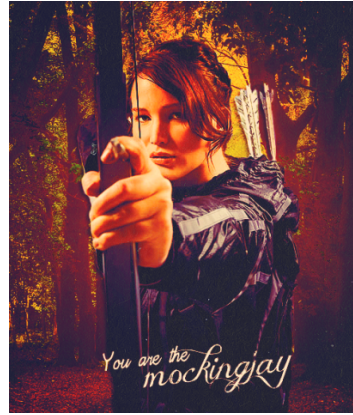




- 0. MOCKINGJAY - Story Preface
- 1. PANEM - THE CAPITOL
- 2. PANEM - DISTRICT 12
- 3. PANEM - THE SEAM
- 4. FOOD and the REAPING
- 5. PANEM - THE DISTRICT TRIBUTES
- 6. THE HUNGER GAMES
- 7. KATNISS and PEETA - DEFIANCE

8. MOCKINGJAY

When rebels from District 13 rescue Katniss from her second stint as a tribute in Panem's "Hunger Games," our heroine learns some important life lessons:

- The rebels have an ulterior motive.
- How they appear on the surface is not who they are in real life.
- Leaders of District 13 are as manipulative as leaders of Panem.
- Power resides in both expected and unexpected places.
- The rebel leader (President Coin) may be as evil as Panem's leader (President Snow).
- As Mockingjay, Katniss has power even though she's being manipulated.
- It takes courage to *live*, not just *die*, for a cause.
- Love, in all its forms, is based on friendship, trust and sacrifice.
- Losing friends is tortuously hard, but damaged friendships can be rebuilt.
- Admired as Mockingjay, Katniss can no longer just "be herself."
- The price of celebrity is high - perhaps too high for Katniss.
- Sacrifice is part of life - and - it seems that one major sacrifice is never enough.

Katniss experiences, firsthand, that war is exhausting, disruptive and sometimes pointless. Does she wonder why she keeps surviving, when so many of her friends do not? Does she even have time to think about it?



War, and the constant worry about war, changes people. War is a major theme throughout *The Hunger Games*. Why is that?

We could put the question to Suzanne Collins, the author of the series. She has a ready answer:

One of the reasons it's important for me to write about war is I really think that the concept of war, the specifics of war, the nature of war, the ethical ambiguities of war are introduced too late to children. I think they can hear them, understand them, know about them, at a much younger age without being scared to death by the stories.

It's not comfortable for us to talk about, so we generally don't talk about these issues with our kids. But I feel that if the whole concept of war were introduced to kids at an earlier age, we would have better dialogues going on about it, and we would have a fuller understanding.

What if Katniss wins the war but loses her own way? Is it possible for Katniss—or anyone—to hold onto her own identity despite crushing odds against it?

Katniss is the Mockingjay, but before she was the face of a cause, she was:

- A daughter;
- A sister;
- A friend.

Beyond the challenge of being a leader, Katniss faces an even-greater challenge: She must hold-on to being herself.

As she remembers who she is, she also remembers who she was by means of a song her father taught her. It's about a "hanging tree," where someone—who "murders three"—ends up.

As the mockingjays sing their own songs, Katniss sings hers. Perhaps it helps to connect her future, as the Mockingjay, with her past, as the daughter of a much-loved father.

Facing her, in the present, is one of the most-difficult tasks of all. Is Katniss able to hold-on to herself while she is the face of a nationwide rebellion?

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

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/MOCKINGJAY-Hunger-Games>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/MOCKINGJAY-Hunger-Games>

Questions 2 Ponder

Does It Take Courage to Live for a Cause?

A longstanding sentiment is that it takes courage to die for a cause, but it also takes courage to live for one.

In “Mockingjay,” by Suzanne Collins, Katniss Everdeen becomes the leader of a cause. She soon realizes that District 13's rebels - who once rescued her - have their own selfish issues and motives.

Worn-out by war and rebellion, Katniss learns, firsthand, that although it takes courage to die for a cause, it takes at least as much courage to live for one.

Do you think it is harder to die for a cause or to live for one? Explain your answer.

As the “Mockingjay,” Katniss has power even though she’s being manipulated. What will it take for her to exercise her power, despite the manipulation of District 13's leaders?

Admired as Mockingjay, Katniss can no longer just “be herself.” Is it worth it to have a celebrity life, or status, if you have to give-up being yourself in exchange? Explain your answer.

Media Stream



Mockingjay Quote

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>

Panem - District 13

As *The Hunger Games* trilogy moves forward, we learn that District 13 (which once rebelled against the Capitol and was supposedly laid-waste thereafter) is actually still operational.

In a deal its leaders concluded with the government, after the rebellion, District 13 operates underground. The peace treaty, between the two entities, requires District 13 to avoid starting a nuclear war against Panem.

In exchange, District 13 is allowed to remain independent.

Just like the other 12 Districts, 13 had its own focus while it was still part of Panem. The products it contributed to the well-being of the Capitol were mining graphite and nuclear science / technology.

Because District 13 is now independent, it does not send tributes to the Hunger Games. And ... to be sure that people living in the other 12 Districts believe 13 has ceased to exist ... the Capitol destroyed District 13's visible remains and consistently prevents all outside access.

Katniss Everdeen believes the Capitol's propaganda (that District 13 has been annihilated) until she meets two tributes (Twill and Bonnie) from District 8.

Why, they wonder, does everyone keep seeing the same smoldering ruins, the same reporter in front of the same rubble, and a mockingjay flying in the same place across the screen whenever the Capitol is televising new footage about District 13?

To the District-8 tributes, the Capitol's broadcasts about District 13 aren't new at all.

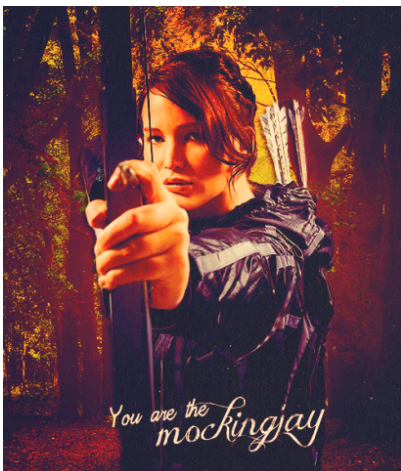
If it's true that the footage isn't new at all, then there must be a reason for the Capitol to constantly repeat old footage. Could it be that the people of District 13 are actually alive? Could they be living underground?

Katniss ultimately learns the truth ... rebel leaders are using District 13 as their base for a new rebellion.

This image depicts the general location of District 13.

Image of Panem map online via Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Panem-District-13>



MOCKINGJAY

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/MOCKINGJAY>