

The Hunger Games Essay

I loved *The Hunger Games* because it was so realistic—the book wasn't a fairytale. It's not full of happy endings and peace for everyone. The book, while set in a futuristic world, deals with real problems against the backdrop of a cruel, conflicting government-ruled world. Many of the problems faced by Katniss, Peeta, and others show several problems going on in America, as well as many third-world countries today. The issues the main characters deal with are very realistic; famine, poverty, abuse and war. The characters were complex and well-developed, making the book impossible to put down. It's wonderful that Suzanne Collins makes you feel real connections to the characters and their dilemmas. In the novel, you get to know each of the characters well, chiefly Katniss and those close to her. You watch the characters develop and struggle to cope with family, starvation, and of course the inevitable burden of the Hunger Games themselves.

Prim's Journal:

I am numb and sick with worry and disbelief. The unthinkable has happened. I can hardly form the words. My stomach keeps clenching and unclenching like an angry fist. Why her? Why Katniss? When they drew my name from the reaping ball, I didn't feel anything but confused. My name—one slip of paper among hundreds, got picked? I didn't understand. It's not like I knew I was going to be dead meat and didn't care...I just wasn't able to process anything but a high-pitched whine in my skull, the murmurs from the crowd. They were angry a twelve-year old had been picked. It's unfair that people so young are forced to fight to death for the cameras. Then there was Katniss. In the crowd. She made a choking sound and was all of sudden pushing up to the stage, shoving her way through the throng. I barely heard her, saw her lips moving; her

voice shouting—but it was practically silent. Yet it filled me with dread. Those two words keep bouncing around my head. I volunteer...I volunteer...It fills me with cold fear and hot anger. IT WAS NOT HER JOB TO SAVE ME!! I didn't want this. I didn't ASK for it! I WILL not be forced to watch my sister die! I also cannot think that way. She will not die. She promised! Now I am acting like a young child. A baby. I have to stay strong for Katniss because she WILL win. Gale will help feed us until Katniss comes home...and I KNOW she will. She would never leave me. or even our mother, for all of her misgivings. I have watched her change enough and will not lose her. I refuse. I have watched her change from a tender, caring big sister into a tough, smart survivor trying to feed a family. And I love her for that, even though it hurts. And my older sister will come home. In my heart, I know it.

Sincerely,

Prim

The reason I believe I should have the chance to go to the movie premier In Los Angeles is that I want to be able to see more of the movie plot. I want to see how the movie is contrasted to the book—how the characters develop and the storyline deepens. When I read the book, it was like watching a film play in my head. I want to have the chance to live that imaginary film in L.A, see the progression of the plot and the complex relationships between the characters. I believe Suzanne Collins created a masterpiece when she wrote *The Hunger Games*, and I hope the premier shows me that others are taking her wonderful novel seriously and making it into a heart stopping, thrilling, but touching film. One that re-exhibits why her book captured the hearts of thousands.

—By Acacia Burnham Grade 6 Turquoise Trail Charter Ms. Moser

