

# CliffsNotes.com® Conversation Starters for **THE HUNGER GAMES**

What do the appearances, fashions, and personalities of the people in the Capital say about what it means to be human and beautiful? What about the fashions and appearances of Katniss, Peeta, and others from District 12?

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What is the importance of the mockingjay pin that Madge gives Katniss?

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What is the significance of the bird motif throughout the novel? Which characters are most associated with birds, and what do these associations mean?

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What role do the Capital's mutations play in the novel?

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Why does Katniss mask her true emotions concerning Peeta and Gale throughout the Games compared to Peeta's being so honest and natural about how he feels?

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How would you characterize the relationship between Haymitch and Katniss throughout the novel, especially after the Games?

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In Chapter 2, Katniss and Peeta are named the District 12 tributes, yet she says she can't think about killing him because he gave her burnt bread years ago and saved her life. What does this reveal about Katniss, her values, and the type of person she is?

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How does Katniss' relationship with Peeta change in Chapters 5 and 6?

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In Chapter 8, Katniss notes similarities and differences between Peeta and Gale. What could her comparison possibly foreshadow? How does this help further our understanding of her friendship with Gale?

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In Chapter 12, Katniss continues to distrust Peeta and Haymitch, even though Peeta hasn't told the Careers her skill and Haymitch refuses to send her water only because he knows she is close to a stream. What does this cycle of initially distrusting, and then later understanding the motives behind their actions, say about Katniss' relationships with them? What do we learn about Peeta's and Haymitch's strategies as a result of Katniss distrusting them?

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Katniss uses the tracker jacker nest, another Capital mutation, as a weapon against the Careers in Chapter 14. What is the significance of her actions, especially taking into consideration who showed her the nest and whom she uses the insects against?

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In Chapter 15, Katniss reflects on Gale and Peeta. She thinks about before the reaping, when Gale proposed they run away together, and then how Peeta saved her life at the end of Chapter 14. She quickly changes the subject and admits she doesn't like thinking about them at the same time. Why? What does this say about her feelings for Gale, for Peeta?

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How would you characterize the way in which Katniss respects Rue during and after Rue's death in Chapters 17 and 18? How do you think the Capital views Katniss' actions? What do you think her behavior means to Rue's district?

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How does Rue's death in Chapter 18 mark an important shift in attitude and strategy for Katniss?

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In Chapter 19, Katniss and Peeta share their first kiss. Why does she insist on justifying her feelings and actions towards him as only strategy? Why do you think she doesn't want to admit she may have feelings for Peeta?

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In Chapter 25, Katniss suggests to Peeta that they eat the poisonous berries to commit suicide to ensure the Capital has no victor in the Games. What are some other instances of the Capital's creations being used against them throughout the novel?

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Why is it so important that Katniss dress and act innocent in Chapters 26 and 27?

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Why does Katniss feel like the true Hunger Games are just beginning in Chapters 26 and 27?

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