For the Teacher

This reproducible study guide consists of instructional material to use in conjunction with the novel *The Hunger Games*. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel.

NOVEL-TIES are either for whole class instruction using a single title or for group instruction where each group uses a different novel appropriate to its reading level. Depending upon the amount of time allotted to it in the classroom, each novel, with its guide and accompanying lessons, may be completed in two to four weeks.

The first step in using NOVEL-TIES is to distribute to each student a copy of the novel and a folder containing all of the duplicated worksheets. Begin instruction by selecting several pre-reading activities in order to set the stage for the reading ahead. Vocabulary exercises for each chapter always precede the reading so that new words will be reinforced in the context of the book. Use the questions on the chapter worksheets for class discussion or as written exercises.

The benefits of using NOVEL-TIES are numerous. Students read good literature in the original, rather than in abridged or edited form. The good reading habits formed by practice in focusing on interpretive comprehension and literary techniques will be transferred to the books students read independently. Passive readers become active, avid readers.

*Novel-Ties® are printed on recycled paper.*

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PART 1 CHAPTERS 1 – 4

Vocabulary: Draw a line from each word on the left to its definition on the right. Then use the numbered words to fill in the blanks in the sentences below.

1. supple a. meeting the requirements to participate
2. preposterous b. utter or pronounce words
3. eligible c. permitting no option
4. anguish d. absurd; utterly foolish
5. mandatory e. something given in exchange for services
6. tenuous f. flexible; bending readily
7. compensation g. extreme suffering
8. enunciate h. lacking a sound basis

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1. As ____________________for his years of service to the company, the retired worker received a good pension.
2. In many countries, a period of military service is ____________________.
3. The winner of the regional spelling bee is ____________________ to enter the national contest.
4. The structure of that tree house looks ____________________; it should be supported with additional pieces of lumber.
5. My African Grey parrot can ____________________over twenty words and seems almost able to hold a conversation.
6. With his ____________________costume and oversized shoes, the clown made the children in the audience giggle.
7. The trunk of a young sapling is ____________________ and will bow down in a high wind, rather than break.
8. In ____________________, we watched the fire sweep through the area, scorching the earth where a pine forest once stood.

Questions:
1. What was the purpose of the electric fence around District 12?
2. What did the woods represent to Katniss and Gale?
3. What protected poachers and black marketeers from the wrath of the law?
4. What was Reaping Day? What event had given rise to this tradition?
Chapters 1 – 4 (cont.)

5. What circumstance had made it more likely that either Gale or Katniss would be randomly selected on Reaping Day?
6. What was the social structure of the community in which Katniss had grown up?
7. How did the Hunger Games inspire competition among the twelve districts?
8. Why did Katniss immediately volunteer to take Prim’s place as a tribute?
9. Why did Katniss refuse to cry or show any sign of weakness as she said goodbye to her mother and sister?
10. Why did Gale think that Katniss had a good chance of winning?
11. Why did Katniss see kindness as an enemy? How did this view color her reaction to Peeta?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think it was fair for Katniss to blame her mother for her emotional state following her husband’s death?
2. Why do you think people from some of the other districts considered it an honor to be selected for the Hunger Games?
3. What factors do you think might have been responsible for Haymitch’s alcoholism?
4. How do you think the story of the mockingjay reflects on the actual history of the United States? Under what circumstances have people used song to express and lessen their sufferings?
5. What elements in today’s society could result in a political and social structure such as that described in Panem?
6. Do you think Peeta will be an ally or a stiff competitor for Katniss?
7. How do you think Katniss felt about the country of Panem? District 12? about her family life?

Literary Devices:

I. Point of View—Point of view in literature refers to the person telling the story. The story may be told by the author (third-person narrative) or by a character in the story (first-person narrative). From whose point of view is this story told?

Why do you think the author chose this point of view?
Chapters 1 – 4 (cont.)

II. **Simile**—A simile is a figure of speech in which two unlike objects are compared using the words “like” or “as.” For example:

   But today, despite the bright banners hanging on the buildings, there’s an air of grimness. The camera crews, perched like buzzards on the hilltops, only add to the effect.

What is being compared?

__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

What does this reveal about the attitude of the media toward the events taking place in the square?

__________________________________________________________________________________

III. **Personification**—Personification is a figure of speech in which an author grants human qualities to a nonhuman object. For example:

   I stood mesmerized by the heat and the luscious scent until the rain interfered, running its icy fingers down my back . . .

What is being personified?

__________________________________________________________________________________

Why is this better than saying, “cold rain hit my body”?

__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

IV. **Symbolism**—A symbol in literature is an object, person, or event that represents an idea or set of ideas? What do you think the dandelion symbolized?

__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

V. **Flashback**—A flashback is a literary device in which a scene from the past is inserted into the present time of the novel. Where does the flashback begin in Chapter Four?

__________________________________________________________________________________

What purpose does this flashback serve?

__________________________________________________________________________________
Chapters 1 – 4 (cont.)

Literary Elements:

I. Setting—Setting refers to the time and place where the events of a novel occur. What is the setting of The Hunger Games?

II. Characterization—Compare the characters of Katniss and Peeta in the Venn diagram below. Record the ways they are alike in the overlapping part of the circles. Add information as you continue to read the book.

Science Connection:

Do some research to learn about global warming—its causes and its worldwide effects. How might global warming eventually lead to a world that has some of the same characteristics as Panem?

Social Studies Connection:

Do some research to learn about the region of the United States called Appalachia. Find information about the economic and social conditions that shape people’s lives in this area. How is life in Appalachia today like the world described in District 12?

Writing Activity:

Rewrite the scene in the village square on Reaping Day from the point of view of another character in the story, using details from the novel.