

Extract from: 'The Hunger Games' Chapter One

Twenty of them have Katniss Everdeen written on them in careful handwriting.

Two of the three chairs fill with Madge's father, Mayor Undersee, who's a tall, balding man, and Effie Trinket, District 12's escort, fresh from the Capitol with her scary white grin, pinkish hair and spring green suit. They murmur to each other and then look with concern at the empty seat.

Just as the town clock strikes two, the mayor steps up to the podium and begins to read. It's the same story every year. He tells of the history of Panem, the country that rose up out of the ashes of a place that was once called North America. He lists the disasters, the droughts, the storms, the fires, the encroaching seas that swallowed up so much of the land, the brutal war for what little sustenance remained. The result was Panem, a shining Capitol ringed by thirteen districts, which brought peace and prosperity to its citizens. Then came the Dark Days, the uprising of the districts against the Capitol. Twelve were defeated, the thirteenth obliterated. The Treaty of Treason gave us the new laws to guarantee peace and, as our yearly reminder that the Dark Days must never be repeated, it gave us the Hunger Games.

The rules of the Hunger Games are simple. In punishment for the uprising, each of the twelve districts

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Then he reads the list of past District 12 victors. In seventy-four years, we have had exactly two. Only one is still alive. Haymitch Abernathy, a paunchy, middle-aged man, who at this moment appears hollering something unintelligible, staggers on to the stage, and falls into the third chair. He's drunk. Very. The crowd responds with its token applause, but he's confused and tries to give Effie Trinket a big hug, which she barely manages to fend off.

The mayor looks distressed. Since all of this is being televised, right now District 12 is the laughing stock of Panem, and he knows it. He quickly tries to pull the attention back to the reaping by introducing Effie Trinket.

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 favour!" Her pink hair must be a wig because her curls have shifted slightly off-centre since her encounter with Haymitch. She goes on a bit about what an honour it is to be here, although everyone knows she's just aching to get bumped up to a better district where they have proper victors, not drunks who molest you in front of the entire nation.

Through the crowd, I spot Gale looking back at me with a ghost of a smile. As reapings go, this one at least

must provide one girl and one boy, called tributes, to participate. The twenty-four tributes will be imprisoned in a vast outdoor arena that could hold anything from a burning desert to a frozen wasteland. Over a period of several weeks, the competitors must fight to the death. The last tribute standing wins.

Taking the kids from our districts, forcing them to kill one another while we watch – this is the Capitol's way of reminding us how totally we are at their mercy. How little chance we would stand of surviving another rebellion. Whatever words they use, the real message is clear. "Look how we take your children and sacrifice them and there's nothing you can do. If you lift a finger, we will destroy every last one of you. Just as we did in District Thirteen."

To make it humiliating as well as torturous, the Capitol requires us to treat the Hunger Games as a festivity, a sporting event pitting every district against the others. The last tribute alive receives a life of ease back home, and their district will be showered with prizes, largely consisting of food. All year, the Capitol will show the winning district gifts of grain and oil and even delicacies like sugar while the rest of us battle starvation.

"It is both a time for repentance and a time for thanks," intones the mayor.

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has a slight entertainment factor. But suddenly I am thinking of Gale and his forty-two names in that big glass ball and how the odds are not in his favour. Not compared to a lot of the boys. And maybe he's thinking the same thing about me because his face darkens and he turns away. "But there are still thousands of slips," I wish I could whisper to him.

It's time for the drawing. Effie Trinket says as she always does, "Ladies first!" and crosses to the glass ball with the girls' names. She reaches in, digs her hand deep into the ball, and pulls out a slip of paper. The crowd draws in a collective breath and then you can hear a pin drop, and I'm feeling nauseous and so desperately hoping that it's not me, that it's not me, that it's not me.

Effie Trinket crosses back to the podium, smooths the slip of paper, and reads out the name in a clear voice. And it's not me.

It's Primrose Everdeen.

Task: If you have not done so already, listen to chapter 1 of 'The Hunger Games'. The questions and extract all relate to the reaping, the event when the competitors in the Hunger Games are chosen.

- 1) Check your answers to the skim and scan activity below, how did you get on?
- 2) Using the extracts and the key facts that you have gathered in the skim and scan activity, select 8 key events during the reaping. You could highlight them in the extract.
- 3) Create a comic strip with speech, action and dialogue based on the events you have selected.



Skim and Scan Activity

How many slips of Paper had Katniss Everdeen on them?	20
Who is District 12's escort from the capital?	Effie Trinket
Who tells the story of Panem?	Mayor Undersee
Name 3 of the disasters that hit North America.	droughts, floods, war, storms, fires
What happened to the 13 th district?	It was obliterated.
What is a tribute?	The participants in the hunger games
Write a list of the rules of the Hunger Games.	Each district provides 1 girl and 1 boy They are chosen at random They are imprisoned in a vast outdoor arena The tributes fight to the death The last tribute alive wins
What is the name of the Capitol?	Panem
What happens to the last tribute alive?	They win a life of ease
What does the Capitol give the district that has the winning tribute?	Food, and prizes
For how many years has the Hunger Games happened?	74 years
How many winners of the hunger games has district 12 had?	2
Name the only living district 12 winner.	Haymitch Abernathy
What colour is Effie Trinket's wig?	Pink
How many pieces of paper have Gale's name on them?	42
What are the slips of paper with the names held in?	A Glass Bowl
Whose name is read out?	Primrose Everdeen
