Dystopia and *The Hunger Games*

Taken from [https://sites.google.com/a/bryantschools.org/hungergames/dystopian-genre](https://sites.google.com/a/bryantschools.org/hungergames/dystopian-genre)
Dystopia

• Opposite of *utopia*

• *Utopia* is a perfect society (Garden of Eden)

• From Greek (an “ill” or “bad” place or “landscape”)

Dystopia

• A futuristic society controlled by a form of government

• On the surface, dystopian societies look like utopian societies.
Dystopia

- A lack of individual freedom
- A constant state of war or violence
- Technology too advanced for society
- People are impoverished
- Society is ruled by military-like police
What characteristics in *The Hunger Games* demonstrate that it is a dystopian society?
Conflict

Two kinds:

- **Internal** - psychological struggle within the mind of a character, the resolution of which creates the plot's suspense

- **External** - struggle between a character and an outside force such as nature or another character, which drives the dramatic action of the plot
Conflict

• Katniss, the 16 year old girl who narrates the novel, has many internal and external conflicts throughout the novel. What do they involve? Identify them as you read the novel.
Warm-up: *Copy in your notebook: Symbols in The Hunger Games Due: May 24, 2013*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Page Number</th>
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Symbolism

• when the author uses an object or reference to add deeper meaning to a story
• can be subtle or obvious, used sparingly or heavy-handedly. An author may repeatedly use the same object to convey deeper meaning or may use variations of the same object to create an overarching mood or feeling.
• often used to support a literary theme in a subtle manner
Examples of Symbolism

• **Symbols referring to damnation:** Fire, flames, heat, hot temperatures
• **Symbols referring to salvation:** Crosses, angels, haloes, clouds, churches
• **Symbols referring to reincarnation or reinvention:** Phoenix rising from flames, crosses, rainbows, passing storms, dawn, sunrise, broken chains
• **Symbols referring to death or endings:** Gravestones, cemeteries, Grim Reaper, Day of the Dead, skulls, candle blowing out, coffin, ringing of bell
Examples of Symbolism

• What Are Common Cultural Symbols?
  When looking for cultural symbols in literature, you'll want to think of what symbols represent moral standards, beliefs or patriotic themes for a culture or country. Here are some cultural symbols you might see:

  **American cultural symbols**: Red, white and blue colors; Bald Eagle; coin with "In God We Trust"

  **Indian cultural symbols**: yogi, banyan tree, image of Indian god or goddess

  **Chinese cultural symbols**: Bamboo tree, bonsai tree, yin/yang symbol
Examples of Symbolism

• Sometimes cultural symbols are more specific to a particular cultural group. A mohawk haircut or an anarchy symbol indicate a punk rocker. Medals and swords symbolize a member of the military. Nets and ropes can symbolize a fisherman or sea captain.
Symbols in *The Hunger Games*

• How does each of the following appear in the novel and what does each represent?
Warm-up: *Copy all in the first column of your graphic organizer.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bread (Peeta’s bread)</th>
<th>the woods</th>
<th>bread from district 11</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>dandelion</td>
<td>katniss (from arrowhead plant)</td>
<td>nightlock (poisonous berries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mockingjay</td>
<td>Katniss’ outfits</td>
<td>cannon shot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peeta</td>
<td>Rue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The “silent salute”</td>
<td>Rue’s flowers</td>
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Tribute Poster Project

Sponsors play a vital role in the tributes’ survival in *The Hunger Games*. Play the role of Haymitch, Katniss’ and Peeta’s mentor. Select a tribute and create a propaganda poster to help your tribute gain sponsors. Your poster should include a slogan for your tribute and a discussion of your tribute’s strengths. *(Hint: you can use the pictures on the official website to help you.)*

*(Due: April 18, 2013)*
Random Acts of Kindness Challenge

Random acts of kindness play a wide role in *The Hunger Games*. Individuals in the novel help others for no purpose other than helping them. During our study of *The Hunger Games*, keep a journal of random acts of kindness you perform in the course of your daily life. At the end of the unit, write a reflection on what you have gained from the experience.

(Due: May 24, 2013)
The Capitol

1. What details do you notice about the seal of the Capitol?

2. Are any of the details symbolic of anything? Explain.

3. Does it remind you of any other seals or emblems? Explain.
The Districts of Panem

Analyze each district’s seal.

1. Do the images give any clues about its location in the former North America?

2. Do the images remind you of any symbols or other images?