AWESOME stories

THE HUNGER GAMES

0. THE HUNGER GAMES - Story Preface

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Katniss Everdeen learns, early on, that if she has hope, she can develop self-confidence and keep moving forward in her life. She also realizes that hope is the opposite of fear. The government of Panem, and President Snow, want the Tributes to experience fear, not hope. That is when the government has the most control over the Tributes.

Katniss Everdeen - the daughter of a coal miner - is the female Tribute for District 12. Peeta Mellark - the son of a baker - is the male Tribute for District 12. Although she did not initially realize that Peeta has strong personal feelings for her, Katniss has long looked-upon Peeta as a symbol of hope.

Once, when the Everdeen family was starving, Peeta deliberately burned two loaves of bread. He knew his Mother would make him throw-out those loaves to the pigs. Instead, Peeta threw the loaves to Katniss. That act of kindness gave Katniss hope - something far greater than Peeta could have ever imagined.

When a person has hope, he or she can accomplish far more than the energy produced by a loaf of bread or a single meal. Hope drives a person forward, generating self-confidence and providing the assurance one needs to sense that all will be well.

A Tribute could potentially survive on hope.

As Tributes, however, Katniss and Peeta must also feed themselves, ward-off attacks by other Tributes (and the Capitol's "game makers") - not to mention find water, apply camouflage (whenever needed) and constantly multi-task to the point of total exhaustion.

Then - when they *are* totally exhausted - they must find a place to sleep (where they will not make themselves completely vulnerable to other Tributes whose job it is to kill them). At such moments - and many others - the Tributes must resist the overwhelming sense of fear.

A Tribute could potentially die because of fear.

The Hunger Games - as created by government officials in The Capitol - demonstrate two main purposes:

- The government's power is so overwhelming that it can force the people of Panem to do anything - including give-up their children to be sacrificed in sadistic games which end their lives; and

- The people who run the government decide that children killing children - in a reality show - constitutes entertainment worthy of a national audience.

To make the film version of *Hunger Games* come alive in a lush environment - where waterfalls abound - the movie producers selected Transylvania County, North Carolina. It is a place where wintery weather freezes the falling water in mid-air.

We can virtually visit some of the places where significant film scenes take place:

- DuPont State Recreational Forest

- Bridal Veil Falls

- Triple Falls

- A Covered Bridge (where the sword-fighting scene occurs)

At the end of all the fighting, which takes place during the 74th Hunger Games, the impossible happens. The last two Tributes refuse to kill each other.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-HUNGER-GAMES-Hunger-Games

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:
http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-HUNGER-GAMES-Hunger-Games

Questions 2 Ponder

When Is Hope a Motivating Factor in Our Lives?

Hope drives a person forward, generating self-confidence and providing a sense of assurance that things will improve.

In “The Hunger Games,” Katniss Everdeen has long-viewed Peeta Mellark as a symbol of hope. He once helped her starving family by deliberately burning bread which he knew his mother would throw away.

Peeta threw the burned loaves to Katniss. That act of kindness gave Katniss hope - something far greater than Peeta could have ever imagined.

Do you agree that having hope makes a difference in a person's life? Why, or why not?

Have you ever experienced a time in life when hope helped you get through? What happened?

How Does Fear Keep Us from Success?

When a totalitarian government, like Panem’s, imposes impossible-to-follow rules and regulations on people, fear—sometimes mind-numbing fear—contributes to failure.

When Panem’s Tributes, for example, are fighting each other in the *Hunger Games*, they become totally exhausted—making them vulnerable to other Tributes whose job it is to kill them. At such moments—and many others—the Tributes must resist the overwhelming sense of fear.

A Tribute could potentially die because of fear.

Have you ever experienced a time in your life when fear prevented you from doing your best? What happened?

Have you ever seen a friend or loved one who was gripped by fear over something? What happened?

Were you, or your friend/loved one, able to overcome being afraid? How?

How Beneficial Is Inner Strength?

Despite overwhelming poverty, or other life circumstances which threaten our well-being, inner strength is an exceptionally beneficial tool to work through problems.

Katniss Everdeen, in “The Hunger Games,” is a person who has inner strength. She is neither rich nor highly educated, but she has great instincts and self-confidence. These attributes help her to survive.

How would you define “inner strength?”

Have you ever seen a person with inner strength overcome a difficult life situation? What did you admire most about that person and the path he/she chose to overcome the problems?

Is it better to be rich and lack inner strength - or - to be poor and possess inner strength? Explain your answer.

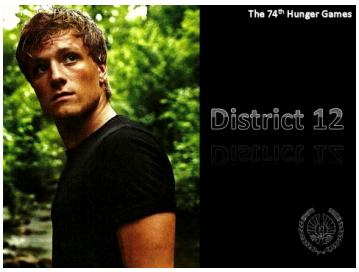
If you could choose between those two options, which would you choose? Why?

Media Stream



District 12 Female Tribute - Katniss Everdeen

Still-shot of Jennifer Lawrence, in the role of Katniss Everdeen, being announced as the female Tribute for District 12. Copyright, Lions Gate Entertainment, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
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District 12 Male Tribute - Peeta Mellark

Photo of Josh Hutcherson, in the role of Peeta Mellark, as District 12's male Tribute. Copyright, Lions Gate Entertainment, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
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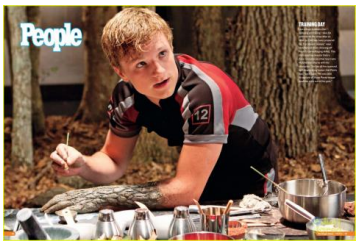
District 12, The Seam - Mellark Bakery

Photo of the Henry River Mill Village company store - taken on June 25, 2011 by Dr. Amy - after repairs and enhancements were made by the film crew. Copyright, Dr. Amy, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
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Peeta Mellark - Throwing Bread

Photo of Peeta Mellark, portrayed by Josh Hutcherson in the film version of *The Hunger Games*, by Murray Close. Copyright, Lions Gate Entertainment, all rights reserved. Photo provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
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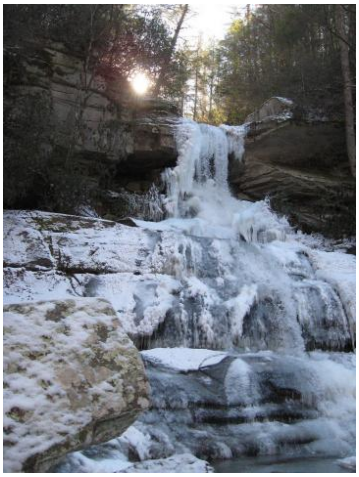
Peeta Mellark and the Art of Camouflage

Image of Josh Hutcherson, in the role of Peeta Mellark, applying tree camouflage to his arm in the film version of *The Hunger Games*. Photo, copyright Lions Gate Entertainment, all rights reserved. Image online via *People* magazine and provided here as fair use for educational purposes.
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Transylvania County - Filming of The Hunger Games

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Transylvania County - Scene of Hunger Games

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Transylvania County - Frozen Waterfall

Photo taken behind Maiden Hair Falls, in Transylvania County, by Kathy Hardy. Copyright, Kathy Hardy - Kathy@dornickdesigns - all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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The Hunger Games - DuPont State Forest

Photo of a waterfall in DuPont State Forest by Keisha Jean, online via Flickr.

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The Hunger Games - Triple Falls

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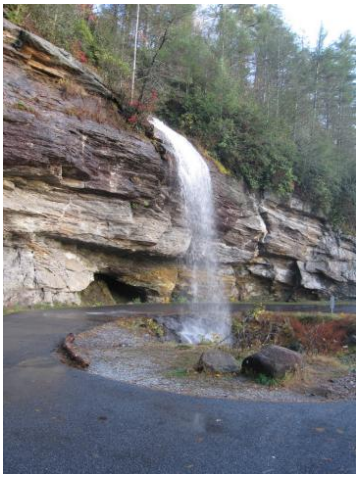


The Hunger Games - Covered Bridge Scene

Photo of High Falls covered bridge, in DuPont State Forest, by *Kid *Doc *One* - online via Flickr.

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The Hunger Games - Bridal Veil Falls

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THE HUNGER GAMES

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