

Chapter 3

***The Hunger Games* Trilogy and Popular Culture**

3.1. Introduction:

3.1.1 The Hunger Games and the Publisher: Scholastic

3.1.2 Bestseller list and Copies Sold

3.1.3 Book Reviews and Ratings

3.1.4 Editions and Reprints

3.1.5 Official Websites, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook Pages

3.1.6 Fan sites and YouTube Channel / Videos

3.2. Film Adaptations

3.2.1 Celebrities: Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth

3.2.2 Critical and Commercial Success

3.3. Parody or Spoof literature, Movies

3.4. Influence on other Works / Films

3.4.1. Hunger Games Exhibition

3.4.2. The World of the Hunger Games

3.4.3. Capitol Bullet Train

3.4.4. Lionsgate Entertainment World

3.4.5. Fiction Books

3.5. Books about *The Hunger Games* Series

3.6. Translations

3.7. Awards and Honours

3.8. Artifacts and Games based on *The Hunger Games Series*

3.9. Conclusion

3.1. Introduction

The Hunger Games was first published in the United States of America in 2008. Suzanne Collins was rather an unknown author at the time of the novel's publication. Even though she had published the book series known as *The Underland Chronicles*, it was read by people (mostly children) only within North America and the United Kingdom. Young adult fiction has become highly popular at that time (after 2000) like never before because of the immense success of the *Harry Potter* book series. *Harry Potter* series is considered by many critics as the cornerstone in the history of modern young adult literature. The Film Adaptations of the *Harry Potter* series increased its popularity globally and it has become an international phenomenon.

Following the success of Harry Potter, young adult fantasy novels like *Twilight* and *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief* were published in 2005. These books were also successful and their sequels followed. *The Hunger Games* also had young adult protagonists, but Collins set the novel in a post – apocalyptic dystopian America. This futuristic setting is dark and complex. People are under the control of the government and divided on the basis of their status in the society. Most of the nation is poverty stricken and people live in terrible condition in stark contrast with the contemporary American society. The situation is almost similar to that of the so called third world countries. This realistic description of the possible future and the dystopian theme garnered positive reviews from both the book critics and reviewers. Also, the reading public was apprehensive of the dystopian and post-apocalyptic setting mixed with current trend of reality shows.

Kate Egan says in *The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion* that:

In *The Hunger Games*, there's something for everyone.

A gripping adventure.

A political commentary.

A love story.

A cautionary tale.

Some call it science fiction, some call it potential reality.

Some say it's for teenagers, some say it's for adults.

The book--and now the film--captures themes and concerns that seem timely.

But its real strength, in the end, is that it's timeless. It speaks to us today, and it will speak--even more powerfully--tomorrow. (25)

During the period 2008- 2009, there are evidences about the formation of a vibrant community dedicated to *The Hunger Games* novel series. A portion of the early adopters began to set up fan destinations, smart readers examined further readings and discussed the issues introduced inside the books, and fan designers were populating fan fiction sites and contributing to blog stages with their developmental manifestations dependent on the series. In the interim intensity inside the film business was developing as Nina Jacobson's production company "Color Force" beat out the opposition and obtained the film rights in March 2009, which were then given to Lionsgate. Soon after

Mockingjay was published, Gary Ross was declared as the director of The Hunger Games film, and its release set for March 2012. At that point Academy Award-nominated, presently Oscar-winning Jennifer Lawrence was given a key role as Katniss Everdeen, a strong and faithful adolescent who is dangerous with a bow and arrow. While earlier series like Harry Potter and Twilight set up for The Hunger Games success, this series presents hazier subjects than its archetypes. Set in a dystopian future based upon the remaining parts of North America, Panem exists under an authoritarian system administered by its Capitol, a glimmering focal point of government and culture, encircled by twelve Districts. Residents outside the Capitol are abused because of an uprising and Dark Days which occurred 70 years before Katniss's story. Subjects of destitution, hunger, financial imbalance and persecution are analyzed in detail, every last bit of it based on the yearly exhibition known as the Hunger Games, in which each of the 12-to 18-year-olds are gathered together and one male and one male and female Tribute from each District are picked to battle until the very end. The story unravels through the lives of these two tributes from District 12, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark.

The aim of this chapter is to have a look at the multifaceted inculcation of *The Hunger Games* trilogy in popular culture. This particular chapter tries to look into the importance of dystopian fiction, especially young adult dystopian literature as a literary subgenre at present. This chapter focuses on the close analysis and cross examination of the novel series and its tremendous and continuing impact on the society which includes a number of factors ranging from the book sales, film adaptation and the exhibition exclusively based on the novel and film series.

3.1.1. The Hunger Games and the Publisher: Scholastic

Suzanne Collins' first book, *Gregor the Overlander* was published by Scholastic Press. Scholastic Press is a multinational book publishing corporation based in New York, United States of America. They describe themselves as the world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books. Scholastic has an overwhelming presence in social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Amazon. *Gregor the Overlander* is followed by a number of books and these are collectively called as The Underland Chronicles. Following the success of this book series, Collins' second book was also accepted by the Scholastic Corporation. This novel was later to become *The Hunger Games*, the novel in our discussion. Scholastic Press released *The Hunger Games* on 14th September 2008. This first edition can be seen as a collectible item in some of the book selling sites like Abebooks, Ebay and Biblio.

As Scholastic Press played an important role in the publication and distribution of Suzanne Collins' important works, it is necessary to discuss about the publisher. Scholastic Corporation is an international publishing and media company based in the United States. Scholastic press is arguably the largest publisher and distributor of children's books around the world. Scholastic press possesses the publishing rights of Harry Potter and Hunger Games book series in the United States. Scholastic Corporation has a division in India and the Hunger Games series is distributed within India by them. The most recent book in The Hunger Games series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* was published by Scholastic on May 19, 2020. This novel serves both as a spinoff and a sequel to *The Hunger Games* series. This book was published in India by the Indian division of the Scholastic Corporation.

3.1.2. Bestseller List and Copies Sold

First book in the trilogy, *The Hunger Games* was an immense and immediate success. It was popular among both teen readers and adults. *The Hunger Games* opened its sale with fifty thousand copies in print, which was suddenly escalated to a great number of two hundred thousand copies. According to the sources, eight hundred thousand copies of the book had been sold until February 2010. By this time, rights to the novel had been offered in thirty eight territories globally. *The Hunger Games* secured a position in the Best Seller list published by New York Times in November 2008, and the book had remained there for a long time. The movie adaptation of *The Hunger Games* was released in March 2012, and by this time the book featured on USA Today's best-sellers list for hundred and thirty five consecutive weeks and more than seventeen million copies of the book was sold. The book remained on the New York Times Bestseller list for more than two sixty consecutive weeks, which means five consecutive years. We can imagine how successful this book alone was. *The Hunger Games* was also featured in the Wall Street Journal Bestseller and the Publishers Weekly Bestseller list.

The second book in the trilogy, *Catching Fire* was first published by Scholastic Press on September 1, 2009. The first edition of *Catching Fire* had undergone the printing of three hundred and fifty thousand copies, and it was further increased to more than seven hundred and fifty thousand copies by February 2010. According to some sources, *Catching Fire* had a business of more than nineteen million copies in the United States alone.

Scholastic published the hardcover and audiobook editions of *Mockingjay* on August 24, 2010; six days after the ebook edition went on sale. The book sold 450,000 copies in the first week of release, exceeding the publisher's expectations. As of March 2012, the book has sold over 10 million copies. *Mockingjay* was first released in the US and Canada on August 24, 2010. The United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia received the book one day later, on August 25, 2010. The audiobook was released simultaneously on August 24, 2010 by Scholastic Audio.

The book had a 1.2 million-copy first printing that was bumped up from 750,000. In its first week of release, the book sold over 450,000 copies. Following this, Scholastic printed an additional 400,000 copies, bringing the initial print run up to 1.6 million. Scholastic Trade president Ellie Berger said that sales "have exceeded all expectations. The book has also been released in e-book format and topped sales in the week ending with August 29, 2010, beating out *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, which had held the top spot since April. The other *Hunger Games* books have also made it in the top ten, with the first book at fifth and the second book taking eighth. As of March 2012, the book has sold over 9 million copies.

To promote the release of *Mockingjay*, many bookstores held midnight release parties. The official event in New York City was attended by Collins, and included many activities such as a tarot card reader, a magician, jugglers and face-painters. Prizes such as signed copies of *Catching Fire* and *Hunger Games*-themed cups were raffled. Once Collins arrived, she read the first chapter of the novel, explaining that she would read with an accent since Katniss, the narrator, is from Appalachia. By midnight, copies were being sold with a signature stamp since Collins had a hand injury and was unable to sign.

Before the release, Scholastic also released a trailer for the book, launched a Facebook page that gained over 22,000 fans in 10 days, and held a contest for booksellers to win a visit from Collins and an online countdown clock to the release date. There were also advertisements for the book on websites such as Entertainment Weekly and Romantic Times. National Entertainment Collectibles Association also sold other goods such as T-shirts, posters, games and bracelets. Collins also held a "13-District Blog Tour" where 13 winners received a free copy of *Mockingjay* on August 24, 2010. A tour was also scheduled, starting at Books of Wonder in New York where the official party took place. The tour ended on November 6, 2010, in the Third Place Books store in Lake Forest Park, Washington.

There is a reference in *Guinness World Records Book 2015* that *The Hunger Games* trilogy is the best-selling children's trilogy. They further add that these three books sold a total of 27.7 million copies across both printed and digital formats in 2012 alone. According to figures announced by Publisher's Weekly in March 2013, Suzanne Collins's "Hunger Games" trilogy surpassed Harry Potter's previous record for the most books sold in one year (19.8 million copies). During 2012, the "Hunger Games" franchise sold 15 million print books (8.8 million of which were hardcover) and 12.7 million e-books – giving an astonishing total for the year of 27.7 million copies.

An article in Forbes site reported that the *Hunger Games* Trilogy surpassed the *Harry Potter* series to become the all-time bestselling book series. Harry Potter series along with *The Lord of the Rings* Series and *The Chronicles of Narnia* are among the book series which sold the most number of copies. All these novel series were released in the twentieth century with Harry Potter being the latest. *The Lord of the Rings* and *The*

Chronicles of Narnia has been there in the list for quite a long time and the Harry Potter series began 10 years before the publication of *The Hunger Games*. Still, The Hunger Games series has been able to surpass many records set by these popular book series. It is clearly evident that how popular was this series not only in the English speaking countries, but also around the world.

As of the end of 2012 the best-selling children's title was Collins' "The Hunger Games" (2008). The first book of the trilogy sold 11.7 million copies in total (6.2 million paperbacks, 4.6 million eBooks and 903,000 hardbacks). The trilogy made up the top three of 2012, with "Catching Fire" selling more than 8.6 million and *Mockingjay* with sales of more than 7 million. According to Publishers Weekly, Suzanne Collins' "Hunger Games" trilogy sold 12,756,172 eBooks in 2012 in the USA alone. The trilogy secured the top three positions on the list of best-selling children's eBooks: *The Hunger Games* sold the most, 4,595,739 eBooks, while *Catching Fire* managed to sell 4,218,680 copies and *Mockingjay* had a business of 3,941,753 copies.

Suzanne Collins narrowly missed out on a record for the highest annual earnings for a kids' author. Jeff Kinney (USA) – known for his *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series – and Veronica Roth (USA) – known for her *Divergent* trilogy – both earned an estimated 17 million US dollars from June 2013 to June 2014, according to Forbes. Collins managed to earn 16 million US dollars in the same time period, which was considerably lower than her earnings of 55 million between June 2012 and June 2013.

3.1.3. Book Reviews and Ratings

The Hunger Games trilogy received positive reviews from most of the critics. More than the critics, famous authors like Stephen King, Rick Riordan and Stephenie Meyer wrote in favour of the series on various platforms.

This is what Stephenie Meyer, author of the *Twilight* saga wrote about the series:

People often ask me for reading suggestions, and I'm always happy to share because books are exciting things to me. My latest excitement is this: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. I was so obsessed with this book I had to take it with me out to dinner and hide it under the edge of the table so I wouldn't have to stop reading. The story kept me up for several nights in a row, because even after I was finished, I just lay in bed wide awake thinking about it. I've been recommending it to total strangers in Target. And now to everyone who reads my website. (<https://web.archive.org/web/20081026033055/http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/>)

Stephenie Meyer writes again that “Catching Fire is just as exciting as The Hunger Games, but even more gut wrenching, because you already know these characters, you’ve already suffered with them. Suzanne takes the story places I wasn’t expecting, and she’s never afraid to take it to very hard places. Stunning”.

In a review for *The New York Times*, John Green (author of *The Fault in Our Stars* and *Paper Towns*) wrote that the novel was “brilliantly plotted and perfectly paced”, and that “the considerable strength of the novel comes in Collins's convincingly

detailed world-building and her memorably complex and fascinating heroine.” However, he also noted that, while allegorically rich, the book sometimes does not realize the allegorical potential that the plot has to offer and that the writing “described the action and little else” (Green). Stephen King in his review for *Entertainment Weekly*, compared *The Hunger Games* to “shoot-it-if-it-moves videogames in the lobby of the local eightplex; you know it's not real, but you keep plugging in quarters anyway.” However, he also stated that there were “displays of authorial laziness that kids will accept more readily than adults” and that the love triangle was standard for the genre. King bestowed the book with a B grade (King). School Library Journal’s reviewer Elizabeth Bird was appreciative of the novel, writing that the book is “exciting, poignant, thoughtful, and breathtaking by turns”, and described it as one of the best books of the year 2008.

British novelist, critic and journalist Amanda Craig wrote about *The Hunger Games* that the novel “Appeals equally to boys as to girls ... the stunning action sequences and the cleverness of concept and execution give this a haunting philosophical complexity and make it my book of the year.” Again, Amanda Craig writes about the trilogy: “There have been a number of outstanding dystopian fantasies emerging from America, but *The Hunger Games* is the most profoundly imagined, nightmarish, romantic, psychologically plausible and well-written. You can’t stop reading, once begun... *The Hunger Games* trilogy is more than just a very clever futuristic thriller. It’s quite possibly the best SF novel for teenagers since Huxley’s *Brave New World*” (The Telegraph).

Irish-Canadian writer and the author of the novel *Room* (2010) Emma Donoghue described *The Hunger Games* as “A throbbingly tense thriller”. Rick Riordan, author of

the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series described *The Hunger Games* as “One of the best-written and thought-provoking books I’ve read for a long time”. Rick Riordan again lauded the book “As close to a perfect adventure novel as I’ve ever read”. Different online shopping sites and social cataloging sites allow readers to rate and review their favourite books. These ratings and reviews provide us a wholesome idea about the people’s opinion on the book. Globally recognised websites like amazon and Goodreads provide a platform for the readers to rate the book and share their reading experience.

The Hunger Games has a rating of 4.7 out of 5 on the online shopping site Amazon from 37,385 global ratings from all around the world. It is quite an interesting fact to note here that 81 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 12 percentage gave it a four star rating. This proves to us how popular the book is among the reading public. On Amazon, *Catching Fire* is having a rating of 4.7 out of 5 from 28,024 ratings. 82 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 13 percentage gave it a four star rating. *Mockingjay* has a rating of 4.6 out of 5 on Amazon from 32,208 ratings. 75 percentage of the customers gave the book a five star rating and 14 percentage gave it a four star rating. The book is also listed as a teacher’s pick for grade K -8th grade on Amazon. On the social cataloging website Goodreads, *The Hunger Games* has a rating of 4.32 out of 5 based on the ratings from 6,878,838 readers. *Catching Fire* has a rating of 4.30 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 2,757,553 readers. *Mockingjay* has a rating of 4.05 on Goodreads based on the ratings from 2,552,613 people. From the Indian perspective, *The Hunger Games* has a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on the Indian shopping site Flipkart. *Catching Fire* has a rating of 4.4 out of 5 on the website. *Mockingjay* has been given a rating of 4.3 by the customers.

3.1.4. Editions and Reprints

The first edition of *The Hunger Games* was published in the USA on 14th September 2008. This was followed by many editions and reprints. Only the important editions and reprints are discussed here.

There are the Flaming Edition, Classic Edition, Original edition, Movie edition and the Collector's edition published in the United Kingdom. From the same website, we can see the Flaming Edition, Classic Edition, and the Original edition of *Catching Fire*. This website also provides a look at the Flaming Edition, Classic Edition, and the Original edition of the third novel in the series, *Mockingjay*.

The trilogy has a separate set of editions published in the United States. The most noteworthy editions are: The Foil Edition Box Set Paperback which was released in September 2014, 10th Anniversary Edition Box Set released in October 2018. This 10th Anniversary Special Edition Boxed Set contains more than fifty pages of extra material, including a comprehensive interview of Suzanne Collins, which looks into the whole process in the creation of the series and an intriguing exchange of ideas between Suzanne Collins and the famous Young Adult writer Walter Dean Myers. Bonus materials also include a timeline of highlights from the first 10 years of *The Hunger Games*, from the first book's publication to the aftermath of the final film's release. Furthermore, there are also the hardcover box set and the special edition box set of the trilogy.

Scholastic India had released a Movie Tie in Collector's Edition Box Set of the trilogy in October 2014. A special edition box set called Luxury Edition Box Set was

released by Scholastic Australia in September 2013. Scholastic Australia had also published a Camouflage Edition in October 2015. After the publication of the prequel *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, a hardcover box set of the series was released in October 2020. This is the latest edition published until now.

3.1.5. Official Websites, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook Pages

Lionsgate owns the digital rights of the film series and the official movie and novel merchandise. This media corporation handles the official website of the Hunger Games franchise with the name The World of the Hunger Games. The website provides comprehensive information about the series covering everything from the book series to the attractions in different parts of the world including Dubai, China and Spain. Links to the Facebook, twitter and instagram pages are also provided in the website.

Scholastic press developed a special website exclusively for the Hunger Games books. This website has the IP address <https://scholastic-hungergames.com/>. The website encapsulates the excerpts from all the books, links to download the audiobooks and a short life sketch of the author Suzanne Collins. The Hunger Games series has a different website in the United Kingdom. The IP address of this website is <http://www.thehungergames.co.uk/>. Scholastic press has designed this site and it has descriptions about the author, books and provides reviews, download links of messenger icons, movie posters, book covers, and links to the official games. This website also provides information about similar young adult books including *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner.

The official website of the new book in The Hunger Games series is of the web address <https://www.songbirdsandsnakes.com/> and this website elucidates that this series has had a business of more than hundred million copies worldwide including digital and print formats. The site also claims that the foreign publishing rights of the series have been sold into 53 languages in 56 territories around the world until now. The Hunger Games @TheHungerGames is the official twitter account of The Hunger Games franchise including details about the movie and book series. It has an image of Katniss Everdeen played by Jennifer Lawrence. The owner of this official twitter account created this account in December 2010. This account is having one million followers and fifty one thousand tweets are recorded in the page until now.

There is a separate twitter account for the franchise in the United Kingdom. The Official UK account is of the name The Hunger Games@HungerGamesUK. This account was created in June 2011. The page is having 340.9K Followers as of February 2021. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*, prequel of *The Hunger Games* and the latest novel in the series has a twitter account on its own. This verified account is of the name The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes@songbirdssnakes. The page was created in November 2019 and it is followed by 7045 people until now. The official Instagram account for The Hunger Games franchise is of the name thehungergames. A motto of the series “The fire will burn forever” can be seen on this account page. They have shared 2032 posts or images till now and the account has over 1.2 million followers.

Hunger Games Page @TheHungerGames is the official Facebook page of the book series. This Facebook page is liked by more than 4.3 million people and followed by almost 4.2 million. The Hunger Games movie series has a different official Facebook

page with the name The Hunger Games@TheHungerGamesMovie. This page has more than 20 million likes and 19.7 million followers approximately.

3.1.6. Fan Sites, Groups and YouTube Channels / Videos

Like all successful novel and film series, *The Hunger Games* also has its share of dedicated fan sites, Facebook groups and YouTube channels.

TheHungerGamers.com, letthehungergamesbegin.weebly.com, hungergamesnet.wordpress.com, and TheHungerGamesWiki are some of the websites created by the fans of the series. THG Fansite is a verified YouTube channel with lots of videos and clips about the film series including trailers, movie clips and interviews of the actors and the crew. This channel is created by Fandango Movieclips and it has more than a hundred and twenty five thousand subscribers. The Hunger Games film series has an official youtube channel with exclusive tribute clips, behind the scenes videos and film making videos. The channel has over 240 million views and five hundred and fifty thousand subscribers.

The series has an official fan group on Facebook. It is a public Facebook group created in December 2018 and has more than six thousand active members. This group has several features like an events page, announcements section and a discussion forum. There is also a Facebook group with the title THE HUNGER GAMES ADDICTS which is a private group with more than two thousand members. The Hunger Games Fan Page, The Hunger Games Fan Club, and Hunger Games, Harry Potter, Supernatural And Charmed Fans are some other fan groups that can be found on Facebook.

The book review site Goodreads has a group with the name The Hunger Games. It is a public group and has forty three members. Anyone interested can join the group and invite their friends to join much like a Facebook group.

3.2. Film Adaptations

Hollywood film producer Nina Jacobson bagged the rights to produce a film based on *The Hunger Games* in March 2009. She approached Lionsgate (Lions Gate Entertainment Corporation) and asked them to collaborate in the production. The Film series is produced by Nina Jacobson and Jon Kilik. Nina Jacobson's production company Color Force has the production credits and the series is distributed by Lionsgate. Kate Egan describes this in *The Hunger Games Official Illustrated Movie Companion*:

Naturally, The Hunger Games had begun to capture the attention of Hollywood. Film producer Nina Jacobson, of Color Force Productions, had overseen movies like The Princess Diaries, The Chronicles of Narnia, and the Pirates of the Caribbean series. She describes her first encounter with The Hunger Games: "A smart guy who works for me, named Bryan Unkeless, read the book and fell in love with it. Just the first book had been published — the sequels hadn't come out yet. He read it, and he gave it to me and said, 'It's a really great book. You should check it out.' I just picked it up, couldn't put it down, and spent a lot of the time that I was reading it thinking, How can you make a movie that has violence between young people? And yet, as I saw the way that Suzanne had walked that line, by staying inside Katniss's character and managing to comment

on the violence without ever exploiting it, I became more convinced there was a way that a movie could do the same. (35)

The novel trilogy has been made into a quadrilogy of films and the films in the series were released from 2012 to 2015.

The Hunger Games (2012)

The first movie in the series with the same name of the novel was released on March 23, 2012 in the United States and the United Kingdom. The film is directed by Gary Ross and the screenplay is written by Suzanne Collins, Gary Ross and Billy Ray. It stars Jennifer Lawrence as the protagonist Katniss Everdeen and an ensemble cast including Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Lenny Kravitz, Stanley Tucci, and Donald Sutherland. The film was entirely shot in different parts of North Carolina.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013)

The second movie in the series *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* was released on 21st November in the United Kingdom and 22nd November in the United States. The film is directed by Francis Lawrence. Simon Beaufoy and Michael Arndt wrote the screenplay of the film. Additional cast included Philip Seymour Hoffman, Jeffrey Wright, Sam Claflin, Lynn Cohen, Jena Malone, and Amanda Plummer with the regular cast of the film series. The film was shot in Atlanta and Georgia states of the United States and Hawaii.

The Hunger Games: Mocking jay – Part 1(2014)

The last novel in the trilogy, *Mockingjay* was adapted into two movies. First part *The Hunger Games: Mocking jay – Part 1* was released on November 21, 2014 in the United States. The film is directed by Francis Lawrence and the screenplay is written by Danny Strong and Peter Craig. Julianne Moore was added to the main cast of the movie. Shooting of the movie took place in Atlanta, Georgia and Berlin.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2(2015)

The final film in the series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2* was released on 20th November 2015 in the United States. It is directed by Francis Lawrence and Peter Craig and Danny Strong wrote the screenplay. The film was shot in Boston, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

3.2.1. Celebrities: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth

Jennifer Lawrence acts as the main protagonist Katniss Everdeen, a tribute from the district 12 of the futuristic Panem (North America) and the story progresses through her life and adventures. Lawrence was a less known actress until the release of *The Hunger Games*, even though she acted in some critically acclaimed movies like *Winter's Bone* and *X-Men: First Class*. She is the second youngest actress to win the Academy Award for Best Actress for her performance in the movie *Silver Linings Playbook* (2012), released in the same year as *The Hunger Games*. Lawrence won several notable awards like three Golden Globe Awards, The British Academy Film Award or the BAFTA Film Award, MTV Movie Awards, People's Choice Awards, a Satellite Award

and a Saturn Award for her performances in different movies including the Hunger Games series.

Josh Hutcherson portrays the role of the male protagonist Peeta Mellark, the male tribute from district 12. Hutcherson is well known as a child actor and he has acted in several science fiction, fantasy and children's films like *Little Manhattan*, *Zathura: A Space Adventure*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, and *Journey to the Center of the Earth* (2008). He has won a number of awards including the MTV Movie Awards, People's Choice Awards, and the Teen Choice Awards for acting in the Hunger Games series.

Liam Hemsworth plays the role of Gale Hawthorne, best friend of Katniss since childhood and her partner in everyday hunting. Hemsworth was born in Australia and this role in the Hunger Games series remains as his best known acting credit. He is the brother of Chris Hemsworth, who is known for playing the role of Thor in the highly popular Marvel Cinematic Universe.

3.2.2. Critical and Commercial Success

The Hunger Games mostly received favourable and positive reviews and ratings. The film was especially praised for its socially relevant themes and messages including class difference and poverty. Jennifer Lawrence was praised for her portrayal of Katniss. She bagged a number of awards including the Critics' Choice Movie Awards for Best Actress in an Action Movie, the Saturn Award for Best Actress, and the Empire Award for Best Actress.

In total, *The Hunger Games* was nominated for 51 awards and managed to secure 28 awards. The film has won the British Academy Children's Awards for the best feature

film, Favorite Movie award in the People's Choice Awards and the Teen Choice Awards for the movie category Sci-Fi/Fantasy.

Looking at the reviews of the critics, *The Hunger Games* has a rating of 84% on the movie review website Rotten Tomatoes from 312 critics' reviews. Rotten Tomatoes also provide an Audience Score which is 81% calculated from more than 250,000 ratings. Their critics consensus goes like this "Thrilling and superbly acted, *The Hunger Games* captures the dramatic violence, raw emotion, and ambitious scope of its source novel." Well known film critic Roger Ebert gave the film the rating of three out of four. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of five out of five. Olly Richards from the *Empire* movie magazine gave the movie a rating of four out of five. When it comes to India, *Times of India* gave the movie a rating of 3.5 out of 5.

The Hunger Games collected approximately 694 million US dollars worldwide against a budget of 78 million dollars and it was a major box office success. The film has collected 408 million dollars from North America and it was a major feat for a film with young actors aimed at a young audience. An interesting fact to consider is that *The Hunger Games* had more domestic collection than the last part of the immensely popular Harry Potter series: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2* and this prove how successful our film was in North America. It was the third highest grossing film of 2012 domestically (North America) and the ninth highest grossing film internationally. The film is ranked 34 in the list of highest grossing films in North America and 128 in the worldwide list according to the information provided by the website Box Office Mojo.

The Hunger Games: Catching Fire also garnered highly positive response. According to Rotten Tomatoes, *Catching Fire* is the most acknowledged movie in the series in terms of reviews and ratings. *Catching Fire* has a rating of 90% on the movie review website Rotten Tomatoes from the reviews of 289 critics and it is the highest rated science fiction or fantasy film on Rotten Tomatoes released in the year 2013. On Rotten Tomatoes, the film has an Audience Score of 89% calculated from more than 250,000 ratings. The film has a rating of 76 out of 100 on Metacritic, calculated from 49 critic reviews. According to CinemaScore, audience gave the film an A grade on a scale of A+ to F. Susan Wloszczyna from the movie review website RogerEbert.com gave the film a rating of three out of four. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of four out of five. Ian Nathan from the *Empire* movie magazine gave the movie a rating of four out of five. *Times of India* gave the movie a rating of 4 out of 5. Khalid Mohamed from the *Deccan Chronicle* rated the movie with 4 out of 5.

Catching Fire was nominated for a total of fifty awards in different categories and managed to win 16 awards out of them. The film won an Empire Award for the category Best Thriller in the year 2014. It had won the Movie of the Year award in the MTV Movie Awards. In the Kids' Choice Awards 2014, *Catching Fire* won the Favorite Movie award. The film was awarded the Choice Movie award in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy category of the Teen Choice Awards 2014.

Box office performance of *Catching Fire* is something to be specially considered. This film is the most successful in the series in terms of box office collection both domestically and internationally. *Catching Fire* collected approximately 424 million US dollars from North America alone. Worldwide gross of the film is more than 865 million

US dollars. It was the fifth highest grossing film worldwide released in 2013 and the highest grossing film released in the year 2013 domestically. *Catching Fire* still remains as the highest grossing film distributed by Lionsgate studios. Currently, *Catching Fire* stands at the 26th position among all time highest grossing films in North America domestically (US and Canada). It is also ranked 74 in the list of highest grossing films of all time worldwide released till now according to Box Office Mojo.

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 received mostly positive reviews from the critics and the public. The film has a rating of 68% on Rotten Tomatoes based on the reviews of 301 critics and the Audience Score of 71% from more than 100,000 ratings. Reviewers on Metacritic gave the film a “metascore” of 64 based on 46 critic reviews. According to CinemaScore, audience gave the film an A- grade on a scale of A+ to F. Matt Zoller Seitz from RogerEbert.com gave the film a rating of 2.5 out of 4. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of four out of five. Helen O’Hara from the *Empire* movie magazine gave the movie a rating of three out of five. Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from the *Times of India* gave the movie a rating of 3.5 out of 5. Lakshmi Govindrajan Javeri from the Deccan Chronicle rated the movie with three out of five.

Mockingjay – Part 1 was nominated for 27 awards in total and won ten awards out of them. The film has won the Favorite Movie award in the Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards 2015. It was also awarded the Choice Movie award in the Sci-Fi/Fantasy category of the Teen Choice Awards 2015. The film also received a Women Film Critics Circle award for the Best Female Images in a Movie.

This film also had a wide release all over the world. It was released in more than 4000 theatres even in China, a rather unsupportive market for Hollywood films. *Mockingjay – Part 1* collected approximately 337 million US dollars from North America alone. It had a collection of 418 million dollars from all other countries and the total worldwide collection of the film is more than 755 million US dollars against a budget of 125 million. It was the fifth highest grossing film released in the year 2014 internationally and the second highest grossing film domestically. Currently, *Mockingjay – Part 1* stands at the 59th position among all time highest grossing films in North America domestically.

The last film of the series, *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2* also received positive reviews from around the world. The film has a rating of 69% on Rotten Tomatoes based on the reviews of 290 critics and the Audience Score of 66% from more than 100,000 ratings. Reviewers on Metacritic gave the film a “metascore” of 65 out of 45 critic reviews. According to the polls conducted by CinemaScore, audience gave the film an A- grade on a scale of A+ to F. Sandie Angulo Chen from the Common Sense Media gave the film a rating of four out of five. Helen O’Hara from the Empire movie magazine gave the movie a rating of four out of five. Reagan Gavin Rasquinha from the Times of India gave the movie a rating of 3.5 out of 5. Shalini Langer from The Indian Express reviewed the film with a rating of four out of five.

Mockingjay – Part 2 received a total of seventeen nominations and won five awards out of these. Also, the film had secured three second positions and one third prize in award categories. Jennifer Lawrence won the best actress award for the movie in the Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards 2016. Lawrence also received the Best Hero award as

a part of the MTV Movie Awards 2016. The film also received 2016 Golden Trailer Awards and 2015 CLIO Key Art Awards for trailers and technical aspects.

Mockingjay – Part 2 was released in 92 countries other than the US and Canada. The film has a gross collection of 281million US dollars in North America and it collected more than 376 million dollars from other countries and the total worldwide collection is approximately 658.3 million. It is also the seventh highest grossing film released in the year 2015 domestically and the ninth highest grossing film internationally.

The Hunger Games film series currently ranked twenty one in the list of the highest grossing film franchises of all time, and the series has collected more than 2.97 billion US dollars from all over the world. In North America, our film series holds the fifteenth position in the list of highest grossing franchises domestically with a collection of more than 1.45 billion US dollars. The film series has more collection than the highly successful and well known *The Twilight Saga*, which stands at the 18th position and comprises of five films in total as compared to the four films of the *The Hunger Games* series.

3.3. Parody or Spoof Literature, Movies based on *The Hunger Games* Series

Successful and popular books and films always make way for parody or spoof literature and movies. Influential works like *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Game of Thrones* and *Twilight* were comically adapted to spoof movies. *The Hunger Games* also has a fair share in this matter.

First one in this list *The Hunger Pains: A Parody*, written by The Harvard Lampoon and published on February 7, 2012 by Touchstone Books. The Harvard

Lampoon is a humor magazine based in Harvard University. The book was featured in the New York Times Bestseller List in April 2012.

The Hunger but Mainly Death Games: A Parody is a book written by John Bailey Owen and Aaron Geary under the pseudonym Bratniss Everclean. This spoof was published in November 2011 by the publisher Splatterbrain & Son. A kindle edition of the book was released by the well-known publisher Gollancz in May 2012.

The Humping Games: A Parody is a book written by Jack Gallow. This spoof was originally published in June 2014 through CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.

The Hungover Games is a parody or spoof movie of *The Hunger Games* and *The Hangover* (2009). This movie is directed by Josh Stolberg and the screenplay is written by Kyle Barnett Anderson. The film was released on February 18, 2014 directly on DVD and Blu-ray and it was distributed by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment. Main actors in the movie include Ross Nathan, Ben Begley, Herbert Russell, Rita Volk, and Jamie Kennedy.

The Starving Games is a direct parody or spoof movie of *The Hunger Games* series. The film is written and directed by Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer known for writing and directing spoof movies like *Scary Movie*, *Date Movie*, *Epic Movie*, *Meet the Spartans*, *Disaster Movie*, and *Vampires Suck*. It was released in the United States on November 8, 2013 both in theaters and video on demand on the same date. Peter Safran produced the film and it was distributed by Ketchup Entertainment. Main actors of the film are Maiara Walsh, Cody Christian, Brant Daugherty, Lauren Bowles, and Diedrich Bader.

Dystopia! The Hungry Maze Game of Divergent Death is a parody play or drama written by the American playwright Don Zolidis. The play was originally published on 29th May 2015. The title of the play is an amalgamation of the names of highly successful young adult dystopian novel and film series including *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* by Veronica Roth and *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner. This play was performed by various high school students and theatre companies including Ozark Junior High School, Woodhaven Theatre Company, Griffith Theatre Company, NHHS Drama Production, and Marauder Theatre.

Hunger Games: Parody - The Starvation Games Starring Jennifer Lawrence! is a comic book parody of *The Hunger Games* novel and film. This comic book is written by an anonymous author using the name The Parody Brothers and was published in 2014 as an e-book.

3.4. Influence on other Works / Films

The Hunger Games novel series was instrumental in the development of a wide variety of cultural byproducts. This includes an exhibition, attractions in theme parks located at different parts of the world, influence on other works and films, and the list goes on.

3.4.1. Hunger Games Exhibition

To celebrate the success of the series, Lionsgate and The Frazier History Museum in Las Vegas conceived an exhibition of *The Hunger Games*. The Hunger Games: The Exhibition invites visitors to step inside and explore the world of Panem as created in the films. More than one thousand authentic costumes and props, high-tech and hands-on interactives, and detailed set recreations reveal the amazing artistry and technology that

brought the incredible story to life. The exhibition features seven galleries including District 12, Tribute Train, The Capitol, Making the Games, District 13, Fan Gallery and Katniss's Journey. Highlights include iconic costumes from the films, such as the Girl on Fire dress, the Mockingjay dress and the Mockingjay armor; key artifacts including the Mockingjay pin, Cinna's sketchbook and Katniss's bow; and interactives, including an exploratory map of Panem, a gamemaker's control table, and a stunt choreography interactive.

This family-friendly exhibition allows visitors to see the world of the movies, including galleries that display District 13, the Hall of Justice, Capitol President Snow's Office, and the Tribute train. For those seeking to sharpen their Mockingjay skills, an archery training experience nestled inside an interactive digital training lab offers guests the opportunity to train like Katniss in a thrilling, immersive attraction. The exhibition also possesses a Guinness world record for the largest interactive touchscreen display in the world. The grand opening of the exhibition was held on the evening of 6 June where Michael Empric, Guinness World Records adjudicator, announced this great achievement and he presented the official certificates to the exhibition officials.



Photo Courtesy: thehungergamesexhibition.com

Copyright: Lionsgate, MGM Grand

3.4.2. The World of the Hunger Games

The depth and reach of the novel and film series is evident from the attraction Motiongate Dubai. We have seen many theme parks, roller coasters and adventure sets of blockbuster movies in different parts of the world. Jurassic Park, Pirates of the Caribbean and Harry Potter are some prime examples. Disneyland is also spread around the globe with attractions in North America, Europe, Asia and Oceania. Our series in discussion, The Hunger Games also makes it to this list with the attraction in Dubai called The World of the Hunger Games. Except Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings series, any of the young adult or Children's literature series has an attraction on its own. This adds up to the success story of *The Hunger Games* book series.



Panem Aerial Tour, Motiongate Dubai

Photo Courtesy: Theme Park Review

(https://www.themeparkreview.com/parks/p_881_15237_motiongate_panem_aerial_tour)

3.4.3. Capitol Bullet Train

Capitol Bullet Train is a steel launched roller coaster operating at Motiongate in Dubai, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The roller coaster was not completed in time for the park's opening on December 16, 2016. The ride was launched at an official ceremony on October 20, 2017. This coaster is part of the Lionsgate zone at Motiongate. It is themed around the train linking the districts to the Capitol from the Hunger Games trilogy. The rollercoaster ride is inspired by the travel from District 12 to the Capitol as seen in the film *The Hunger Games*.

3.4.4. Lionsgate Entertainment World

“Hunger Games – Mockingjay Flight Rebel Escape” is a multiple motion-based cabin 3D simulator in which players suit up and take flight alongside the rebellion. In addition to high-tech attractions and rides, the park has dining options that include “Hunger Games”-inspired Capitol Club, the homey Peeta’s Bakery, and the modern Lionsgate Cafe. Retail outlets include Capitol Couture and Dauntless Ink, for edgy tattoo designs. “From escaping the Capitol, to braving the mental and physical challenges of Dauntless, to taking on a newborn vampire army with Jacob and the Wolf Pack, we can’t wait for fans to step into the worlds of their favorite films to create their own authentic adventures,” said Jenefer Brown, Lionsgate’s SVP, global live and location based entertainment.

3.4.5. Fiction Books

The Wool Trilogy or the Silo series is a book series written by Hugh Howey. The series include the novellas *Wool*, *Shift*, *Dust*, and three short stories. The Sunday Times described this series as the ‘The next Hunger Games’. *The Extinction Trials* is a science fiction novel by S.M. Wilson. It was publicized as “The first book in the heart-stopping The Extinction Trials trilogy, for fans of The Hunger Games and Jurassic Park.” British magazine *The Bookseller* describes it as “The Hunger Games meets Jurassic Park.”

Several other young adult and children’s literature authors were clearly influenced by Collins and *The Hunger Games series*. Veronica Roth is a good example. This streak still continues with the adaptation of films like *Ready Player One*, *Mortal Engines*, *Chaos Walking* and many more to be released in the future.

3.5. Books about *The Hunger Games Series*

We can see a number of books centered around *The Hunger Games* trilogy published officially and unofficially about the series, author Suzanne Collins and about the film adaptations. In this subchapter, we will discuss the content of some books which I have been able to collect directly as hard copies and all the other soft copies which I downloaded from the Internet which ultimately discuss the same thing: *The Hunger Games* series and related topics.

The first book discussed here is *The World of the Hunger Games* by Kate Egan. Kate is the editorial director of KCP (Kids Can Press) Loft. She has edited a good number of young adult and children’s books. Kate has also written several children’s books, most notably a picture book with the title *Kate and Nate Are Running Late* and

book series for children named *The Magic Shop*, co - authored with magician Mike Lane. She is also the author of *The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire: The Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *Divergent Official Illustrated Movie Companion*, *The World of A Wrinkle in Time: The Making of the Movie* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe: The Movie Storybook*. *The World of Hunger Games* was published in March 2012 by Scholastic Inc. This is an illustrated guide to the novel series and *The Hunger Games* film and it provides us insights into the story, characters and themes of the series. The book contains chapters about the heroine of the series Katniss Everdeen, Life in District 12 of the futuristic Panem (North America), Life in the Capitol city and *The Hunger Games* Glossary.

The Hunger Games Companion by Lois H. Gresh is a book for the fans of the novel series. It is an unauthorized guide to the Hunger Games series published in October 2011 by Macmillan Children's Books. Lois Harriet Gresh is the author of several science fiction books, short story collections, and popular culture reference guides and companions. She has authored children's, young adult science fiction and fantasy reference books like *The Unauthorized Eragon Guide*, *The Unauthorized Guide to His Dark Materials*, *The Fan's Unauthorized Guide to the Spiderwick Chronicles*, *The Unauthorized Guide to Artemis Fowl*, *The Twilight Companion - The Unauthorized Guide to the Series*, *The Mortal Instruments Companion*, and *The Divergent Companion*. *The Hunger Games Companion* comprises of fourteen chapters on various themes like surviving a post-apocalyptic world, repressive regimes and rebellion, a comparison of the tributes to the gladiators in the arena, and a reading of the series as the mirror or reflection of the modern times and its problems.

A Brief Guide to The Hunger Games is a book written by Brian J. Robb and published by Robinson Books in August 2014. The book is divided into three parts and 18 chapters. Interesting facts about Suzanne Collins, her inspirations, *The Hunger Games* novel and movie trilogies, cast of the film series are discussed in these chapters.

Critical Insights: The Hunger Games Trilogy is a collection of critical essays edited by Lana A. Whited. Dr. Lana Whited is professor of English and director of the Boone Honors Program at Ferrum College in Virginia. She has also edited the book *Critical Insights: The Harry Potter Series*. The book was first published by Salem Press in March 2016. This collection consists of fourteen essays from writers including Laurie Adams, Tina L. Hanlon, Jackie C. Horne, Amy H. Sturgis, Danielle Bienvenue Bray, Rebecca Sutherland Borah, Elizabeth Baird Hardy, Amy Bennett-Zendzian, Stephanie Dror, Louise M. Freeman, Lars Schmeink, Amalia L. Selle, Todd Ide, and Sandra Via.

The Panem Companion: An Unofficial Guide to Suzanne Collin's Hunger Games, from Mellark Bakery to Mockingjays is a book by V. Arrow published by Smart Pop publishers in December 2012. This reference book focuses upon the setting of the *Hunger Games* series called Panem, a fictional name given to the North America of the future. Panem companion looks into the socioeconomic and cultural aspects of this futuristic setting including the race, ethnicity, culture, gender roles and sexuality. The book also explores relevant themes like exploitation as entertainment and the games as exploitation.

The Hunger Games: The Ultimate Quiz Book is written by Jack Goldstein and Frankie Taylor and it was first published in May 2012 by AUK Authors. Containing 200 questions about the three novels and films in the Hunger Games series, this quiz book

targets the fan community and readers who are interested in topics related to the series. Jack Goldstein and Frankie Taylor also wrote the book *101 Amazing Facts about The Hunger Games*. This book was first published in May 2014 by AUK Authors.

Guide to The Hunger Games is a book written by Stephanie Clarkson and Caroline Carpenter and it was published in March 20, 2012 by Plexus Publishing Inc. The book was published close to the release of the first Hunger Games film. This reference guide explores the sources of inspiration for Suzanne Collins and the relevant contemporary themes acting as the foundation of the book series. Authors also incorporate original illustrations and detailed maps along with quizzes, crosswords, tests and fact boxes for the Hunger Games fans to check out.

Fan Phenomena: The Hunger Games is written by Nicola Balkind and first published in January 2014 by Intellect Books. This book is a part of the series “Fan Phenomena” published by Intellect Books and the series includes reference books on popular novels, films and TV shows like Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, The Twilight Saga, The Lord of the Rings, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and Twin Peaks. Contents of this reference book include nine chapters dealing with themes like war and violence, gender, publicity, race and representation, fandom and fan creativity. Four fan appreciations from V. Arrow, Adam Spunberg and Savanna New, Sara Gundell, Samantha Sisson and Aaron Darcy are also included in the book.

The Hunger Games Tribute Guide is a book by Emily Seife which provides an in-depth analysis of the tributes who are the main characters in the novel and film series.

This book was published in February 2012 by Scholastic Press as a supplement to the series.

The Hunger Games: Official Illustrated Movie Companion is a reference book written by Kate Egan. It was first published in February 2012 by Scholastic Press as a supplement to the first Hunger Games film. The book is divided into six parts and it covers all the most relevant information regarding the director, cast, screenplay and filming of the *The Hunger Games* movie. It also features photos from the sets, designer sketches and exclusive interviews.

Approaching the Hunger Games Trilogy: A Literary and Cultural Analysis is a critical work about the Hunger Games series written by Tom Henthorne. Henthorne is an associate professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at Pace University in the USA and he is also the director of the University's American Studies program. He has written essays and articles on different topics ranging from Cyberspace to Star Wars. This work examines *The Hunger Games* Trilogy from a number of literary and cultural perspectives in order to fully appreciate the importance and success of Collins' works. Henthorne makes use of an interdisciplinary approach to look into the trilogy, with the help of methods like literary analysis, psychological perspectives, gender and media studies, philosophy, and cultural studies. The book also includes a biographical essay of Collins, glossaries, questions for further study, and an extensive bibliography for those who are interested.

The Girl Who Was on Fire: Your Favorite Authors on Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games Trilogy is a collection of thirteen articles about the Hunger Games trilogy edited

by Leah Wilson. Leah Wilson is Editor-in-Chief of the Smart Pop imprint of Dallas-based publisher BenBella Books. The book was originally published in February 2012 by Benbella Books. It features the essays written by Jennifer Lynn Barnes, Mary Borsellino, Sarah Rees Brennan, Terri Clark, Bree Despain, Adrienne Kress, Sarah Darer Littman, Cara Lockwood, Elizabeth M. Rees, Carrie Ryan, Ned Vizzini, Lili Wilkinson, and Blythe Woolston. It is to be noted that this book consists of essays written exclusively by Young Adult writers.

Space and Place in The Hunger Games: New Readings of the Novels is a collection of critical essays edited by Deidre Anne Evans Garriott, Whitney Elaine Jones, and Julie Elizabeth Tyler. It was first published in March 2014 by McFarland & Co Inc. The book consists of five parts and eleven essays. These critical essays look into the Hunger Games trilogy through the lens of space and place studies. The first part of this book discusses about narrative spaces and how it works in the novels and films. Second part indulges with the creation of radical spaces and the political issues of the series. Third part deals with the ideas of trauma and holocaust as reflected in the series. Fourth section of the book consists of three essays that discuss the popular responses from the fans, audience, critics and students. This section reflects the theme of this thesis because it analyses the Hunger Games trilogy on the basis of reader response and reception of the series by the public. The last part of this book is about the future spaces as the Hunger Games trilogy is set in a post-apocalyptic dystopian futuristic North America.

Of Bread, Blood and The Hunger Games: Critical Essays on the Suzanne Collins Trilogy is a collection of scholarly essays edited by Mary F. Pharr and Leisa A. Clark. This book is a part of the series Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy. It

was first published in August 2012 by McFarland & Co Inc. The reference book is divided into four parts and twenty one articles. First part of the book is titled “History, politics, economics, and culture”. Part 2 is titled “Ethics, aesthetics and identity”. Third part of the book is of the title “Resistance, surveillance, and simulacra”. The last and fourth part of the book is of the title “Thematic parallels and literary traditions”. These articles try to interpret the themes of the trilogy through various theoretical frameworks like gender studies, surveillance theory, theory of power and politics, economics, queer theory, media and cultural studies. This collection also includes a curated bibliography of Dystopian and post-apocalyptic fiction and criticism with special on young adult literary works.

The Hunger Games and Philosophy: A Critique of Pure Treason is a collection of critical essays edited by George A. Dunn, Nicolas Michaud, and William Irwin. This book is a part of the Philosophy and Pop Culture Series. It was first published in February 2012 by Wiley Blackwell publishers. It is important to have a look at the editors because they are professors and lecturers of philosophy from well-known colleges and universities. George A. Dunn is working as a lecturer at the University of Indianapolis. He had edited and contributed to a number of critical editions like *True Blood and Philosophy*, *Twilight and Philosophy*, *Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy*, and *Mad Men and Philosophy*. Nicolas Michaud works as an instructor of philosophy at the University of North Florida and has a share of contributions to *Twilight and Philosophy*, *Final Fantasy and Philosophy*, and *Green Lantern and Philosophy*. William Irwin is working as a professor in the philosophy department of King’s College in Pennsylvania. He is one of the founder editors of the series philosophy and popular culture and has

edited and contributed to several titles like *The Simpsons and Philosophy*, *House and Philosophy*, *Alice in Wonderland and Philosophy*, and *Mad Men and Philosophy*. *The Hunger Games and Philosophy* as the name suggests, investigates the trilogy using the methodology of philosophy. The book is divided into seven parts and nineteen essays. These parts deal with various themes and ideas like resistance, morality, natural world and science, love, gender, identity, logic, and political philosophy. From the back cover of the book: “This thoughtful guide draws on the work of Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Immanuel Kant, Charles Darwin, and other engaging philosophical thinkers to take you deeper into the story. It gives you new insights into the Hunger Games series and its key characters, plot lines, and themes, including war, authenticity, social class, personal identity, altruism, gender, art, fashion, and moral choice.”

Katniss the Cattail: An Unauthorized Guide to Names and Symbols in Suzanne Collins 'the Hunger Games is a pop culture guide written for the fans of the series. This book is written by Valerie Estelle Frankel and published by Createspace Independent Publishers in February 2012. Valerie is also the author of several popular culture reference books like *Mythology in Game of Thrones*, *Myths and Motifs of The Mortal Instruments*, and *Women in Game of Thrones: Power, Conformity and Resistance*. She is also the author of the Harry Potter parody book *Henry Potty and the Pet Rock*, which won several awards like the Indie Excellence Award and the USA Book News National Best Book Award. Valerie also worked as a lecturer at San Jose State University.

The Many Faces of Katniss Everdeen: Exploring the Heroine of the Hunger Games is another book by Valerie Estelle Frankel based on the Hunger Games series. As the name suggests, the book is a reading of the protagonist in the Hunger Games trilogy,

Katniss Everdeen. Recently, Valerie Estelle also wrote a book about the latest book in the Hunger Games series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes*. This new book released in June 2020 is titled *Songbirds, Snakes, & Sacrifice: Collins' Prequel References and Philosophies Explained*.

The Unofficial Hunger Games Wilderness Survival Guide is a book explaining some real life survival skills based on the situations described in the Hunger Games trilogy. It is published by Krause Publications in May 2013. The book is written by Creek Stewart, who is known for writing several books on survival skills. Creek Stewart is an instructor and author from Indiana specialized in survival skills.

The Unofficial Hunger Games Cookbook: From Lamb Stew to "Groosling" - More Than 150 Recipes Inspired by The Hunger Games Trilogy is a recipe and cooking guide written by Emily Ansara Baines. The book is published by Adams Media Corporation in November 2011 and it is a part of the book series "Unofficial Cookbook". Emily Ansara Baines is a graduate of the University of Southern California where studied creative writing and after that she had worked as a creative writer, professional baker and caterer in different parts of the United States. She has published short stories in several literary magazines. Emily is also the author of *The Unofficial Downton Abbey Cookbook*.

There are also several other books about the Hunger Games series, Suzanne Collins, film adaptations and the actors of the series. In the light of reader response criticism and reception theory, the amount of critical works and articles produced on the

basis of a particular book series indicates the importance of the works as a part of the present day popular culture.

3.6. Translations

German Translation

The German Translation of *The Hunger Games* is titled *Die Tribute Von Panem: Tödliche Spiele*. It is translated into the German language by Sylke Hachmeister and Peter Klöss. *Catching Fire* is translated into German under the title *Gefährliche Liebe* (Die Tribute von Panem 2). This book is also translated by Sylke Hachmeister and Peter Klöss. *Flammender Zorn* (Die Tribute von Panem 3) is the German version of *Mockingjay*. Again, this book is also translated by Hachmeister and Klöss. All these books are published by the German publisher Oetinger. The film adaptation of *The Hunger Games* is dubbed into German also under the title *Die Tribute Von Panem*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into German under the title *Das Lied von Vogel und Schlange*.

Spanish Translation

The Spanish Translation of *The Hunger Games* is titled *Los Juegos del Hambre*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Spanish under the title *Los juegos del hambre* (Vol.2) *En llamas*. *Los juegos del hambre* (Vol.3) *Sinsajo*: is the Spanish title of *Mockingjay*, the third book in the trilogy. The prequel to the series, *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Spanish under the title *Los Juegos del Hambre: Balada de pajaros cantores y serpientes*. Pilar Ramírez Tello translated the first three books of the series into Spanish. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Spanish by Pilar

Ramírez Tello and Manuel De Los Reyes Garcia Campos. These books are available in Spanish from the publishers RBA Molino and Lectorum Publications INC. All the Spanish editions of *The Hunger Games* series have more than 4.5 star rating out of five on Amazon and this is indicative of the popularity, relevance and the significant influence on popular culture of the series around the world. We should also consider the fact that Spanish is also a major language of the Latin America too.

French Translation

The first three books of the trilogy are translated into French by the publisher Pocket Jeunesse. Guillaume Fournier translated all these books into the French language. *The Hunger Games* is translated into French with the same title *Hunger Games - Tome 1*. *Catching Fire* is translated into French under the title *Hunger Games - Tome 2: L'embrasement*. *Hunger Games - Tome 3: La révolte* is the title of the French translation of *Mockingjay*. These books are published by the publisher French and European Publications Inc. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into French under the title *Hunger Games: La ballade du serpent et de l'oiseau chanteur*, also translated by Guillaume Fournier. As usual, all the French translations of the Hunger Games trilogy have a rating of 4.7 out of 5 on Amazon.com.

Portuguese Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Portuguese under the title *Jogos Vorazes*. *Em Chamas* is the title of the Portuguese translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Portuguese under the title *A Esperança*. All these books are translated into Portuguese by Alexandre D'Elia and published as digital and print versions by Rocco

Jovens Leitores and French and European Publications Inc. respectively. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Portuguese under the title *A cantiga dos pássaros e das serpentes*. This book is translated into Portuguese by Regiane Winarski. All the Portuguese translations of the Hunger Games trilogy have a rating of 4.8 out of 5 on Amazon.com.

Italian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Italian with the same title *Hunger Games*. *La ragazza di fuoco* is the title of the Italian translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Italian under the title *Il canto della rivolta*. Fabio Paracchini and Simona Brogli translated these books into the Italian language. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Italian under the title *Hunger Games - Ballata dell'usignolo e del serpente: Un romanzo della saga di Hunger Games*. Simona Brogli translated the book into Italian. Italian editions of *The Hunger Games* trilogy are published by Mondadori.

Dutch Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Dutch under the same title *The Hunger Games* (De hongerspelen). *Catching Fire* is translated into Dutch under the title *Vlammen* (De hongerspelen, 2). *Mockingjay* is translated into Dutch under the title *Spotgaai* (De hongerspelen, 3). The trilogy is translated into Dutch by Maria Postema. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Dutch under the title *De ballade van slangen en zangvogels: Hunger Games prequel*, also translated by Maria Postema. All the Dutch versions of the series are published and distributed by Unieboek /Het Spectrum. Lineke

Rijxman narrates the Dutch audiobook version of *The Hunger Games* (De hongerspelen).

Danish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Danish under the title *Dødsspillet. Løbeild*. *The Hunger Games 2* is the title of the Danish translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Danish under the title *Oprør: The Hunger Games 3*. Camilla Schierbeck translated the trilogy into Danish and Gyldendal A/S published the books.

Finnish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Finnish under the title *Nälkäpeli. Vihan liekit* is the title of the Finnish translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Finnish under the title *Matkijanärhi*. Famous Finnish translator Helene Bützow translated the trilogy into Finnish. The trilogy is published in the Finnish language by Werner Söderström Osakeyhtiö (WSOY).

Romanian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Romanian under the title *Jocurile foamei*. *Sfidarea* is the title of the Romanian translation of *Catching Fire*. *Mockingjay* is translated into Romanian under the title *Revolta*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Romanian under the title *Balada șerpilor și a păsărilor cântătoare*. All the books of the series are published in the Romanian language by Editura Nemira (Nemira Junior) and translated by Ana-Veronica Mircea.

Norwegian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Norwegian under the title *Dødslekene*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Norwegian under the title *Opp i flamer*. *Fugl Fønix* is the title of the Norwegian translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Norwegian under the title *En ballade om sangfugler og slanger*. All the books of the series are published in the Norwegian language by Gyldendal publishers and translated by Torleif Sjøgren-Erichsen.

Serbian and Croatian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into Serbian and Croatian languages under the title *Igre gladi*. *Catching Fire* is translated into these languages under the title *Igre gladi: Lov na vatru*. *Sjaj slobode* is the title of the Serbian and Croatian translation of *Mockingjay*. All the books of the trilogy are published in the Serbian/ Croatian language by Alnari publishers and translated by Maja Kostadinović.

Polish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Polish language under the title *Igrzyska śmierci*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Polish under the title *W pierścieniu ognia* (*Igrzyska śmierci: Tom 2*). *Kosogłos* (*Igrzyska śmierci: Tom 3*) is the title of the Polish translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Polish under the title *Ballada ptaków i węży*. All the books of the series are published in the Polish language by Media Rodzina publishers and translated by Hesco-Kołodzińska Małgorzata and Budkiewicz Piotr.

Czech Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Czech language under the title *Aréna smrti*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Czech under the title *Vražedná pomsta*. *Síla vzdoru* is the title of the Czech translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Czech under the title *Balada o ptácích a hadech*. All the books of the series are published in the Czech language by Fragment publishers and translated by Zdik Dušek.

Hungarian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Hungarian language under the title *Az éhezők viadala*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Hungarian under the title *Futótűz*. *A kiválasztott* is the title of the Hungarian translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is published in the Hungarian language by Agave publishers and translated by Totth Benedek.

Swedish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Swedish language under the title *Hungerspelen*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Swedish under the title *Fatta eld*. *Hungerspelen: Revolt* is the title of the Swedish translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is published in the Swedish language by Bonnier Carlsen Bokförlag. The trilogy is translated into Swedish by Lena Jonsson and Emma Jonsson Sandström.

Albanian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Albanian language under the title *Lojërat e urisë*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Albanian using the title *Vajza e zjarrit*. *Panemi Grifsha* is the title of the Albanian translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is published in the Albanian language by Uegen publishers and translated by Taulant Hatia.

Latvian Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Latvian language under the title *Bada Spēles*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Latvian under the title *Spēle ar uguni*. *Zobgaļsilis* is the title of the Latvian translation of *Mockingjay*. *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is translated into Latvian under the title *Balāde par dziedātājputniem un čūskām*. All the books of the series are published in the Latvian language by Zvaigzne ABC and translated by Ieva Elsberga.

Turkish Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Turkish language under the title *Açlık Oyunları*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Turkish under the title *Ateşi Yakalamak*. *Alaycı Kuş* is the title of the Turkish translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is translated into Turkish by Sevinç Tezcan Yanar and published by Pegasus Yayınları.

Vietnamese Translation

The Hunger Games is translated into the Vietnamese language under the title *Đấu Trường Sinh Tử*. *Catching Fire* is translated into Vietnamese with the title *Bắt Lửa*. Húng

Nhại is the title of the Vietnamese translation of *Mockingjay*. The trilogy is translated into Vietnamese by Trần Quốc Tân.

The Hunger Games trilogy is also translated into Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and most of the major languages of the world. These books are also translated into Indian languages like Marathi. The trilogy can be placed among the books which are translated to the most number of languages. In this aspect, the series can be compared to the highly popular and classic children's literature in the Science Fiction and Fantasy genre like Harry Potter, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Lord of the Rings*.



Photo Courtesy: Sporcle (<https://www.sporcle.com/games/alvir28/language-the-hunger-games>)

3.7. Awards and Honours

The Hunger Games trilogy was nominated for and received a good number of well-known awards and honours. The books were featured in several lists for children's literature, young adult literature, science fiction and fantasy literature lists. Owing to the trilogy's popularity, the books were added to different library collections and

recommended by librarians and library associations. The first book in the trilogy *The Hunger Games* leads this table.

The Hunger Games: Awards, Honours and Book Lists

The book was included in Publishers Weekly's "Best Books of the Year" list in 2008. *The New York Times* publishes a list of Notable Children's Books every year and *The Hunger Games* was included in this list in the year 2008. New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice [2008] included *The Hunger Games* in their list. *The Hunger Games* had won the 2008 Cybils Awards or Children's and Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards in the category of fantasy and science-fiction books. The novel was also featured in School Library Journal's Best Books list and Booklist Editors' Choice list in the year 2008. It was also included in the lists like Horn Book Fanfare list and the Kirkus Best Young Adult Book of the Year list in 2008. The novel was also featured in lists like LA Times Favorite Children's Books (2008), Barnes & Noble Best Books of 2008 for Teens and Kids, Borders Best Books of 2008, and Teens Amazon Best Books of 2008.

The Hunger Games was the winner of the Golden Duck Award in the Young Adult Fiction Category (Hal Clement Award) in 2009. In 2009, *The Hunger Games* had won and nominated for several awards and lists like Georgia Peach Book Award, The Inky Awards for Silver Inky, Soaring Eagle Book Award, Teen Buckeye Book Award (Ohio), Michigan Library Association Thumbs Up! Award, Florida Teens Read, New York Public Library "Stuff of the Teen Age" Award, Isinglass Award, Barrington Public Library (New Hampshire) Award [2009-2010], Maine Student Book Award [2009-2010], North Carolina School Library Media Association Young Adult High School Book

Award [2009-2010], Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award [2009-2010], ALA [American Library Association] Best Books for Young Adults, Texas Lone Star Reading List, and the Texas Tayshas Reading List. It was also nominated for the Locus Award in the category of the Best Young Adult Book in 2009. The Locus Awards are instituted by science fiction and fantasy magazine *Locus*. The novel was also short-listed for the Children's Book Council Children's Choice Book Award in 2009.

In 2010, *The Hunger Games* had won and nominated for several awards and featured in lists like the West Australian Young Readers' Book Award (WAYRBA) for Older Readers, Red House Children's Book Award for Older Readers & Overall, Charlotte Award, Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award, Arkansas Teen Book Award, Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award, Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award, Kentucky Bluegrass Award, Nevada Young Reader Association Award (Young Adult), New Hampshire Teen Reader's Choice Award, New York State Reading Association Charlotte Award, Ohio Buckeye Book Award - Teen Section, Heartland Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature (The Writing Conference, Inc.), Sakura Medal for Middle School Book, Rhode Island Teen Book Award, Utah's Beehive Book Award (Young Adult), Milwaukee County Teen Book Award Nominee, Virginia Readers' Choice Award [2010-2011], California Young Reader Medal [2010-2011], Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award [2010-2011], Indiana Young Hoosier Book Award (Middle Grades) [2010-2011], Maryland Black-Eyed Susan Book Award - High School [2010-2011] Missouri Truman Readers Award (Grades 6-8) [2010-2011] Missouri Gateway Readers Award (Grades 9-12) [2010-2011], South Carolina Junior Book Award [2010-2011], South Carolina Young

Adult Book Award [2010-2011], South Dakota Library Association Young Adult Reading Program Award [2010-2011], and the Tennessee Volunteer State Book Award [2010-2011].

In the year 2011, *The Hunger Games* had won a number of awards like Iowa High School Book Award, New Mexico Land of Enchantment Award for Young Adult, 3 Apples Teen Choice Book Award (New York), California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult, Abraham Lincoln Award: Illinois' High School Readers' Choice Award, , Grand Canyon Reader Tween Award (Arizona), Nebraska Golden Sower Award, New Jersey Garden State Teen Book Award, South Carolina Book Award for Junior and Young Adult Book, Evergreen Teen Book Award (2011), Illinois Children's Choice Award, Oklahoma Sequoyah Award for High School and Intermediate, Oregon Readers Choice Award, and the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award. *The Hunger Games* was also included in the lists like ALA [American Library Association] Popular Paperbacks for Teens, Chelmsford (MA) One Book Selection, and PNLA (Pacific Northwest Library Association) Young Reader's Choice. The novel was also included in the South Dakota Young Adult Reading Program List for High School.

The Hunger Games had won the Books I Loved Best Yearly (BILBY) Awards for Older Readers (2012) and the 2012 Connecticut Nutmeg Children's Book Award. and it was listed in the of Scholastic's Parent and Child magazine released in the year 2012. The novel was also nominated for the awards like Georgia Book Award [2011-2012], and the Connecticut Nutmeg Award, Teen List (2012).

The Hunger Games had also won several foreign book awards like the Premio El Templo de las Mil Puertas for Mejor novela extranjera perteneciente a saga (2009), LovelyBooks Leserpreis for Fantasy (2009), LovelyBooks Leserpreis for Bestes Cover/Umschlag (2009), Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis for Preis der Jugendjury (2010), Literaturpreis der Jury der jungen Leser for Jugendbuch (2010), Premi Protagonista Jove for Categoria 13-14 anys (2010), Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire Nominee for Roman jeunesse étranger (2010), Kinderboekwinkelprijs (2010), Buxtehuder Bulle (2010), and the Prix Et-lisez-moi (2011).

Catching Fire: Awards, Honours and Book Lists

The novel had won several awards including the Goodreads Choice Award for Favorite Book and Young Adult Series (2009), American Library Association Best Books for Young Adults (2010), Golden Duck Award for Young Adult (Hal Clement Award) (2010), Children's Choice Book Award for Teen Choice Book of the Year (2010), Indies Choice Book Award for Young Adult (2010), and the Soaring Eagle Book Award (2011).

Catching Fire was included in several lists like the New York Times Book Review Editor's Choice (2009), Kirkus Best Young Adult Books of the Year (2009), Los Angeles Times Best Children's Books of the Year [2009], Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year (2009), Time Magazine Top 10 Fiction Books (2009), People Magazine's Top 10 Best Books (2009), Booklist Editors' Choices (2009), Indie Bound Fall 2009 Kid's Indie Next List #2 (American Booksellers Association), Capitol Choices (Washington, DC) Noteworthy Titles for Children and Teens (2010), Children's Book

Council/National Council of Social Studies Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People (2010), Children's Book Council 2010 Teen Choice Book of the Year (Children's Choice Book Awards) (2010), Indie Bound (American Booksellers Association) Young Adult Book of the Year (2010), and the YALSA Teen Top 10 (Young Adult Library Services Association) [2010]. It was also a Locus Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Book (2010), Teen Read Award Nominee for Best Read (2010), DABWAHA Romance Tournament for Best Young Adult (2010), Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Best of the Best YA books (2018), Premio El Templo de las Mil Puertas Nominee for Mejor novela extranjera perteneciente a saga (2010). *Catching fire* was also nominated for the Delaware Diamonds Booklist (Diamond State Reading Association) [2010-2011].

Mockingjay: Awards, Honours and Book Lists

Mockingjay was the winner of the Goodreads Choice Award for Favorite Book and for Young Adult Fantasy (2010). The book was featured in several lists including the New York Times Notable Children's Book Of 2010, Booklist Editors' Choice (2010), Christian Science Monitor Best of 2010, Kirkus Best Young Adult Book of the Year (2010), New York Times Notable Books of the Year [2010], Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year (2010), Barnes & Noble Best Teen Books of 2010, Amazon Best Books of 2010, National Public Radio Otherworldly: The Year's Most Transporting Books (2010), Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices (2011), DABWAHA Romance Tournament for Best Young Adult (2011), and the IRA (International Reading Association) Young Adult Choices 2011 list. The novel was also a finalist of the Locus Award (given by the Locus Science Fiction Foundation) in 2011. It was also a Locus

Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Book (2011), Children's Choice Book Award Nominee for Teen Choice Book of the Year (2011), and a Nominee of the 2010 Nebula Award Andre Norton Award for YA Science Fiction and Fantasy. This long list is ample proof for the high popularity and success of the trilogy among the critics and the reading public.

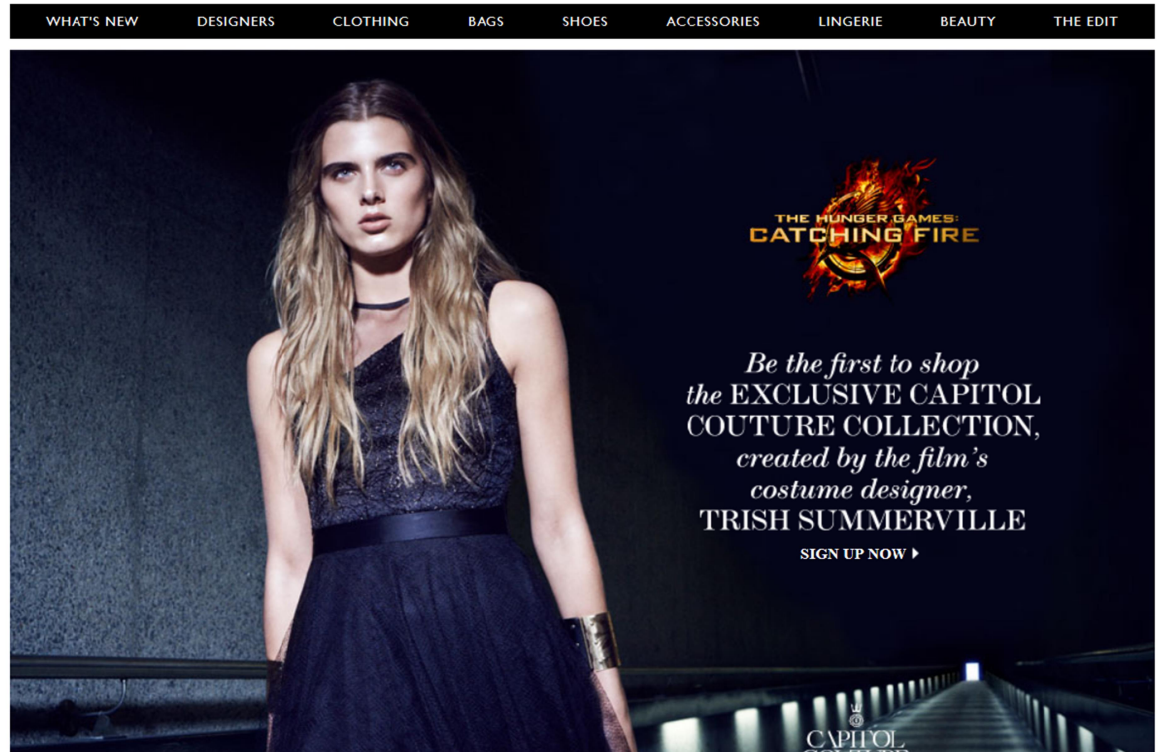
3.8. Artifacts and Games based on *The Hunger Games Series*

The Hunger Games series also culminated in the production and business of merchandise including artifacts, toys, action figures, video games and notebooks. Many of these items are available to purchase offline and from popular online shopping sites including Amazon, Flipkart and EBay. These artifacts are highly popular in North America and Europe, especially among women and kids and Indians have also purchased several of these items from the online shops as evident from the ratings and reviews provided on the Amazon and Flipkart product pages. To cite a few examples, the “Barbie Hunger Games Catching Fire Katniss Doll” is rated 4.4 on Amazon.com. Also, “The Hunger Games Movie Mockingjay Prop Rep Pin” has a rating of 4.6 on Amazon.com from more than 3500 ratings. Moreover, “The Hunger Games Movie Magnetic Bookmarks” on Amazon.com is rated 4.6 out of 5. Much more collectible items like The 2012 Wizkids NECA Hunger Games Collectible Figures set of 6, The Hunger Games Catching Fire Collectible Lunchbox with Thermos 2013 by NECA, and The Hunger Games Mockingjay NOS 2012 MOC Movie Logo Hoop Earrings are available to purchase on Ebay. This section explores a number of the above mentioned artifacts, games and other merchandise based on *The Hunger Games* series.

There is a wonderful article about the marketing strategies undertaken by the executives of *The Hunger Games* film series on the website “Marstudio” :

The international success of *Catching Fire* is a result of Lionsgate’s marketing and publicity strategy. We believe those efforts are also at least partly responsible for the movie’s domestic success. The monetization of *The Hunger Games* is unique, and merchandising opportunities have been plentiful for the franchise. Recently, licensing deals and promotional efforts have taken center stage. These deals run the gamut, ranging from high-end chocolate boxes to colorful Capitol-esque makeup collections. The fictional Capitol makes a seamless bridge to fashion merchandising, and the movie has taken advantage of this fact. CoverGirl has created a *Hunger Games* makeup collection, China Glaze released a Capital Colours line of nail polish, and Net-A-Porter, a clothing e-commerce site, just launched an exclusive capsule collection by the name of Capitol Couture by Trish Summerville.

Trish Summerville’s website with the costumes designed and marketed for *The Hunger Games* franchise can be seen in the next page. The website is titled NET-A- PORTER and a costume designed by Trish Summerville is highlighted here in the picture with the logo and title of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*.



Courtesy: <http://www.trishsummerville.com/capitol-couture.html>

Copyright: Trish Summerville

(Trish Summerville is the Costume Designer of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* and *Red Sparrow*)

The World of the Hunger Games: The Official Coloring Book

This companion book to the novel and film series was first published in September 2016 by Scholastic Inc. in collaboration with Lionsgate Studios and it is an

official coloring book based on the series as there are different official and unofficial versions of coloring books are available on the market.

The Hunger Games Movie Bookmarks Magnetic

These special bookmarks are manufactured and distributed by the American manufacturer of collectibles National Entertainment Collectibles Association (NECA). The collectible items are manufactured in association with Lionsgate Film and are available in English and Spanish languages.

Various merchandise and collectible items are designed after the artifacts, posters, actors and other features of the series like the Hunger Games Laptop Skins, Hunger Games Phone Case, The Hunger Games Movie Sticker Set, The Hunger Games Movie Mockingjay Prop Rep Pin, Rubie's Costume Rebel Mockingjay Part 1, The Hunger Games Deluxe Katniss Costume, FURE Women's Metal Hunger Games Mockingjay Arrow Brooch (Gold), YELLOW CHIMES Hunger Games Mocking Jay Bird Brooch for Boys and Girls, The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes Journal (fill-in notebook) and many more items like this.

Official Games

The Hunger Games: Girl on Fire

The Hunger Games: Girl on Fire is a mobile based game inspired by the books and the movie, for iOS devices (iPhone OS devices) exclusively. The game is released by the game publisher CANABALT. The game was released shortly before the release of

The Hunger Games movie. The game making team was led by Adam Saltsman and the music for the game was composed by Danny Baronowsky.

The Hunger Games Adventures

The Hunger Games Adventures was a game on Facebook made by Funtactix also available for the iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android, and Kindle Fire. It was available to anyone with a Facebook account or an iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, Android, or Kindle Fire. It is currently not available on an iPhone 3GS or iPod 3. Players can create their own character, complete challenges, do quests, unlock new things, and explore the world of Panem. The game was released on the same day as the film: March 23, 2012. Development of this game ceased circa late 2017. As of December 2020, this game is no longer available.



Hunger Games: Panem Run

Hunger Games: Catching Fire - Panem Run released in 2013 is another mobile game based on the novel and film series. The mobile game is based on *Catching Fire* and it was developed by Reliance Games. *Hunger Games: Panem Run* is an endless runner where you need to run through all the districts of Panem while dodging all kinds of

obstacles, shooting arrows at targets distributed throughout the level, and fleeing from killer bees. Hunger Games: Panem Run is an endless runner with slightly more elaborate gameplay than the majority of games in the genre, which typically only allow you to run and jump. And it's worth noting that Hunger Games: Panem Run has outstanding graphics, and the official The Hunger Games license.

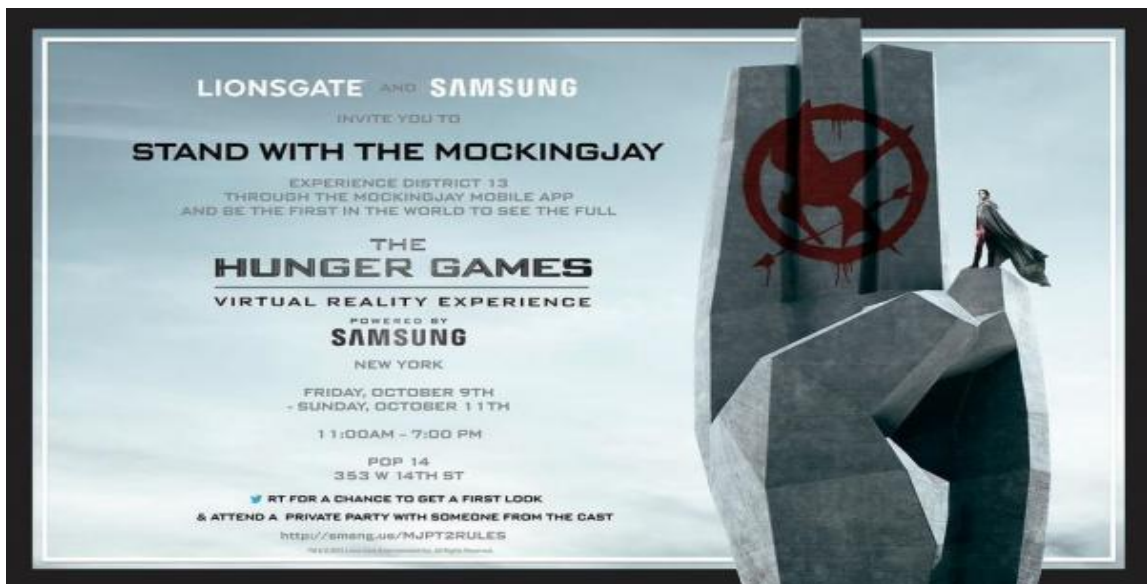
The Hunger Games: Panem Rising

The Hunger Games: Panem Rising is a game available on iPhone and iPad created by Kabam Beijing Studios to leverage the release of The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1 film. It is based off another Kabam Beijing Studios game, Heroes of Camelot, where gameplay is almost identical but the graphics and characters have changed to match the movie and book's intellectual property. While you get to battle through the districts the game does not have an ending. Ultimately it does not allow you to overthrow the Capitol nor fight President Snow.

It is a CCG (Card Collecting Game)-style game that sets itself in Panem during the Second Rebellion. The goal of the game is to collect the rarest and most powerful characters' cards as you explore through the districts. To fully leverage the intellectual property, Kabam released multiple versions of key characters in the game (e.g. there may be at least 4 versions of Katniss' cards in the game). It was released on Nov 5th, 2014 and is available in English, Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish and German.

The Hunger Games – Virtual Reality Experience

“The HUNGER GAMES- VR EXPERIENCE” is an immersive 360 Narrative exploring key moments throughout Katniss’s journey, spanning all four films in the series. Built for Lionsgate in Unreal 4 and combining custom-made assets with actual CG assets from the Hunger Games movies, the final output was used to publicize the launch of the Samsung Gear VR headset. Further roll-outs launched on Oculus and YouTube 360. The game was written, designed, and directed by Colin McGreal at ReelFX. The Hunger Games Virtual Reality Experience has just been released on YouTube's new 'YouTube VR' platform!



3.9. Conclusion

The initial appeal for the Hunger Games definitely rose out of the books; with a compelling female protagonist who, at first, was not overtly bound to a romantic partner and was focused mainly on protect her family, The Hunger Games provided an excellent change of pace to the young adult section of literature. We can see that *The Hunger Games* rose into popularity shortly after the popularity of the *Twilight Saga*, which may also connect the rise of the book and its successive series' as a reaction to a rather poorly written, if not controversially passive, female lead. *The Hunger Games* earns its popularity with terrific, tension-filled prose, a dazzling story, and a memorable lead character. One major reason the book works as well as it does is that Collins chose to write it in first person present tense, from Katniss's perspective, and this immediacy and urgency gives the story its nearly non-stop tension.

It is an entertaining premise—the spectacle of a bunch of adolescents fighting to the death in a state-sponsored gladiatorial contest—and if it was badly done could be grossly voyeuristic. But the books are intelligently drawn, and the young heroine, Katniss, is a winning combination of courageous and vulnerable, talented and imperfect. Collins offers a dark, fun-house critique of our culture of instant celebrity, the beauty industry, and the now-familiar narrative arc of reality programming, from *Survivor* to *America's Next Top Model*. And she makes the contest about all the things that count: humanity, loyalty, honesty, authenticity.

The novel series was translated into a great number of languages from all parts of the world. It also served as inspiration for several young adult novels, science fiction,

post-apocalyptic and dystopian novels. More than that, dedicated Facebook pages, twitter accounts, fan pages and YouTube channels were introduced to celebrate the success of the novel and film franchise.

The *Hunger Games* series is definitely one of the most successful film franchises in recent history. The first three films grossed over \$2.3 billion worldwide, launched careers and started trends. The success of the latter surely helped launch the former as Hollywood took notice of the big box office numbers that could result from adaptations of young adult novels. In the words of Nasim Mansuri:

The filmmakers got it, too. The *Hunger Games* movies weren't only good — they added to the original story, a feat few adaptations can achieve. Not only was the film budget good enough to show us the advanced technology the books spoke of, but the cast was incredible. Jennifer Lawrence first became known worldwide, as did Amandla Stenberg, and the appearances of actors with powerful presences, such as Donald Sutherland and Julianne Moore, made the performances weighty in a way that can only be achieved when a film has a wealth of experience available.

There are dozens of films based on YA novels released after the success of *The Hunger Games*, including *Divergent*, *The Maze Runner*, *Ender's Game*, *The Fifth Wave*, *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, and *Ready Player One*.

But more importantly, the films succeeded in depicting the chilling nature of the games and the Capitol in a way that the books couldn't, by virtue of a novel's physical

limitations. I'm still floored by how skillful some added scenes in the first movie were, such as the footage of the winners of previous games, and the contrast between District 12 and the interior of the train when Katniss was first reaped. These scenes gave us a more profound sense of horror that our minds might have normalized in the books, which only served to make the movies more powerful. Reception Theory and Reader Response Criticism can be applied to a number of cultural artifacts and media came into existence from the immense success of The Hunger Games trilogy. Reviews, ratings, exhibition, artifacts, symbols and pendants are good examples.

As the Novel trilogy and the film trilogy was highly successful, it paved the way for more sequels or prequels based on the same fictional universe. It is much similar to how the immense success of the Harry Potter film series led the way to the film adaptation of Rowling's *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. Suzanne Collins planned to write a prequel for a long time since the publication of the original trilogy and she took years to complete it. It was finally published in May 2020. Fans of the Hunger Games series were highly excited about the release and they organized several events in relation to the prequel publication. Scholastic officially promoted the book's release in various countries including India. A film adaptation of the novel is under development.

One of the most important achievements of the series is that it was part of a worldwide poverty eradication scheme organized by the United Nations: World Food Programme in collaboration with the Feeding America Programme. The Hunger Games franchise's participation in charity and worldwide social welfare activities is wonderfully elucidated in the article "UN food relief agency partners with Hunger Games film". In 2012, The United Nations food relief agency announced its partnership with the

producers of the then upcoming film *The Hunger Games*, based on the best-selling science fiction novels, to raise awareness about hunger around the world.

A video starring the film's cast, Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth, was launched by the World Food Programme (WFP) and film studio Lionsgate urging fans to help end hunger. The video can be found on a website created for the cause where users can test and expand their knowledge on global hunger and can make contributions to help fight it.

They asked fans to donate 5 dollars to feed at least twenty people who need food most:

The Hunger Games movie, World Food Programme and Feeding America want you to join us in the fight against hunger. No matter where you live, hunger isn't as far away as you might think – often, it is right around the corner. But by teaming up, we can build a better future for hungry children and families all over the world. Are you in?

“This partnership will help us spread the word that hunger is the world's greatest solvable problem,” said Nancy Roman, WFP Director of Communications, adding that millions of readers identified with the characters in *The Hunger Games* trilogy, and are excited about the upcoming movie, which will be released next month.

“We want to tap into that excitement,” Ms. Roman said. “If all of us did just one small thing to fight hunger we could end hunger around the world. We are deeply grateful for the support of Suzanne Collins, who writes as though she understands hunger in the world, as well as Lionsgate and *The Hunger Games* cast – who have the power to change lives as they feed people worldwide,” she added.

Previously mentioned Article on Marstudio explores the dystopian themes and the real life contribution of The Hunger Games franchise to the worldwide poverty issues. The franchise has participated in few charities (and the amount of money devoted to them is miniscule compared to money devoted to other deals). Most recently, the Hunger Games movie has joined forces with the World Food Programme and Feeding America to educate our population about worldwide hunger and persuade individuals to donate money to this worthy cause.



Another significant achievement of the novel and film series is that these have had a symbolic role to play in the recent Myanmar protests. Myanmar protestors borrowed the three-finger salute from *The Hunger Games* as a symbol of revolution rebellion against the totalitarian regime. It is interesting to note here that the films' message and the gesture were mostly used by the protestors in South East Asian countries and this is also a testament of the franchise's global reach.

The three-finger gesture used to express unity with the rebellion has also been used in real-life protests in Thailand (2020) and Myanmar (2021). The salute was also a major symbol in the protests of people in Hong Kong against the invading Chinese totalitarian regime.



The Hunger Games can be considered as a seminal book in an extremely influential series, and the novel series will always be remembered for its commitment to telling a story, no matter how painful it is. Its messages of war, love and sacrifice will make it a classic for years to come — teaching generation after generation to fight against injustice. Writer and critic Meghan Lewit proclaimed the protagonist of *The Hunger Games series* Katniss Everdeen the most important female character in recent pop culture history (*The Atlantic*). Overall, Collins' compelling writing, analysis on political warfare, and consequences of brutality and rebellion are what make *The Hunger Games* special among most young adult novels; and the trend was successfully carried on by similar dystopian novels like *Divergent*, *The Maze Runner* and *Ready Player One*.