

Date 11 / 23 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / Lyric

Title Hunger Games: Catching Fire

Author / Director / Author of Novel: Suzanne Collins
Director: Francis Lawrence

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I saw *Catching Fire* at Century Stadium 14 on the day of its release. The movie theater was packed to the brim.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc?)

Catching Fire continues the plot from the *Hunger Games* after Katniss and Peeta defied the Capitol and won the Hunger Games together. In the totalitarian state of Panem, the Hunger Games is an entertainment event aimed at invoking fear into the country's inhabitants, as it takes tributes from each district and puts them in an arena to battle. The last one alive wins. This movie takes place in the 75th annual year of the Hunger Games, and in order to put down the growing rebellion that Katniss and Peeta stirred up, past victorious tributes are put back into the Hunger Games for a second time. Katniss is the only girl from her district to have won, and Peeta volunteers as tribute. Revolution, however, is inevitable, as Katniss asks her sister Prim what seems different, and Prim responds, "There's hope." This time, half of the tributes and even the game maker are in on getting Katniss out of the Hunger Games, as she has become the Mockingjay, the symbol of the Revolution. They do succeed in getting her out; however, the government has begun a massive crackdown, and her homeland has been destroyed.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

The effects of a totalitarian government, courage, and hope are all apparent themes throughout *Catching Fire*. The super controlling Capitol has left people unfairly confined and restricted in their abilities, especially the poor and impoverished districts. Until now, people were forced into accepting their practically enslaved lives, and any action incompatible with the Capitol was put down by peacekeepers to invoke fear into the people. This fear-driven society twisted trust and loyalty, and it left most people unsatisfied with their lives. Nevertheless, it took only one act to change this. Katniss and Peeta courageously defied the state by both trying to commit suicide as the last two standing in the Hunger Games arena; however, the Capitol needed a victor for the sake of consistency and appeasement of the people. The Capitol had no choice but to accept this act of defiance, and a revolution soon followed. Particularly Katniss became a sign of hope for the people that things could get better, proving the importance of even one small action in implementing change. By igniting this hope, she opened people up to the possibility of subversion, so as to lead them to achieving innate human liberties. A totalitarian government is ultimately a failure.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

Fire and the Mockingjay have grown to symbolize much more than just the identity of Katniss Everdeen. Katniss is the "girl on fire," but this signifies so much more. Even the title "Catching Fire" has become a reference to the revolution that Katniss has ignited and that is rapidly growing. She is the initial spark that has sent Panem into chaos, but for all the good reason. The Mockingjay has also become a symbol of the inevitable revolution. Katniss is the Mockingjay, the leader of the revolt, and even her dress turns into one when she is being interviewed before her second Hunger Games. Unfortunately, the government recognizes its symbolism and they know what is coming, and so the Capitol has Katniss's designer murdered.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

The *Hunger Games* trilogy has been one of the most popular series of our generation. Just the concept of such a society is so captivating and intriguing, though it is obviously corrupt and unrealistic. *Catching Fire* was just one of those movies that I did not want to end, as it was so thrilling and nerve racking, keeping me on the edge of my seat for the entire movie. In fact, the movie seemed completely shorter than its two and a half hour time span. Nevertheless, although it was for money purposes, the ending was kind of abrupt and unexpected, leaving me feeling disappointed in having to wait for the next movie to come out. Panem does somewhat remind me of *Brave New World* and its caste system. Like the difference between the intellectual Alphas and the incompetent Epsilons, the districts of Panem are separated on a continuum of increasing poverty with each district performing a specific task for society. District 1 is comprised of Alpha-like individuals, while District 12, though not necessarily dumb, performs simple and less important tasks. Also, the dictatorial government of Panem is similar to the society in *Brave New World* in the sense that it takes away human freedom and choice; however, Panem is not as successful the World State in keeping people oblivious to alternate realities, or "in the cave" like in Plato's "Allegory of the Cave," and so a necessary revolution ensues. Katniss's actions in *Catching Fire* are poetic in the sense that she draws out the strength and courage of Panem to rise up for what is right and just, such as equality and an end to oppression. She is the catalyst that provokes an overcoming of personal fears and emotions for the sake of a greater reality, and it is by her (and Peeta's) poetic courage that the revolution is even possible.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)