

St Alban's College

Department of English



Form 2 Standardised Test

Language, comprehension and writing

11 May 2012

35 Marks | 55 minutes

Examiner: BC | Moderators: GM/NH

This paper consists of 4 pages including this one

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Write your name, teacher's initials and draw a right hand marker's margin on your answer sheet.
- Write neatly and legibly.
- Answer all the questions, leaving a line open between each.

Read the following review of "The Hunger Games", written by Matt Berman specifically for parents, and answer the questions that follow:

Source: <http://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews/hunger-games>



Common Sense Media says
Exciting, provocative tale of lethal reality show.

AGE 2 4 6 8 10 **12** 14 16 17 ⓘ

QUALITY ★★★★★ ⓘ

Parents say
See 138 reviews | Review this title!
AGE 13 **QUALITY** ★★★★★

Kids say
See 445 reviews | Review this title!
AGE 11 **QUALITY** ★★★★★

What parents need to know

Parents need to know that this is a story about a reality show where 24 teens must kill one another until only one survives. They do so with spears, rocks, arrows, knives, fire, and by hand. It's not unduly gory, but there is lots of violence, all of it teen on teen.

What's the story?

In the future, the U.S. is gone. In its place is Panem, in which the city of Capitol, somewhere in the Rockies, rules over 12 rebellious districts. To maintain an iron grip, the Capitol holds an annual televised reality show, a lethal form of Survivor to which each district must send one boy and one girl. Out of these 24 teens, only one will survive. Katniss, who volunteers to take her sister's place, and Peeta are District 12's competitors, but their competition is complicated by Peeta's announcement that he is in love with Katniss.

Is it any good?

Author Suzanne Collins burst onto the scene with her marvellous Gregor the Overlander: Underland Chronicles, Book 1, a different sort of middle-grade fantasy marked by unusually strong characters. Now, for her first young-adult novel, she has mixed together elements both classical and modern to produce a story that, if not entirely new, nevertheless bears her unique imprint. Beginning with elements of the Theseus myth, she mixes in a large dollop of Battle Royale by Koushun Takami, elements of Shirley Jackson's The Lottery, current reality shows Survivor, American Gladiators, and Project Runway, and an extrapolation of current political and social trends. But she makes it her own, and the book avoids feeling derivative through her complex and poignant characterisations of both major and secondary characters, and the bewildering interplay of personal feelings and political machinations.

She does all this in the context of an all-out action-thriller told in straight-ahead yet subtle prose with a carefully calibrated level of edgy violence that never goes over the line. A story of teens massacring each other could, in the hands of a different author, have been sensationalistic and even sick but, by keeping the focus relentlessly on the personal, Collins makes it both moving and thought-provoking. This will be a terrific discussion starter for middle-school literature groups, in which students will quickly make fruitful connections to our own society. Gregor the Overlander was brilliant, but could have been a fluke. With this second series, Collins shows that she is a major new voice in children's and young adult literature.

What families can talk about

Families can talk about the popularity of this series. Why has it struck such a chord with readers? Why are you interested in reading it?

Parents may want to address the many issues the author raises. How much of a stretch is it for people to see killing as entertainment? Which reality shows remind you of the one in this book?

QUESTIONS:

1.	For whom is this review written? Give a reason for your answer by referring to the text.	
Parents + Any quote or reference to the text that refers to parents.		[2]
2.	What is the writer's intention with this review. In other words, why do you think the writer wrote this review?	
The writer's intention is to inform parents.		[2]
3.	In order to make paragraph one more formal, which word would you change and to what would you change it?	
"Teens" changes to "teenagers".		[2]
4.	Explain the use of the commas in the following sentence: "They do so with spears, rocks, arrows, knives, fire, and by hand."	
They are used to separate items in a list.		[1]
5.	The headings of the two sections, "What parents need to know" and "What families can talk about" need correcting. Both have something missing. Rewrite ONE of the headings correctly.	
Candidates should add either a full stop or colon to the end of the sentence.		
For example		
What parents need to know. OR What parents need to know:		[2]

6.	Name and explain the use of the punctuation mark in "middle-grade". Hyphen. Creates a compound adjective.	[2]
7.	In your own words, interpret the information given in the chart on the top of page 2. Use discretion.	[4]
8.	Name and explain the figure of speech used in the following sentence: "Author Suzanne Collins burst onto the scene with her marvellous Gregor the Overlander: Underland Chronicles, Book 1" Metaphor. Compares the way Suzanne Collins arrived on the scene, quickly and unexpectedly like a balloon would burst.	[3]
9.	Explain what the writer means when he calls the reality show that is televised in "The Hunger Games", "...a lethal form of Survivor". It's also a game in which the last man (woman) standing wins. Difference is, all the other contestants die.	[3]
10.	Explain the meaning of the following words from paragraph 4 in context: Fluke - chance occurrence, stroke of luck. Relentlessly - constantly, incessantly Fruitful - valuable (USE DISCRETION)	[3]
11.	What "first" is "The Hunger Games" for author, Suzanne Collins? Her first young adult novel.	[1]
12.	Writing: Write a paragraph of approximately 150 words in which you argue either for or against the following statement: Parents do not have the right to decide what their teenage children read. MARK GLOBALLY. USE DISCRETION.	[10]
TOTAL		35