

# THE HUNGER GAMES



## Discuss...

### Rituals

- The actual “Hunger Games” is a ritual that supposedly is meant to knit the community together (Scene 1). What is a ritual? What are examples of rituals? What roles do rituals play in our relationships with others (i.e. family, friends, romantic partners)?

### Family Relationships

- Katniss has a very close relationship with her younger sister (Scene 1). What are some of the roles of siblings (oldest/youngest/middle)?

### Friendship

- An important part of the Hunger Games is gaining the approval of others and forming alliances. However, Katniss says that she is not very good at making friends (Scene 6). What are characteristics of good friendships? How do you know someone is a true friend?
- Once Peeta realizes that he and Katniss cannot both survive, he begins to pull away and train by himself (Scene 10). What can cause friends/significant others to grow apart? How can you counteract those things?

### Fear

- The districts are constantly living in fear, especially during the time of the Hunger Games and the “reaping” (Scenes 1; also mentioned/seen in scenes 7, and 12). What things might cause us to fear relationships? What can the consequences of this fear be?

### Peer Pressure/Acceptance

- An important part of the Hunger Games is to get the audience to like you so you can have sponsors to help you succeed (Scenes 6, 7). Is it okay to be someone you’re not to gain approval from others? What are the benefits and consequences of acting this way?
- When Katniss is trying to impress the sponsors with her talents before the games begin, she misses the target and everyone laughs at her. How do you feel when people laugh at you for making mistakes? How would other people feel if you were laughing at and criticizing them?

### Safety Nets/Security

- Katniss gives the mocking jay pin to her sister, Primrose, and tells her it will keep her safe (Scene 2). What things/relationships do we have in our lives that help us feel safe and protected? What are characteristics of those “safety nets”?
- Katniss has a support system consisting of her family, Gale, Peeta, Haymitch, Cinna, and Effie Trinket. Who makes up your support system? Why are support systems important?
- When Katniss gets too close to the edge of the field, the game maker orders a fire to scare her back towards her competitors (Scene 15). What are some dangers in relationships that prevent us from staying safe?



## Discuss...

### **Mentors**

- The tributes from each district are provided with a mentor to help them train and prepare (Scene 5). Is Haymitch a good example of a mentor? What characteristics would you look for/want to have in a role model or mentor? What are the benefits of having a mentor?

### **Sacrifice/Honor/Courage**

- Katniss volunteers herself as tribute in the place of her sister (Scene 3). What does it mean to sacrifice? What can we do to sacrifice for those we care about?
- Even though her mother is still mourning the loss of her husband, Katniss insists that her mother needs to be there for her sister (Scene 4). Is it important for us to be there for others, even when we are struggling ourselves? How can you do this? What are the benefits?

### **Generosity/Forgiveness**

- The video before the reaping states “winning stands as a symbol of generosity and forgiveness of the Capitol” (Scene 3). Are these characteristics of a healthy relationship? Can they be negative or taken to an extreme?

### **Promises/Honesty**

- Katniss promises her sister that everything will be okay (Scene 4). Is it okay to make promises that we are not sure we will be able to keep? What could the consequences be?

### **Agency/Ability to Choose**

- Katniss and Peeta return to their district and talk about what they have experienced (Scene 4). How does individual and collective change affect your relationships with others?

### **Survival Skills**

- Katniss and Peeta are told not to ignore survival skills (Scene 8). What could be considered some relationship survival skills that reflect a healthy relationship?
- The game maker changes the rules of the game so that there can be two winners. However, it is a trick and is revoked later (Scene 20). What are some ways that you can be tricked or led to have a false sense of security in a relationship? How do you avoid this?

### **Self-esteem**

- When Katniss is getting ready, she says, “I don’t feel amazing or beautiful” (Scene 10). How does constantly putting ourselves down affect our relationships with others?