

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

Catching Fire

by Suzanne Collins

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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?

Catching Fire

Synopsis

1. Each of the following terms refers to *The Hunger Games*. Write a brief description of each:

• arena: _____

• Capitol: _____

• escort: _____

• Hunger Games: _____

• mentor: _____

• Panem: _____

• Peacekeeper: _____

• reaping: _____

• sponsor: _____

• stylist: _____

• tessera: _____

• tribute: _____

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?

Part II: “The Quell”

Chapter 10

Vocabulary

appropriated – taken without permission
assimilating – joining and adjusting to a new situation or environment
belligerently – in an aggressive manner
brink – the point at which something is about to happen
chronically – continuously
depleted – reduced or drained
earnestly – seriously
granary – a storehouse for grain
graphite – a gray form of carbon
imminent – about to happen
inflammatory – causing strong emotion, especially anger
innocuous – harmless
instigators – people who start an action, often something troublesome
malnourished – suffering from a lack of food
momentum – strength or energy increased by motion
preoccupied – absorbed in thought; distracted
priorities – things that are considered the most important
renderings – artistic representations
subdue – to bring under control; calm
tantalizing – exciting or interesting
tenements – apartment houses, usually of poor quality
tremulous – shaking slightly
warily – cautiously; with suspicion
wisp – a trace or hint

1. What are Katniss’s first impressions of Bonnie and Twill? Describe the women. How does Katniss know they are not from the Capitol?

2. Katniss learns what has taken place in District 8 from Bonnie and Twill. Summarize these events.

Part III: “The Enemy”**Chapter 19**

Vocabulary

adversaries – enemies or opponents
altercation – a noisy argument
barreling – moving very fast
bearings – an understanding of one’s position
converging – coming together
flailing – moving an uncontrolled way
impales – pierces with something pointed
intensifies – becomes stronger or more extreme
mode – the manner in which something is done
obsolete – no longer used; outdated
plumage – the feathers of a bird
premature – before expected; early
scenarios – descriptions of what could possibly happen
sizing – carefully considering in order to form an opinion
unhinge – to upset or make insane
universal – including all without exception

1. Give a brief description of the arena.

2. How does Finnick show Katniss that he is an ally?

3. Aside from the alliance of Katniss, Peeta, Finnick, and Mags, what other group has formed?
