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THE HUNGER GAMES

“Only I keep wishing I could think of a way to... to show the Capitol they don’t own me. That I’m more than just a piece in their Games.” - Peeta Mellark

The Hunger Games by renowned author Suzanne Collins is one of my favorite pieces of literature and the most emotionally triggering series I’ve ever read. The quote above reflects my hopes for the characters’ outcomes and their decisions, as Collins’ expertise writing has helped developed such a strong connection between me and the people in the book. I could not put it down, the need to know the result of the Games and follow the characters as they experienced the brutality of the arena was unceasing. I devoured all 384 pages of *The Hunger Games* in four days after I’d first received it from a friend, no doubt due to the excellent character development combined with the “must-keep-turning-the-page-because-I-can’t-stand-the-suspense” feeling you get while reading it.

Collins’ writing is so rich and captivating, there were many times when I imagined to myself, “what would I do in this situation?”. The scene that impacts me the most is when Thresh saves Katniss by killing the District 2 tribute Clove. You have to wonder - where does their sense of humanity go? Do the tributes feel guilt, like Katniss did after driving an arrow through Marvel’s throat, or are they indifferent, like Cato was after breaking the neck of the boy from District 3? When I asked my uncle this, a man who had fought proudly for our country for many years, he told me that it depends on the person, and their association with the victim. I asked, “does it haunt you?” His reply was, “Yes. During the moment, you are numb, you are trying to save yourself. Afterwards, though, it hits you. You think, I’ve killed a man. I shot him with my own gun. But, did I have a choice? It was kill or be killed. I made my decisions, and they were the right ones, because I’m still here.” This being said, I wonder what I would have done in Thresh’s position. If Clove was my first kill, what would I have felt? Such a brutal act, smashing her head

in with a rock would have brought waves of guilt. If I could manage that, though, what would I have done with Katniss? Having overheard Clove bragging over the death of my District partner, Rue, I too would have felt angry, would have wanted revenge. Killing Clove would have been an act of blind fury, but killing Katniss would have been more difficult since she was allied with Rue. She is an obstacle that separates me from my family and home, but even though it would have been necessary, I don't know if I could have done it. I am not a murderer, but if I was in that situation, having the background that Thresh had, I might have killed Clove, but I could not have killed Katniss. I would have let her go, hoping Cato or the girl from District 5 would finish her off before I faced her again. Then I would take to the grasslands, snatching Cato's backpack and destroying it as quickly as possible. Cato is a cold-blooded killer, and, if I was in Thresh's position, I would have fought him, but I would have made sure to do away with his armor before he reached me. That way, he would have had a weaker defense, and the outcome of the story might have been different.

The Hunger Games is my favorite book series by far, outdoing other novels by its captivating plot-line, relatable characters and the author's brilliant writing style. I deserve to go to the *The Hunger Games* premiere in Los Angeles because I am a dedicated fan, writing enthusiast (it is my strong point and art), and I am mature enough to take care of myself while away from home. I have been praying for an opportunity like this ever since the idea of a movie was suggested in 2010, and I know my future holds promising to this event. I will appreciate it beyond reasonableness if I am chosen. The odds are in my favor.