

HUNGER GAMES

Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* opens up in a poor area called District 12. District 12 is in a future version of the United States we know now, being divided into 12 districts from rich to poor. The story focuses on the Everdeen family, consisting of a mother and her two daughters, Katniss (16) and Primrose (12), or Prim for short. Being extremely poor, the family relies on Katniss to go out and hunt for food with her friend Gale. She develops skills with a bow and arrow after doing this many times. Every 25 years, each district chooses 2 tributes, a boy and a girl, from each district to participate in The Hunger Games. They are chosen at random at an event called The Reaping. At the Reaping that takes place in the book, Prim is chosen as the girl for District 12, despite it being her first time participating, leaving her with a small chance of being chosen. Katniss jumps in and volunteers to take Prim's place. They allow her, upsetting Prim. The boy tribute is a boy Katniss's age named Peeta Mellark. These two will now go on a journey together, making for a great adventure...or so they think.

In my opinion, this is an extremely well written book. Getting to see a new world, many emotions, and great characters makes it very enjoyable to read. The story is engaging and makes you want to keep reading. Although it can get a bit gory, it is good for any audience that likes adventure, romance, or emotional stories. It had a good amount of reread value and can be good to go back to. I usually don't read books very fast, but I couldn't stop reading this one. I kept needing to know what happened next. So overall, I'd give this book a 10/10.

By
Katrina A.

They Both Die at the End, But How?

If you knew you were going to die today, then how would you spend your last day on Earth? This question is posed and answered in the perspective of two young men in Adam Silvera's touching novel *They Both Die at the End*. As literal as the title sounds, one life-ending journey leaves readers developing their motivation and intentions of their lifelong dreams. The lesson of fulfilling life's glory and pursuing aspirations is prevalent in the book and expectantly in the reader's life going forward.

On the morning of September 5th, 2017, two strangers, Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio, received their heartbreaking calls from Death Cast, a company made up of heralds who inform those whose time has come. Mateo, a gay 18-year-old, held himself back from his dreams his whole life; 17-year-old Rufus, on the other hand, is a bisexual foster kid who lives his life constantly outside of his home in risk. Now called Deckers after the unfortunate phone call, the two teenagers had less than 24 hours left to live, yet neither of them knew where to begin. Rufus and Mateo found and met each other through the promoted social app "Last Friend" to seize their final day together in New York City.

Mainly narrated by Rufus and Mateo along with some minor characters, the book's first person point of view alternates every chapter as the plot chronologically progresses, allowing the reader to look into multiple rationales. Silvera's text uses informal dialogue and thoughts that equate to how teenagers and young adults speak and think nowadays. Slang and inappropriate language are included, too, evoking emotions and reactions that speak frankly to the reader. The

narrators express themselves simply and honestly with worldwide themes such as death, embarrassment, and love.

Readers who are obstructed in their lives may like this book due to the inspiration it sends out to live every day like it is your last day. Its connection to death relates to all of humanity, making the book a perfect read to any teenagers and adults comfortable with sensitive topics and references to the LGBT+ community. The incorporated clichés, situational irony, and the powerful bond make the novel unique and worth reading. Though the title *They Both Die at the End* intentionally reveals the ending, it should not avert readers from picking out Adam Silvera's heartfelt piece.

By,
Emilia S.