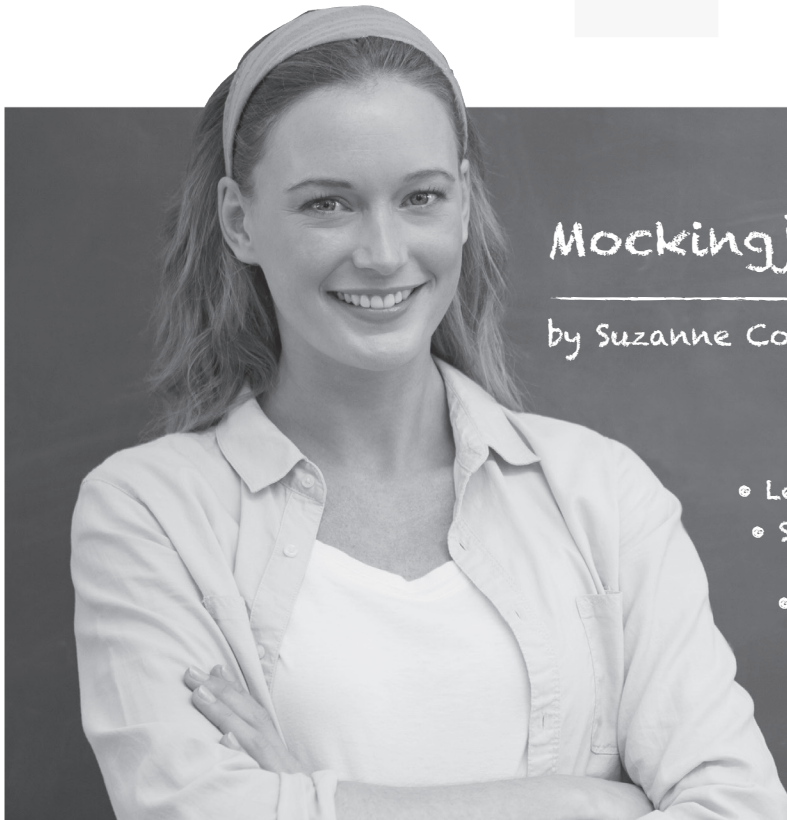
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Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to

1. describe how Katniss approaches the role of being the embodiment of the Mockingjay.
2. identify why Katniss distrusts both the Capitol and the rebels, focusing on the tendency of each side to deceive individuals and use them without their consent.
3. compare and contrast Katniss's feelings toward Peeta and Gale and examine why she chooses the more hopeful man over the angrier one.
4. describe Peeta's strategy for restoring his sanity, with emphasis on his "Real or not real?" game.
5. compare and contrast the different leadership of President Snow, President Coin, and Katniss.
6. identify how Katniss's being a hunter influences her perspective on her experience.
7. identify how Prim's being a healer influences her perspective on her experience.
8. compare and contrast settings in the novel to show how environment can contribute to meaning.
9. assess the pressures that force Katniss to lie and the motivations that lead her to tell the truth.
10. identify and describe the following characters, explaining their function in the plot and the ways they support the novel's themes and concepts:
 - Peeta
 - Gale
 - Prim
 - Finnick
 - Haymitch
 - Plutarch
 - Boggs
 - President Snow
 - President Coin
11. discuss how the rebels, far from being invincible, suffer ongoing traumatization as a result of their revolutionary efforts.
12. analyze dialogue to show how word choice reveals emotion, characterization, and motivation.
13. discuss the fascination and the consequences advanced weapons hold for Plutarch and Gale.

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. District 13, President Coin, and Haymitch deceived Katniss to rescue her from the Quarter Quell and offer her the role of the Mockingjay. Throughout the novel, Katniss remains angry about their deception, yet she deceives her audience about the real circumstances of the propos and her supposed pregnancy. She deceives the Star Squad and TV crew about the lack of authorization for the flight through the Capitol. When does Katniss succeed by telling her listeners the truth? When does telling the truth make their lives worse? Does Peeta, the man Katniss ultimately chooses, tend to tell her the truth or lie to her?
2. So that the Mockingjay will better inspire the rebels, President Coin approves of many deceptions for the propos. President Snow deceives Capitol citizens to achieve and maintain his political power. Katniss lies to the Star Squad and TV crew so they will trust her leadership. Are leaders required to lie or mislead their followers in order to be effective? Describe pressures that push these three leaders to lie. What might have happened had they chosen to tell the truth?
3. Katniss is a hunter, which influences her perspective on the world. Identify examples of her hunter orientation influencing her, her choices, feelings, observations, or dialogue.
4. Prim is a healer, which leads her to see the world differently than her sister, a hunter, does. Identify examples of Prim's perspective as a healer. How does it affect her actions?
5. Give an example of Gale's anger and an example of Peeta's kindness and hope. Discuss how this difference in their characters leads Katniss to choose Peeta over Gale.
6. A metaphor compares two things that are essentially different, such as the metaphor describing Katniss as fire in Chapter 7. Find some other metaphors in the novel, and invent a metaphor to describe Katniss and a metaphor to describe another character of your choice.
7. Describe Gale's influence on the special weapons of District 13. How does a bomb similar to those of his design kill Prim? Answer Katniss's question: Are there lines that must not be crossed even in war? Why or why not?
8. Katniss decides to shoot President Coin instead of President Snow. Discuss why she reaches this decision. What might she think is more valuable than allegiance to a group in the war?

Mockingjay

Synopsis

1. Briefly outline who each of the following characters are. What is the relationship of each to Katniss and Peeta?

Haymitch Abernathy: _____

Beetee and Wiress: _____

Finnick Odair: _____

Plutarch Heavensbee: _____

Johanna Mason: _____

Cinna: _____

Gale Hawthorne: _____

Chapter 2

VOCABULARY

ample – enough or more than enough
clandestine – hidden, secret
complicity – involved in working together in doing wrong
conciliatory – tending to overcome by calming
concoctions – prepared mixtures, especially food, drink, or medicine
decimated – destroyed
excruciating – extremely painful
indelible – unerasable
leniency – mercy or tolerance
ominous – threatening or suggestive of harm
propaganda – information, often deceitful, deliberately spread to help or harm a cause
refuge – a place of shelter or protection from danger
robustness – strong and healthy
strenuous – characterized by or requiring strong effort, especially physical
surreal – strange and dreamlike
tenuous – weak, flimsy
vigilance – the state of being watchful, of monitoring to protect against danger

1. What is tattooed on the arm of District 13 citizens each morning? What does this practice show about District 13?

2. What was the deal District 13 and the Capitol struck during the Dark Days? How did it arise?

3. Why does Peeta call for a cease-fire? How does Katniss respond?

Chapter 7

VOCABULARY

arbitrary – without reason
authoritative – having official power
canteen – a small container for liquid
contagious – able to spread disease
detonates – causes something to explode
disembarks – leaves a ship or aircraft
fixated – very focused on something
germinate – to start to grow
hunkered – hunched down or squatting
imperative – mandatory, required
incongruous – does not fit; out of place
putrefying – rotting
unrattled – not shaken
quizzically – in a questioning or puzzled manner

1. When the wounded in the hospital chant her name, Katniss feels a new sensation—power. She says, “I have a kind of power I never knew I possessed.” What is her power? Describe it.

2. In the hospital, Katniss is glad Dalton suggested District 13 remove the makeup from her Mockingjay appearance. Why is she glad? Why would the people in the hospital prefer her without makeup?
