



0. KATNISS and PEETA - DEFIANCE - Story Preface

1. PANEM - THE CAPITOL

2. PANEM - DISTRICT 12

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Katniss and Peeta decide they will defeat the Panem government, and President Snow, by defying the rules of the Hunger Games. They resist fighting against each other—in a way unlearning the rules they have been ordered to follow—and replace the government's will with their own decisions. Image by "DesireThis."

Katniss and Peeta decide *no* Tribute will remain standing.

They will *each* swallow poisonous berries - Deadly Nightshade, more likely than not (but called Nightlock * in the book) - so they will *both* die. **

If they both die, they defeat the creators and proponents of the Hunger Games - including President Snow and the government's representatives - by depriving them of a victorious Tribute.

In front of a nationally televised audience - and The Capitol's representatives - the last two Tributes decide to defy the government. They will follow their *own* judgment, not the orders of people whose intent is to harm them.

Totalitarian regimes are only totalitarian when "the governed" give in. This time, two members of "the governed" have defied The Capitol's orders. This time, if both Tributes die, The Capitol will become the loser of the Hunger Games.

Forcing the government to change its arbitrary rules, thereby allow two winning Tributes, Katniss and Peeta have won more than the Hunger Games. They have signaled that the people of Panem - including the poor people of District 12 - are no longer going to give-in to government dictates.

One can only imagine what awaits these two Tributes in the future!



* The "lock" - from "Nightlock" - may be a reference to poison hemlock (or *Conium Maculatum*). With white flowers resembling Queen Anne's Lace, the plant can be very deceiving (although its bad smell is an important characteristic). Plato tells us that hemlock is the poison which Socrates ingested, causing his death.

** If Katniss and Peeta had eaten the poisonous berries, it would have been like them to want their friends and family to remember them with the poetic words of Mary Elizabeth Frye: "Do Not Stand at My Grave and Weep."

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/KATNISS-and-PEETA-DEFIANCE-Hunger-Games>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/KATNISS-and-PEETA-DEFIANCE-Hunger-Games>

Questions 2 Ponder

How Does Defiance Help to Defeat Those Who Try to Control Us?

In the story of The Hunger Games, two teenagers have dared to defy the government. Was there a turning point, in the life of Katniss Everdeen, which helped her to make such a daring choice? If so, what was it?

Do you believe that totalitarian regimes are only totalitarian when "the governed" give in? Explain your answer.

Do you believe that defiance, like that of Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark, helps to defeat those who try to control us? How does that work?

How difficult is it for "the governed" to defy the dictates of a totalitarian regime?

When is it "worth it" to do so?

Should Defiant Heroes Worry about Retaliation?

Sometimes, when people fear resisting bad laws may lead to adverse consequences, defiant heroes lead the way to a better life for everyone.

However, defiant heroes sometimes become targets for retaliation.

In "The Hunger Games," two defiant heroes - Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark - have become national "stars." Now that the two "stars" have defied The Capitol, would you expect them to face consequences for their actions? Why, or why not?

If there are consequences, would you expect the government's representatives to act publicly or privately?

Explain your expectation.

If the government's representatives were to act against Katniss and Peeta, would you expect the people of Panem to support the government or to support the country's defiant heroes? Explain your answer.

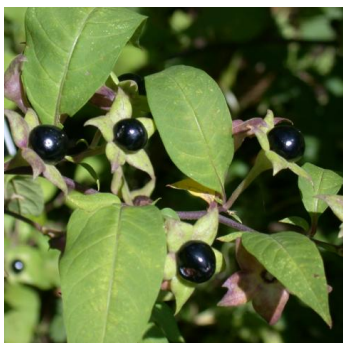
In your judgment, would it be easier to support the government or to support the country's defiant heroes? Why?

Media Stream



Katniss Everdeen as Mockingjay

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Deadly Nightshade - Katniss and Peeta's Poison Berries

Photo of Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa Belladonna*) by Amy Stewart, online via [The Conservatory of Flowers](#). Copyright, The Conservatory of Flowers, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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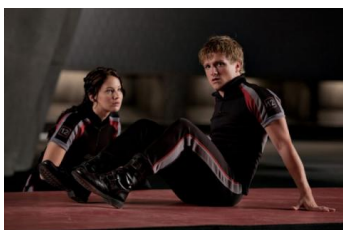


Coriolanus Snow - President of Panem

Photo of Donald Sutherland, as Coriolanus Snow - President of Panem - in *The Hunger Games*. Photo copyright, Lions Gate Entertainment, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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The Hunger Games - Katniss and Peeta

Photo of Jennifer Lawrence (as Katniss Everdeen) and Josh Hutcherson (as Peeta Mellark) in a still-shot from the film version of *The Hunger Games*. Copyright, Lions Gate Entertainment, all rights reserved. Image provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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KATNISS and PEETA - DEFIANCE

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