

PREPARATION SHEET for IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT

Project #1

Summer Reading Program

This sheet **MUST** be completed for **one of your two books** by the **second day of school** to prepare you for an assignment your English teacher will be giving you the first few days of school. Please be specific with your answers to ensure you will be able to successfully meet the assignment requirements.

1. Please write the title of your book and the author's name.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.

2. Why did you select this book?

Someone recommended the book to me and since it had received great reviews, I thought it would be a good choice. It was highly popular among young people -almost the "New Harry Potter."



3. Please write a 5-6 sentence summary of your book below. This should be created by you and not copied from the back of the book or from another source.

The book takes place in the future where the main character is selected to represent the district where she lives in a fight for her life. She is one of two people representing the district. Two young people are selected by lottery to represent 12 districts. These young people go to battle where only one person can remain alive. These "games" are televised to all. A twist in the story is that the young man (also from district 12 like our main character) is in love with Katniss (the female main character).

4. Did you like your book? Please be specific as to why you did or did not like the book that you read.

The book was a riveting read. It offers adventure, family story, a love interest. The character, Katniss, is an engaging character. She is somewhat likeable, but also has characteristics that are not exactly positive. In that way I think a lot of people can relate to her. In other words, she is not perfect, but has the potential to be a better person than she is. As a reader, you want her to “do the right thing,” but at the same time, you are sympathetic to her circumstances –living in a fairly brutal futuristic world, where survival is the name of the “game.”

5. Whom do you think would like this book? Please explain why you believe what you believe.

I think almost anyone could relate to some aspect of this book. I am not really “into” futuristic novels, but I liked the book –I think because this character is multi-dimensional.

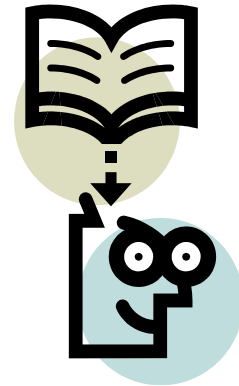
6. Please list the main characters (a minimum of two characters must be listed, but your book may need many more than this). Then, write a brief summary of what each character was like.

Katniss: A teenage girl (I think she is approx. 15); her father has died and after her father’s death she became largely responsible for feeding her family. She is an avid hunter and she literally has to hunt food for her mother (who has gone into a deep depression), and her younger sister Prim whom she loves dearly. This is a girl who is tough, but also one with heart. She is a bit hard on her mother, but her love for her younger sister shows her human side. It is Prim’s name that is actually selected in the town’s “lottery,” but Katniss volunteers to take her place.

Peeta: This is the other boy from district 12. He is very selfless –kind-hearted and in love with Katniss. Katniss, however, is really not aware of

this love. She thinks that Peeta is basically faking his love to win over viewers who are watching all of this play out on TV.

7. Please choose the three most important pieces of text from the book. These should be exact words you found and felt stood out for some reason (it connected with you personally, it was important to the main ideas of the book, it was creative in its wording, etc.). Write them below and briefly explain why you chose each as significant.



Text #1 (Page _____141_____):

“I want to die as myself. Does that make any sense” he asks. I shake my head. How could he die as anyone but himself? “I don’t want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind of monster that I’m not.” (Peeta, the young boy from District 12)

Reason: This is a basic theme of the story: How do you hang onto your identity when you are surrounded by inhumanity? How do you define yourself?

Text #2 (Page ____40_____):

The awful thing is that if I can forget they’re people, it will be no different at all.” (40)

Reason: This is said before Katniss has to go to the games. She is saying this in response to someone commenting on her hunting skills. This is ironic because the entire book deals with the question of whether Katniss will lose what makes her human. She needs to be brutal to survive, but at what cost?

Text #3 (Page _209_____):

“I realize for the first time how lonely I’ve been in the arena.”

Reason: This passage is important because it illustrates that at this point in the story Katniss can still be in touch with her human side. This comes after she forms an alliance with Rue and they sleep together in the sleeping bag up in the tree. Katniss feels loved and protected and more importantly she is able to give love in this scene.

8. Finally, write a brief summary of anything you learned from reading the book. Did it connect with you in any way? If it didn’t, try to explain why.

I think the book tries to illustrate how people have choices in life. Peeta makes a statement in the book about “not changing.” I think this is important. The book has a lot of different messages. All of the stuff taking place in the book is televised on TV. I think there is a message here about the nature of the media. So often today we tune in to watch overly sexual images, or brutal images on TV. There are many false faces that exist. Television is one place where these “false appearances” are glorified. In the book, Katniss the main character basically changes herself so much to try to “win over viewers” that she does not really know who she is anymore. I think there is a message here for all of us about caring too much what others think.

Your teacher will explain how you will use this sheet to help you complete the in-class assignment. Please make sure you add any additional notes you might need to remember what your book was about to this sheet.