*The Hunger Games* by Susan Collins is a fantastic read for young adults. It offers readers the perfect amount of suspense, action, as well as romance, and provides interesting and round characters that readers can become easily attached to. Although the main character is a young teenage girl, many of her qualities are identifiable with all audience members.

The over-all message of the story is to show readers that if you work hard enough and are a respectful and good person, that achieving greatness is possible, but you may encounter many obstacles to get there. Although many situations may set people back and leave them feeling inadiquit, Katniss shows readers that you should not give up and that you should keep moving forward; I think many readers can think of a situation that has left them feeling “not good enough.” Other strong qualities that Katniss has are her kind heart. She sacrifices herself for Prim and while participating in the Hunger Games she builds a trust worthy bond with Peeta and Rue and risks her life for them countless times through the game, never doubting her relationship with either one. Katniss is a great model to follow because she is the combination of head strong, determined, compassionate, and sincere. Although being a good person will not always guarantee you a happy ending, teens can be inspired to strive to be their very best.

Many boys who read the book may be put off by the romance that is in it, and many girls, of course, will be captivated by it. However, I believe that it is the perfect amount of “romance”—if you even want to call it that—to keep the attention of both girls and boys who read the book, especially in high school. There is not an overuse of romance because Katniss and Peeta appear to only be expressing feelings for one another to appeal to their audience and sponsors in order to receive care packages. When looking at the romance from this perspective, what they are doing is not because of feelings of affection, but because they need to stay alive. At one point she herself gets confused as to whether or not their relationship is truly genuine or if Peeta is acting along with her.

Katniss really is a hero of her time and I think that many readers will realize this and hopefully won’t be afraid to use her as a model for their own behaviors. She is not a hero simply because she won the Hunger Games, but because she stayed true to herself for the entire time in the arena, and helped others while she was at it.