Richard Lopez

LFYA

Lens 4

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Intertextual

The Hunger Games is a great book to look at through an intertextual lens. For one thing the book draws many of themes that have to do with the idea of full government control and Government distraction. Similar to George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty Four. As a teacher one could draw ideas from the classic and use The Hunger Games to get students interested in further readings. I would bring the themes of a dystopian world and correlate that with the capital in The Hunger Games and relate that with Orwell’s big brother government. Another thing to bring up is things that the book and author bring up that deal with today’s issues. One thing that I found interesting is the idea that the only city or (the Capitol) left in The Hunger Games seems to be around Denver Colorado or at least the Rocky Mountains. This could be Collins being influenced by the Denver Airport Conspiracy theory or the NEW WORLD ORDER theory. Both are very scary things to think about but are completely relevant when talking about The Hunger Games. In a way it adds a type of realism and shows the students that something like this is not too farfetched.

A teacher could also use history or at least Geography to help understand parts of the United States. Students would think where is the Rocky Mountains? Oh yea where the capital is and could find them. Same thing could be implemented with District 12 and the Appalachian Mountain Range. The teacher would have to use a map of course but could also incorporate a game where the students have to place all the districts on a blank map of the United States using only geographical and economic clues from the novel. Since District 12 mines coal, where would the best location for District 12 be? Maybe Pennsylvania? This increases reading understanding and comprehension. The students would then have to identify where the District is with what actually is there now. Also the students would have to start learning what the area of their District is known for and what the actual area they think the district represents is known for. So for example, an acceptable conclusion could be. Since District 12 is known for mining coal and for being near the Appalachian mountain range. One could conclude the district 12 is the remnants of Pennsylvania Ohio and Virginia; because those areas are known for mining coal and are close to the mountain range. I think it would be an awesome Geography or Economic lesson. Not to mention a great way to do a cross curricular lesson.

Imagine all the students in twelfth grade read The Hunger Games. Then the science teachers, Social Studies teachers, Math and English teachers all get together to make an overarching unit that they all can base on The Hunger Games. I think if the students are amped up enough for The Hunger Games it could increase interest in school tenfold. Not to mention get students interested in ideas and themes way beyond The Hunger Games like George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty Four or even continue reading at home with the two sequel novels Catching Fire and Mockingjay.