

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 1



Key Passage pg. 13

The reaping system is unfair, with the poor getting the worse of it. You become eligible for the reaping the day you turn twelve. That year your name is entered once. At thirteen, twice. And so on and so on until you reach the age of eighteen, the final year of eligibility, when your name goes into the pool seven times. That's true for every citizen in all twelve districts in the entire country of Panem.

But here's the catch. Say you are poor and starving as we were. You can opt to add your name more times in exchange for a tesserae. Each tessera is worth a meager year's supply of grain and oil for one person. You may do this for each of your family members as well.

Writing Prompt

According to Prim, the reaping system is unfair and the poor get the worse of it. **How does the reaping system work? Do you believe the reaping system is unfair? Why or why not? How does Katniss face poverty? How does she try to help her community and family face poverty?** Write two informative/explanatory 5-sentence paragraphs to answer this question. In the first paragraph, describe, in detail, the reaping system in an order, which makes sense. In the second paragraph, analyze and reflect on why or why not the system is unfair.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 2



Key Passage pg. 22

"I volunteer!" I gasp. "I volunteer as tribute!"

There's some confusion on the stage. District 12 hasn't had a volunteer in decades and the protocol has become rusty. The rule is once a tribute's name has been pulled from the ball, another eligible boy, if a boy's name has been read, or girl, if a girl's name has been read, can step forward to take his or her place. In some districts, in which winning the reaping is such a great honor, people are eager to risk their lives, the volunteering is complicated. But in District 12, where the word *tribute* is pretty much synonymous with the word *corpse*, volunteers are all but extinct (22).

Writing Prompt

Katniss realizes Prim has been chosen for the Hunger Games, and is not having it. She steps forward and takes the place of her sister. **Refer back to the theme, how does this show Katniss as a leader? What would you do in this situation? Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you needed to stand up for someone or take his or her place?** In a clearly written informative paragraph explain the situation, why you felt like you had to do what you did, and how the situation ended.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 3



Key Passage pg. 35

“Well, you have to help it this time. You can’t clock out and leave Prim on her own. There’s no me now to keep you both alive. It doesn’t matter what happens. Whatever you see on the screen. You have to promise me you’ll fight through it!” My voice has risen to a shout. In it is all the anger, all the fear I felt at her abandonment” (35).

Writing Prompt

Katniss appears to be angry and frustrated when her mother visits. **What events led up to Katniss feeling this way towards her mother? In what way is Kat asking her mother to stand up as a leader? Why does she ask this of her mother? Does she have a choice?** In an explanatory paragraph chronologically describe the events that have led up to Kat’s anger, frustration, and last words to her mother before the games.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 4



Key Paragraph pg. 53

“Prim was thrilled to have her back, but I kept watching, waiting for her to disappear on us again. I didn’t trust her. And some small gnarled place inside me hated her for her weakness, or her neglect, for the months she had put us through. Prim forgave her, but I had taken a step back from my mother, put up a wall to protect myself from needing her, and nothing was ever the same between us again” (53).

Writing Prompt

Katniss holds a wall up to protect herself from her mother. **Do you think this is smart on Katniss’s behalf? Do you think this is a strong or weak leadership skill/strategy?** Reflect on your explanatory paragraph from the previous day. Revise your writing and add how Katniss has learned to protect herself from getting hurt again. How do you protect yourself from getting hurt? Do you agree with Katniss’s decision?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 5



Key Passage pg. 65

“What must it be like, I wonder, to live in a world where food appears at the press of a button? How would I spend the hours I now commit to combing the woods for sustenance if it were so easy to come by? What do they do all day, these people in the Capitol, besides decorating their bodies and waiting around for anew shipment of tributes to roll in and dies for their entertainment?” (65).

Writing Prompt

Katniss is shocked by life in the Capitol. **What surprises Katniss about life in the Capitol? Why do these things surprise her? What do you think people in the Capitol look for in leaders versus the people in District 12?** Reflect in paragraph about how Katniss feels about life in the Capitol, and how it makes her feel. Make sure to mention what she questions about her own life when comparing it to the Capitol.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 6



Key Passage pg. 85

"I'd set out to tell her I was sorry about dinner. But I know that my apology runs much deeper. That I'm ashamed I never tried to help her in the woods. That I let the Capitol kill the boy and mutilate her without lifting a finger" (85).

Writing Prompt

Katniss recognizes the Avox from a bad memory. **Why does Katniss feel the need to apologize to her and finally decide not to? How did the Avox show leadership skills in this situation? How could Katniss have shown leadership skills?** Reflect and analyze in paragraph about how Katniss feels towards the Avox. Make sure to support your answer with examples from the book.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 7



Key Passage pg. 101

Suddenly I am furious, that with my life on the line, they don't even have the decency to pay attention to me. That I'm being upstaged by a dead pig. My heart starts to pound, I can feel my face burning. Without thinking, I pull an arrow from my quiver and send it straight at the Gamemakers' table. I hear shouts of alarm as people stumble back. The arrow skewers the apple in the pig's mouth and pins it to the wall behind it. Everyone stares at me in disbelief (101).

Writing Prompt

Part of the Leadership Requires Engagement theme states that being a leader, "is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them." In this reading, Katniss becomes easily furious and acts without thinking. How could acting when furious affect you as a leader? Is there any way it could help you? When Katniss is furious is she making the community better? Can anyone when furious? **In one paragraph reflect on the questions and how you act when you are furious. In the second paragraph, research and discuss positive ways to deal with your anger. What could have Katniss done instead?**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 8



Key Passage pg. 112

Gale gave me a sense of security I'd lacked since my father's death. His companionship replaced the long solitary hours in the woods. I became a much better hunter when I didn't have to look over my shoulder constantly, when someone was watching my back. But he turns into so much more than a hunting partner. He became my confidant, someone with whom I could share thoughts I could never voice inside the fence. In exchange, he trusted me with his. Being out in the woods with Gale...sometimes I was actually happy (112).

Writing Prompt

Katniss considers Gale to be her confidant. **What qualities does she use to describe her relationship with Gale? Do you think a leader should be a good a confidant? Why or why not? What qualities do a leader and confidant have in common?** In a paragraph, answer these questions and analyze the relationship Katniss has with Gale to one that a leader has with their followers.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 9



Key Passage pg. 114

Betrayal. That's the first think I feel, which is ludicrous. For there to be betrayal, there would have to have been trust first. Between Peeta and me. And trust has not been part of the agreement. We're tributes. But the boy who risked a beating to give me bread, the one who steadied me in the chariot, who covered for me with the redheaded Avox girl, who insisted Haymitch know my hunting skills...was there some part of me that couldn't help trusting him? (114).

Writing Prompt

Katniss feels betrayed by Peeta. **How has Peeta betrayed Katniss? Do you think Katniss has betrayed Peeta? Do you think it is common for leaders to have people who betray them? What do you think a leader should do in this situation? How should Katniss handle the situation?** In an explanatory paragraph, answer these questions and explain how Katniss and Peeta's relationship has taken a turn.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 10



Key Passage pg. 141

“I don’t know how to say it exactly. Only...I want to die as myself. Does that make any sense?” he asks. I shake my head. How could he die as anyone but himself? “I don’t want them to change me in there. Turn me into some kind of monster I’m not” (141).

Writing Prompt

Peeta tells Katniss in this reading that he would like to die as himself. He does not want the games or the Capitol to change him or own him. **What do you think Peeta means by this? How is Peeta taking in his new community and using it to discover more about his identity? How does Katniss perceive this? Do you agree or disagree with his feelings?** In a paragraph reflect on Peeta’s thoughts and how he is feeling. Make sure to answer the questions above in a thorough and thoughtful answer.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 11



Key Passage pg. 160

"An argument breaks out until one tribute silences the others. "We're wasting time! I'll go finish her and let's move on!"

I almost fall out of the tree. The voice belongs to Peeta (160).

Writing Prompt

Peeta joins an alliance with other tributes in this reading, and Katniss finds out about it. The theme states, "Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. It is making sure that the communities I am part of are better because I am in them. And that I am better because of the communities I choose to be part of." **By Peeta joining an alliance, is he following what a leader should do? Is he promoting a common good? Is he making the community he is part of better because he is a part of them?** In an informative paragraph answer these questions and explain what you think Peeta's motive is behind this alliance? What problems could arise out of this?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 12



Key Passage pg. 162

“Why don’t we just kill him now and get it over with?”

“Let him tag along. What’s the harm? And he’s handy with that knife.”

Is he? That’s news. What a lot of interesting things I’m learning about my friend Peeta today.

“Besides, he’s our best chance of finding her.”

It takes me a moment to register that the “her” they’re referring to is me (162).

Writing Prompt

In this reading, the alliance admits to only keeping Peeta alive to find Katniss. Right now, the alliance can almost be seen as a group of leaders in the games. There are both good leaders and bad leaders. The theme states, “Leaders develop and dedicate their talents to promote the common good. This is where they choose to spend their time and effort. Leadership requires positive civic engagement.” **In what ways, can the alliance be portrayed a “good leader” and “bad leader”? Is the alliance promoting the common good? Are their motives good?** In an informative paragraph answer these questions. Return to Day 12’s writing prompt and revise and/or add to what you think Peeta’s motive is for being part of this alliance. Has your reason changed? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 13



Key Passage pg. 183

“The careers regroup on the ground and I can hear them growling conspiratorially among themselves, furious I have made them look foolish. But twilight has arrived and their window of attack on me is closing. Finally, I hear Peeta say harshly, “Oh, let her stay up there. It’s not like she’s going anywhere. We’ll deal with her in the morning” (183).

Writing Prompt

With this chapter ending in suspense, Katniss finds herself in a tough predicament and Peeta buys her time. **What are Peeta’s motives behind buying her time? Do you think he is doing this for the “common good” or to truly help the Careers kill her? What do you think Katniss views Peeta’s motive as?** In an informative paragraph answer these questions. Return to your previous writing prompt and revise and/or add to what you think Peeta’s motive is for being part of this alliance. Has your reason changed? Why or why not?

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 14



Key Passage pg. 193

“What are you still doing here?” he hisses at me. I stare uncomprehendingly as a trickle of water drips off a sting under his ear. His whole body starts sprinkling as if he’s been dipped in dew. “Are you mad?” He’s prodding me with the shaft of a spear now. “Get up! Get up!” I rise, but he’s still pushing at me. What? What is going on? He shoves me away from him hard. “Run!” he screams. “Run!” (193).

Writing Prompt

This chapter ends with Peeta saving Katniss from Cato. As Katniss discovers, so do we, Peeta saves her life. We discover his motive the whole time behind joining the alliance. **What is his motive? Why do you think he wants to save Katniss? How must he feel about Katniss? Was he following the motive of being a leader this whole time? How so?** Return to your previous writing prompt, and write a conclusion paragraph answering these questions.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 15



Key Passage pg. 197

“The weapons give me an entirely new perspective on the Games. I know I have tough opponents left to face. But I am no longer merely prey that runs and hides or takes desperate measures. If Cato broke through the trees right now, I wouldn’t flee. I’d shoot. I find I’m actually anticipating the moment with pleasure” (197).

Writing Prompt

The bow and arrow give Katniss motivation. They point out a skill and talent of hers. How do you think Katniss will develop and dedicate her talents with the bow and arrow to promote the common good? How does she use the bow and arrow back home to promote the common good? What do the bow and arrow symbolize for Katniss? In a reflective paragraph answer the questions. Be sure to support your thoughts and inferences with examples from the book.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 16



Key Passage pg. 217

An argument breaks out. It's loud enough for me to hear that it concerns whether or not the boy from district 3 should stay or accompany them.

"He's coming. We need him in the woods, and his job's done here anyway. No one can touch those supplies," says Cato (217).

Writing Prompt

Katniss discovers that the boy from District 3 set up mines around the Careers' supplies. Do you think the Careers used the boy from District 3 to be resourceful or to be manipulative? Do you think they view him as a true ally and asset to their team or only used him for their own personal gain? Why do you think the boy from District 3 agreed to building the mines? Is the boy from District 3 an example of a leader? Is he using his talents to promote the common good and/or to make the community better? Does he have a choice? In an informative paragraph answer these questions and explain the reasons for your thoughts.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 17



Key Passage pg. 232

“When I break into the clearing, she’s on the ground, hopelessly entangled in a net. She just has time to reach her hand through the mesh and say my name before the spear enters her body” (232).

Writing Prompt

Katniss believed that by blowing up the supplies she was using her skills to better the Games for Rue and herself. However, things did not go her way and the success of the plan came at a great loss. **How do you think Katniss feels about Rue dying because of this plan? Do you think situations like this happen often where the leader wins but someone else loses? When making these decisions, what kinds of questions should leaders ask themselves?** In a paragraph, answer the questions with thorough explanations as support.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 18



Key Passage pg. 237

"I want to do something, right here, right now, to shame them, to make them accountable, to show the Capitol that whatever they do or force us to do there is a part of every tribute they can't own. That Rue was more than a piece in their Games. And so am I" (237).

Writing Prompt

Katniss now understands what Peeta meant when he said he wanted to show the Capitol that they do not own him. With Rue's death, she now feels the same way. **Why does Katniss feel this way? What other emotions are going through Katniss at this time? What does she do to show the Capitol she still has some power left? How can we relate this situation to our own lives? How do others have power over us and what do we do to take some power back?** In two paragraphs, discuss why Katniss is feeling anger towards the Capitol and its power. In the second paragraph, relate Katniss's situation to your own by answering the second set of questions. Afterwards compare and contrast both situations.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 19



Key Passage pg. 261

“And he’s right. If I want to keep Peeta live, I’ve got to give the audience something more to care about. Star-crossed lovers desperate to get home together. Two hearts beating as one. Romance” (261).

Writing Prompt

Katniss finds Peeta badly injured and very ill. He keeps asking for a kiss, but she does not respond until she thinks he is dying. **Does Katniss kiss Peeta because she really has feelings for him or does she do it to save him? She knows the audience wants romance, but is she willing to act on it because the feelings are true or to survive? Does she have feelings and not know it yet? Is she developing a talent to promote the common good? What do you think about her decision? Is it right or wrong?** Reflect on these questions a response to the chapter. Be sure to answer the questions, describe what they made you wonder about, and what you learned or what conclusion you came to by the end of the chapter.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 20



Key Passage pg. 263

"I spend all night, half-sitting, half-lying next to Peeta, refreshing the bandage, and trying not to dwell on the fact that by teaming up with him, I've made myself far more vulnerable than when I was alone. And still I came after him. I'm just going to have to trust that whatever instinct sent me to find him was a good one" (263).

Writing Prompt

Katniss realizes she has put herself in a worse predicament by trying to save Peeta. She hopes that her decision was a good one. What do you think about this whole situation? Is it better to give up one's own life for their fellow Tribute, or is it more important to defend yourself? What would you do, given the same situation? Is survival more important than the crime of murder? **In a reflective response, dive into the questions. Focus on Katniss's motives then dwell into what you would do and your motives.**

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 21



Key Passage pg. 285

I won't close my eyes. The comment about Rue has filled me with fury, enough fury I think to die with some dignity. As my last act of defiance, I will stare her down as long as I can see, which will probably not be an extended period of time, but I will stare her down, I will not cry out, I will die, in my own small way, undefeated (285).

Writing Prompt

Katniss comes eye to eye with death when Clovis tries to kill her. Clovis mentions Rue, which ignites a fire inside of Katniss giving her the desire to die with dignity. Does Katniss want to die with dignity for herself, for Rue, or to show others? Is dignity self-determined or based on the way others react to her? Can dignity belong to the person but at the same time something that can be lost or destroyed? In a paragraph, describe what these questions make you think, wonder, and learn about Katniss. Support your answers with details from the chapter and book thus far.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 22



Key Passage pg. 301

For a moment, I'm almost foolishly happy and then confusion sweeps over me. Because we're supposed to be making up this stuff, playing at being in love, not actually being in love. But Peeta's story has a ring of truth to it. That part about my father and the birds. And I did sing the first day of school, although I don't remember the song. And that red plaid dress...there was one, a hand-me-down to Prim that got washed to rags after my father's death (301).

Writing Prompt

Katniss discovers that Peeta and herself have a long history. They have been connected through their families, and they didn't even know it. How do leaders often use their connections to their benefit? Is this an important quality to have as a leader? Why or why not? Explain your reasoning to these questions in a thorough well-organized paragraph.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 23



Key Passage pg. 306

Maybe he wasn't always a drunk. Maybe, in the beginning, he tried to help the tributes. But then it got unbearable. It must be hell to mentor two kids and then watch them die. Year after year after year. I realize that if I get out of here, that will become my job. To mentor the girl from District 12. The idea is so repellent, I thrust it from my mind (306).

Writing Prompt

Katniss shows compassion for Haymitch because he must watch young people he mentors die every year in the Games. Under these circumstances, being a leader comes at a cost. What Did Haymitch gain from being a leader? What did he lose? How does he continue to reap the benefits of being a leader? How does he continue to suffer? In a reflective paragraph answer these questions with the grieving process in mind. Support your feelings and thoughts with examples from the book or real-life situations.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 24



Key Passage pg. 321

“Not on purpose. Doesn’t seem fair somehow. I mean, we would have both been dead, too, if she hadn’t eaten berries first.” He checks himself. “No, of course, we wouldn’t. You recognized them, didn’t you?” (321).

Writing Prompt

It takes some time for Peeta to understand how he accidentally killed Foxface. **Does Foxface’s death really fall on Peeta’s hands? As a leader, how do you think it feels to be the indirect cause of people’s deaths? Can you remember a figure in history that was the indirect cause of people’s deaths? Can you remember someone in your community or on television that was the indirect cause of someone’s death? What caused this situation? Was the leader’s/person’s actions justified? Did their actions promote the common good for the whole community?** In two paragraphs thoroughly answer the above questions. In the first paragraph discuss Peeta’s situation. In the second paragraph, compare Peeta to the historical or community figure.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 25



Key Passage pg. 344

We both know they have to have a victor.

Yes, they have to have a victor. Without a victor, the whole thing would blow up in the Gamemakers' faces. They'd have failed the Capitol. Might possibly even be executed, slowly and painfully while the cameras broadcast it to every screen in the country.

If Peeta and I were both to die, or they thought we were... (344).

Writing Prompt

Refer back to Day 18's writing prompt. Peeta wanted to show the Capitol that he had power and did not own them, and Katniss finally understood what he was talking about. **In this reading, how do Katniss and Peeta show their power? Do you think this was a wise plan? Why or why not? Are they acting as leaders by following through with this plan or are they being selfish and stubborn?** Add a third paragraph where you address these questions. This will be your conclusion to how Katniss and Peeta finally end the game with some control and power in their hands.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 26



Key Passage pg. 358

“It’s so much worse than being hunted in the arena. There, I could only die. End of story. But out here Prim, my mother, Gale, the people of District 12, everyone I care about back home could be punished if I can’t pull off the girl-driven-crazy-by-love scenario” (358).

Writing Prompt

Haymitch tells Katniss that the Gamemakers are furious about the stunt she pulled. Katniss is shocked by his news and worried that they will retaliate. Do you think her feelings are valid? Should she worry? Do you think they will retaliate? If so, how? As a leader, is retaliation something you should worry about? Make sense of the current situation and make a logical prediction of what may happen as a result. Use the information you have and background knowledge to make an inference. In a well-organized paragraph write your thinking and answers to the questions down.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt

The Hunger Games, Day 27



Key Passage pg. 369

I take a long pause before I answer, trying to collect my thoughts. This is the crucial moment where I either challenged the Capitol or went so crazy at the idea of losing Peeta that I can't be held responsible for my actions. It seems to for a big, dramatic speech, but all I get out is one inaudible sentence. "I don't know, I just...couldn't bear the thought of...being without him" (369).

Writing Prompt

Katniss and Peeta showed perseverance throughout the whole story and never gave up. In the end, their judgment and skills got them to be the victors of the Games. Perseverance is a good quality of a leader's work ethics. How did Katniss and Peeta show perseverance throughout the book? Why was this a good quality for them to have? This perseverance has led Katniss and Peeta into a predicament with the gamemakers. Was their decision worth it? Do they do it for the common good and or/ for the rest of their communities? In a couple of paragraphs analyze the end of the book using these questions as a guide.