***The Hunger Games* Discussion Questions**

**Directions:** Each time you meet with your group, choose 2-3 of these questions to discuss. (You should choose your questions from a relevant chapter. E.g. If you read chapters 4-10, you should discuss questions from those chapters.) Have one person jot down notes on what your group said in response to the questions. (These can be in bullets.)

**Ch. 1**

1. What character traits would you give Katniss? Is she more harsh or kind? Rank her on a scale of 1-10. 1 being very harsh and mean and 10 being very kind.
2. What is the Reaping? How does it work?
3. Why does this society have the Hunger Games? What does this tell you about who has all the power?
4. In District 12, what is the difference between some who is from the Seam and someone who is a merchant?
5. Describe the setting so far. What conflicts does this setting create for Katniss and her family?
6. What does Katniss value and believe? How do you know?

**Ch. 2**

1. What motivates Katniss to volunteer as tribute?
2. Why does no one clap when Katniss goes up the stage as tribute? How do they hold the three middle fingers of their left hands up instead?
3. Why don’t either of Peeta’s brothers volunteer to take his place like Katniss volunteered to take Prim’s?
4. Why does Katniss value Prim more than she values her mother? Why does Katniss feel this way?
5. What do you think motivated Peeta to give Katniss the bread even after his mother tried to drive Katniss off and hit him for burning the bread? What does this tell you about his values and beliefs?
6. How does Katniss feel about Peeta being chosen as tribute? Why does she feel this way? (Consider pages 32-33)

**Ch. 3**

1. Why do both Madge and Peeta’s father come to visit and give Katniss gifts when they are not close friends or family?
2. Gale tells Katniss she has a chance to win the Hunger Games because she’s used to hunting, and he asks her, “How different can it be, really?” (48) What does Katniss think of this question? Will the Hunger Games be like hunting for her?
3. While on the train to the Capitol, Katniss describes what she learns in school: “Besides basic reading and math most of our instruction is coal-related. Except for the weekly lecture on the history of Panem. It’s mostly a lot of blather about what we owe the Capitol. I know there must be more than they’re telling us, an actual account of what happened during the rebellion. But I don’t spend much time thinking about it. Whatever the truth is, I don’t see how it will help me get food on the table.” (41-42) What can you infer about the Capitol’s values and beliefs from this quote? What can you infer that Katniss values and believes?
4. What do the mockingjays symbolize?
5. What motivates Katniss to eat with her hands during dinner on the train?
6. Why do you think Haymitch is always drunk? What motivates him to drink so much?

**Ch. 4**

1. Why does Katniss say, “A kind Peeta Mellark is far more dangerous to me than an unkind one”? (49)
2. Why does Katniss throw the cookies out the window?
3. What has a dandelion come to symbolize to Katniss?
4. Why was Prim able to forgive their mother when Katniss was unable to?
5. Why does Katniss detest Haymitch?
6. What convinces Haymitch to start actually helping Peeta and KAtniss instead of just drinking the whole time?
7. Why does Katniss think she misjudged PEeta?

**Ch. 5**

1. What do you make of Katniss’s prep team? What does she think of them?
2. Why does Cinna assume the people of the Capitols must seem despicable to Katniss?
3. During the parade, why does KAtniss start to feel more hopeful about the Hunger Games?
4. What motivates Katniss to kiss Peeta on the cheek?

**Ch. 6**

1. What’s an Avox? What does this practice say about the Capitol’s values and beliefs?
2. What do the behaviors and fashions of the people in the Capitol suggest about their values and beliefs?
3. How are society’s values and beliefs in the capital different from society’s values and beliefs in the districts? Why are the values and beliefs different?
4. How do the values and beliefs of society change from district to district, including the capital? What accounts for those different values and beliefs?
5. Why would there never been a power outage in the Capitol when the districts have them all the time?
6. Why didn't Katniss challenge the Capitol's values and beliefs and help the girl she saw in the woods who later was made an Avox? How does she feel about her choice?

**Ch. 7**

1. Why does it rub Katniss the wrong when Peeta tells her not to underestimate herself? (89) Why does she keep getting angry as the conversation progresses?
2. Why does Haymitch insist that Katniss and Peeta appear to like each other in public?
3. What does the fact that Districts 1, 2 and 4 have Career Tributes say those Districts' values and beliefs?
4. Why do some of the Districts have different values and beliefs? What accounts for these differneces?
5. Is the idea of Career Tributes believable? In other words, if the Hunger Games existed in real life, do you believe that someone would actually make a career out of training for them?
6. What can you tell about the Gamemakers' values and beliefs?
7. After trying to pretend to be friends with Peeta all day, why does Katniss say to him, "Don't let's pretend when there's no one around"? Why doesn't she want to be friendly with Peeta?
8. Why did Katniss shoot an apple into the pig's mouth during her evaulation with the Gamemakers? Does this qualify as challenging the Capitol's values and beliefs? Did Katniss make a wise choice?

**Ch. 8-9**

1. Katniss has refused to cry several times since volunteering as tribute. Why do her actions with the Gamemakers finally break her down and make her cry?
2. Why does Katniss values Gale's friendship so much?
3. Why does Katniss feel so betrayed when Peeta asks Haymitch to train him alone? Are her feelings justified? Why do you think Peeta wants to train alone now?
4. During Katniss's interview training, Haymitch says, "[W]hen you open your mouth, you come across more as sullen and hostile." (116) Is this true? Does Katniss come across as sullen and hostile? Is she truly sullen and hostile or does she just appear to be?
5. Why does the Avox girl help Katniss even through Katniss didn't help her?
6. Why does Cinna's advice for Katniss during the interview work so much better than Haymitch's?
7. Why do you think Peeta confessed to being in love with Katniss?

**Ch. 10**

1. Why does Katniss respond with so much anger when Peeta says that he's in love with her during the interview? Is her response justified?
2. How much do you like/dislike Effie on a scale of 1-10? 1 being you that you hate her and 10 being that you love her. What about Haymitch?
3. When Katniss and Peeta talk on the roof about going into the Hunger Games tomorrow, Peeta says, "I want to die as myself." Katniss wonders, "How could he die as anyone but himself?" What is the answer to Katniss's question? How COULD Peeta die as anyone but himself in the arena?
4. What would Peeta have to do in order to die as himself? Why is this so important to him? Why is it not as important to Katniss?
5. What can you tell so far about how the Capitol's values and beliefs are different from District 12's values and beliefs? How can you tell? Consider pages 144-145 especially.

**Ch. 11-14**

1. Why doesn't Katniss listen to Haymitch's advice about the equipment around the Cornucopia?
2. Why do you think Peeta is traveling with the Career Tributes?
3. Has Katniss challenged any of the Capitol's values or beliefs yet? Why or why not?
4. What do you think motivated Rue to alert Katniss to the trackerjackers?
5. Why did the Capitol leave trackerjackers outside the districts?
6. By killing the Careers is Katniss supporting the Capitol's values and beliefs? Why or why not?
7. What motivated Peeta to tell Katniss to run when the Careers were coming back?

**Ch. 15**

1. Why do Rue and Katniss know so little about each other's Districts? Why do you think the other Districts know so little about each other?
2. Is Katniss making a wise decision when she asks Rue to be her ally?
3. What does the information Rue tells Katniss about District 11 reveal about the Capitol's values and beliefs?

**Ch. 16-17**

1. WHy doesn't Katniss value music? What does this tell you about her?
2. Why does Katniss run for Rue even when she knows it will be dangerous? Why not just leave?
3. What affect does Rue's death have on Katniss?
4. How is decorating Rue's body a way for Katniss to challenge the values and beliefs of the Capitol? What motivates Katniss to do this?

**Ch. 18-20**

1. What motivates Katniss to find Peeta and try to help him especially considering how hurt he is? What motivates her to kiss him?
2. WHy does Peeta want Katniss to tell him a happy story?
3. What does Katniss's story about how happy the goat made her tell you about her?
4. What is motivating Katniss to go to the Cornucopia for mediciine even though she knows it's a trap?

**Ch. 21-22**

1. What motivates Thresh to spare Katniss? In what sense have he and District 11 challenged the values and beliefs of the Capitol with their actions?
2. After Katniss is hurt in the explosion, she becomes disorientated and starts to think she’s home in bed with her mother stroking her cheek. She says, “I don’t push it away as I would in wakefulness, never wanting her to know how much I crave that gentle touch. How much I miss her even though I still don’t trust her.” (290) What does Katniss mean? How can she crave her mother’s touch yet push her away? How can she miss her yet still not trust her?
3. When Katniss tells Peeta that Thresh let her go because he didn’t want to owe her anything, she says, “It’s like the bread. How I never seem to get over owing you for that” (293) Why does Katniss feel like she’ll never stop owing Peeta for giving her bread? Does she owe him?
4. Is Katniss really in love with Peeta or not? Find evidence to support your answer.

**CH. 23-24**

1. Have KAtniss’s feelings about Haymitch changed since the beginning of the book? Why or why not? Find evidence to support your answer.
2. How does KAtniss feel about Thresh’s death? Why does she feel this way?
3. Why does the idea of winning scare Katniss?
4. Is it a wise decision to go to the Cornucopia in ch. 24?

**Ch. 25**

1. What evidence is there that the Gamemakers value entertainment?
2. Why does Katniss seem to values Peeta so much?
3. What motivates Katniss to shoot Cato after he has already been mauled by the muttations?
4. When the Gamemakers announce that the earlier rule has been revoked and there can be only one winner, Katniss sees Peeta pull a knife from his belt, and she immediately draws her bow and points at him. When he throws the knife in the water, she says that she feels ashamed of herself. Why is she ashamed of drawing her bow on Peeta? Do you agree that she should feel ashamed?
5. Why does Katniss and Peeta start arguing over who will kill whom, she says, “I know death right here, right now would be the easier of the two” (343). Death would be easier than what? Why?
6. Why does Peeta want Katniss to kill him? Doesn’t he want to live? Why doesn’t Katniss just kill him?
7. Why is Katniss willing to risk both of them eating the berries and dying? Would she really have eaten them?
8. How is threatening to eat the berries and commit suicide a way of challenging the Capitol’s values and beliefs?

**Ch. 26-27**

1. Explain Katniss’s reaction when she is finally taken into the hovercraft and Peeta is taken away. Why does she panic?
2. When Katniss watches the doctors work on Peeta, she remembers how she always used to run into the woods when Prim and her mother tried to help people. She used to wonder why they didn’t leave and why they stayed and watched. After watching Peeta with the doctors, she says, “And now I know. Iti’s because you have no choice.” (348). What does she mean? Why do you have no choice but to stay and watch?
3. Why does Katniss run to Haymitch, of all people, first?!
4. What can you tell about the prep team’s values and beliefs from their conversations while they work on Katniss? Why do they have such different values and beliefs from Katniss?
5. What evidence is there that the Capitol values physical appearance?
6. Why does Cinna dress Katniss in a costume for the interview that makes her look so innocent?
7. Why is Katniss in so much trouble after the Hunger Games?
8. After the Hunger Games are over and she is about to be interview, why does Katniss say, “And right now, the most dangerous part of the Hunger Games is about to begin”? (359)
9. Why do you think the Capitol forces victors to watch footage of the Hunger Games? Why doesn’t the Capitol show Katniss covering Rue in flowers?
10. How do watching the footage of the Hunger Games affect Katniss?
11. Why doesn’t Katniss challenge the values and beliefs of the Capitol during any of her interviews? Why doesn’t she speak out against the Hunger Games?
12. Why does the Capitol force the victors to go on tour?
13. Why does the thought of seeing Gale make Katniss’s “stomach churn”?
14. Why didn’t anyone need to coach Peeta on how to behave during the interviews?
15. On the train ride home, when Katniss is thinking about Gale and Peeta, she says, “I only know that I feel like I’ve been lying to someone who trusts me. Or more accurately, to two people.” (371) Who does she think she’s been lying to? Has she been lying? Why or why not?
16. How exactly does KAtniss feel about Peeta? Was any of her act during the Hunger Games real? Does she care about him? Find evidence?