

## ***The Hunger Games Role Play***

### **Background**

On a hunting trip on the outskirts of District 12, Katniss and Gale find a metal box with some historical documents that the Capitol did not destroy. In the box, they find newspaper clippings from the 1919 labor action in Seattle.

### **Scenario**

These documents have inspired Gale Hawthorne to call for a general strike across the districts to protest the annual reaping and the Capitol's control of labor. He has asked that all districts stop production of materials for the Capitol.

The consequences of joining the strike are serious. Already the capitol has mobilized "peacekeepers" to each of the districts. People within your district disagree on whether or not to strike.

### **Task**

Your character must take a position about whether or not to strike in solidarity with other districts. Your character should write a short statement. It can be in the form of any one of the following:

- A "Call to Arms" for your district
- An editorial that dissuades your district from going on strike
- A text that you think fits with your character (e.g., a private note to another character)

Use the information in the character profile to decide what action your character would take in this situation. Think like the character; consider your character's motivation; use the character profile to justify his/her actions.

Source for all quotes:

Collins, Suzanne. 2008. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic Inc.

## **Character: Effie Trinket, Capitol**

### **The Capitol: Style and Fashion**

The Capitol is the ruling city of Panem. The residents of the Capitol are so wealthy that they do not have to work. Instead, they spend their time altering their bodies through surgeries and other interventions to look young and thin. All resources from the other districts are transported to the Capitol. The dictator, President Snow, rules Panem through the use of economic pressure, violence in the form of Peacekeepers, and the Hunger Games.

### **Class Location**

Effie's occupation is escort to tributes from District 12. She resides in the Capitol and only leaves for events associated with the Hunger Games.

### **Key Quotes**

- Effie Trinket, District 12's escort, fresh from the Capitol with her scary white grin, pinkish hair, and spring green suit." (p. 17–18).
- Bright and bubbly as ever, Effie Trinket trots to the podium and gives her signature, "Happy Hunger Games! And may the odds be *ever* in your favor!" (p. 19).
- "At least, you two have decent manners," says Effie as we're finishing the main course. "The pair last year ate everything with their hands." (p. 44).
- "I've done my best with what I had to work with. How Katniss sacrificed herself for her sister. How you've both successfully struggled to overcome the barbarism of your district." (Effie to Peeta and Katniss, p. 74)
- "Everyone has their reservations, naturally. You being from the coal district. But I said, and this was very clever of me, I said, 'Well, if you put enough pressure on coal it turns to pearls!' Effie beams at us so brilliantly that we have no choice to respond enthusiastically to her cleverness even though it's wrong." (p. 74)
- They do surgery in the Capitol, to make people appear younger and thinner. In District 12, looking old is something of an achievement since so many people die early. You see an elder person, you want to congratulate them on their longevity, ask the secret of survival. A plump person is envied because they aren't scraping by like the majority of us. But here it is different. Wrinkles aren't desirable. A round belly isn't a sign of success." (p. 124–25)

## **Character: Cato, District 2**

### **District 2: Masonry**

District 2, located in the Rocky Mountains, is one of the wealthiest districts. The Capitol recruits and trains Peacekeepers from this district and weapons used to control the outlying districts are made here. District 2 citizens are the “Capitol’s lapdogs” and loyal to the Capitol.

### **Class Location**

Cato is a career tribute. Because of its economic resources, District 2 invests a huge amount of financial resources into training “career” tributes. This training gives them an advantage over tributes in the poorer districts. Cato is in a socioeconomic class above other citizens, who work in the quarries mining stone-these citizens are treated as badly as those in poorer districts.

### **Key Quotes**

- The exceptions are the kids from the wealthier districts, the volunteers, the ones who have been fed and trained throughout their lives for this moment. The tributes from 1, 2, and 4 traditionally have this look about them. It’s technically against the rules to train tributes before they reach the Capitol but it happens every year. In District 12, we call them the Career Tributes, or just the Careers. And like as not, the winner will be one of them. (p. 94)
- The Career Tributes tend to gather rowdily around one table, as if to prove their superiority, that they have no fear of one another and consider the rest of us beneath notice. (p. 97)
- So they’re fighting in a pack. I’m not really surprised. Often alliances are formed in the early stages of the Games. The strong band together to hunt down the weak, then, when the tension becomes too great, begin to turn on one another. I don’t have to wonder too hard who has made this alliance. It’ll be the remaining Career Tributes from Districts 1, 2, and 4. Two boys and three girls. The ones who lunched together. (p. 159)
- Career tributes are overly vicious, arrogant, better fed, but only because they’re the Capitol’s lapdogs. Universally, solidly hated by all but those from their own districts. (p. 161–2)
- That the Careers have been better fed growing up is actually to their disadvantage, because they don’t know how to be hungry. Not like Rue and I do. (p. 208)
- Cato has finished the first phase of his tantrum and takes out his anger on the smoking remains by kicking open various containers. (p. 224)
- Cato kneels beside Clove, spear in hand, begging her to stay with him. (p. 289)

## **Character: Rue**

### **District 11: Agriculture**

District 11 is one of the poorest districts in Panem. While the residents of District 11 starve, the crops they harvest are all sent to the Capitol. The Capitol's control over this district is extreme; the mayor of this district enforces laws through public punishments and death.

### **Class Location**

Rue works in the orchards in District 11. She is the oldest of six children, and closest in class status to Katniss.

### **Key Quotes**

- Most hauntingly, a 12-year-old girl from District 11. She has dark brown skin and eyes, but other than that she's very like Prim in size and demeanor. (p. 45)
- Rue tentatively steps out into the open. "I can fix your stings." (p. 200)
- "Oh," says Rue with a sigh. "I've never had a whole leg to myself before." (p. 202)
- "I'd have thought in District 11, you'd have a bit more to eat than us. You know, since you grow the food," I say. Rue's eyes widen. "Oh, no, we're not allowed to eat the crops." "They arrest you or something?" I ask. They whip you and make everyone else watch." (p. 202)
- "They feed us a bit extra during harvest, so that people can keep going longer," says Rue. "Don't you have to be in school?" I ask. "Not during harvest. Everyone works then," says Rue. (p. 203)
- And I come to know Rue, the oldest of six kids, fiercely protective of her siblings, who gives her rations to the younger ones, who forages in the meadows in a district where the Peacekeepers are far less obliging than ours. Rue, who when you ask her what she loves most in the world, replies, of all things, "music." (p. 211)

## **Character: Madge Undersee**

### **District 12: Coal Mining**

District 12 is the “least prestigious, poorest, most ridiculed” district in Panem. It is located in what used to be known as Appalachia. Katniss describes the everyday poverty of the district, and says that the starvation of older people, children, and injured mine workers is the norm:

And one day, you come upon them sitting motionless against a wall or lying in the Meadow, you hear the wails from a house, and the Peakeepers are called in to retrieve the body. Starvation is never the cause of death officially. It’s always the flu, or exposure, or pneumonia. But that fools no one. (p. 28)

### **Class Location**

Madge is the daughter of the mayor of District 12. Her father is wealthy and because of his socioeconomic position, Madge has not had to sign up for tessare. She has more class privilege than Katniss in District 12 but remains in a lower class compared to citizens of the Capitol.

### **Key Quotes**

- Today her drab school outfit has been replaced by an expensive white dress, and her blonde hair is done up with a pink ribbon. Reaping clothes. (p. 12)
- “You won’t be going to the Capitol,” says Gale coolly. His eyes land on a small, circular pin that adorns her dress. Real gold. Beautifully crafted. It could keep a family in bread for months. “What can you have? Five entries? I had six when I was just twelve years old.” (p. 12)
- The chance of her name begin drawn is very slim compared to those of us who live in the Seam. Not impossible, but slim. And even though the rules were set up by the Capitol, not the districts, certainly not Madge’s family, it’s hard not to resent those who don’t have to sign up for tessare. (p. 13).
- There is an urgency about [Marge’s] tone that surprises me. “They let you wear one thing from your district in the arena. One thing to remind you of home. Will you wear this?” She holds out the circular gold pin that was on her dress earlier. (p. 38)

## **Character: Peeta Mellark**

### **District 12: Coal Mining**

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### **Class Location**

Peeta lives in District 12. However, he comes from a family of bakers. His class location provides him more privilege than Katniss within District 12, but his class status is still lower than that of those living in the Capitol.

### **Key Quotes**

- He was in my year, but I didn’t know his name. He stuck with the town kids, so how would I? (p. 30)
- His mother was yelling, “Feed it to the pig, you stupid creature! Why not? No one decent will buy burned bread!” (p. 30)
- The boy took one look back to the baker as if checking that the coast was clear, then, his attention back on the pig, he threw a loaf of bread in my direction. (p. 31)
- Then I remember Peeta’s words on the roof. “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.” (p. 142)
- It’s not that Peeta’s soft exactly, and he’s proved he’s not a coward. But there are things you don’t question too much, I guess, when your home always smells like baking bread, whereas Gale questions everything. (p. 296)
- This teaming up with the Career wolf pack to hunt down the rest of us. No one from District 12 would think of doing such a thing! (p. 161)