

## **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.

### **The Hunger Games By: Suzanne Collins**

The story takes place in Panem, a nation divided into 12 districts, ruled by President Snow. Because the districts once tried to revolt against the Capitol, each district is required to send a girl and a boy, tributes, that are chosen randomly at an event called *The Reaping*. The tributes compete in the annual *Hunger Games*, where they fight to the death in an arena until there is only one tribute left on live TV. Katniss Everdeen lives in District 12 with her mother and 12-year-old sister, Prim. Their family is poor, forcing Katniss to learn how to hunt with a bow and arrow for food. Katniss hunts with her friend Gale and develops good survival skills throughout her life. When Prim gets chosen as District 12's tribute at the *Reaping*, Katniss does not hesitate to volunteer and take her place. Katniss and the boy tribute chosen from District 12, Peeta Mellark, head to the Capitol to prepare for the *Hunger Games* with help from their mentor, Haymitch. Peeta and Katniss develop a strategy to pretend that they are in love to gain more sponsors and support from the audience. However, as the games go on, Katniss questions if their love is real or fake. Will Katniss survive the *Hunger Games* and receive a life of fame and fortune, or perish in the arena? Read the book to find out!

*The Hunger Games* is one of the best books I've ever read! I couldn't stop reading it and finished the novel in a couple of days! The plot of the story is very creative, and the story is well written. I liked how the story took place in the future and a dystopian society. It had the perfect mix of action and romance! I enjoyed all of the characters and was very satisfied with the ending of the novel. I'm excited to read the rest of the series! Teens who enjoy science-fiction books would enjoy reading this book. I recommend this novel and would rate it a 10/10!

By  
Sabrina C

## **The Maze Runner By: James Dashner**

The story takes place in the future, where a new boy is mysteriously sent every month to live in an area surrounded by a maze. The community of boys, Gladers, built a village in the clearing called the Glade. Thomas is the new boy sent to the maze that month and has no memory of his past except for his name, just like the others. Every morning, two of the strongest Gladers, Runners, are sent to the maze to memorize it and find a way out. However, this is difficult because the maze changes every night, and they must return by nightfall. If they are stuck in the maze, they will most likely die by Grievors, spider-like mechanical creatures that can kill you. No one has survived a night in the maze before. The day after Thomas arrives, the box sends the first female, Teresa, to the maze with a note saying that she is the last one. Thomas becomes very curious about the maze, and his knowledge soon earns him the title of a Runner. When he and Minho, another Runner, surprisingly survive a night in the maze, Thomas and Teresa, who claim the maze is a code, try to convince the others that there is a way out.

There was so much action in this book, and the plot was so unique. I kept reading to find out what happened next, and it felt like I was watching an intense movie. It was such a great book, and I loved all the characters! The book was very well-written and included so much detail! The thrilling storyline, amazing characters, and action-filled events make this book worth reading! Even if you watched the movie, you should still read the book! I would recommend this book to all young adults and rate it a 10/10!

By  
Sabrina C

### **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.