

District 12, nicknamed the Seam, described by Suzanne Collins, comes off as rather bleak and cold, most starving and dying in the streets.

District 12 seems to be the most neglected of the districts of Panem, perhaps as it does not provide as much usefulness as those from other districts, as the Capitol is already so advanced, they may not have as much of a use for coal compared to say agriculture or farming. The Seam is described as disregarded and ignored by most, for the reason above, and as they have had few people winning the Hunger Games, which is a very popular way to become somewhat respected and gain some popularity from the Capitol.

At this time, Collins tells us that District 12 is quiet and empty, when it is normally 'crawling' with men and women heading to the coal mine, which gives us a feeling of uneasiness, thus helping us to empathize with the people of the Seam because they feel the same way. The fact that these coal miners have 'hunched shoulders' and 'swollen knuckles' tells us that they work relentlessly, are weak, exhausted, all for the scarce amount of food they get, hence meaning they are being overworked with empty stomachs.

The word 'crawling' suggests to me that the workers do not choose to go to the coal mines of their own free will, instead they are forced to, to gain enough money for a small amount of food, which shows the power the Capitol has over everyone.

The short simple sentences such as 'But today the black cinder streets are empty.' and 'The reaping isn't until two. May as well sleep in. If you can.' could represent that there isn't much to life in District 12, apart from surviving.

Katniss describes her daily hunting trips, how she gets there, and tells us of the dangers behind the barbed wire fence, and yet she still goes. This shows the lengths some will go for a necessity most have without almost any effort. This helps us understand Katniss's mindset and how she must hunt everyday otherwise her family will starve. This also shows how dependent Prim and her mother are on Katniss, as she is the one bringing in food to stop them starving, which presents how vulnerable and weak they are without her. This would be a big responsibility, meaning she must constantly think about feeding everyone, and of course, the Reaping.

We are told Katniss Everdeen's father was '...blown to bits in a mine explosion.', he had been dead for five years prior to the story's events. Katniss says she still wakes up '...screaming for him to run.', this shows she must be traumatized from her father's death.

The way Katniss describes her father's death shows how she has learned to be numb to anything that may affect her emotionally, which also may be why she at first struggled to play into the star-crossed lovers trope with Peeta Mellark for the Games, as she had prevented herself from feeling anything. This might also be why she was so affected by Rue's death later on, as one-she reminded Katniss of Prim, her younger sister, and two-she had all of these emotions bottled up and even then, she couldn't show weakness in front of the beady eyes of everyone watching on television.

All of this shows how Suzanne Collins gets us to sympathize with those of District 12, and why they must fear the Reaping so much, seeing as they would be considered the weakest, being the ones who are starving. And helps us understand Katniss's background and how she has natural survival instincts from her whole childhood.

The first half of this is very good. You make some great points about district 12, support them with evidence that is explained and you attempt to zoom in on method – although this could be more focused on the language you have actually discussed. Eg, crawling suggests they are tired, or child-like, suggesting their weakness. It also might remind a reader of insect-like behaviour, suggesting that they are vulnerable and powerless against the more powerful state.

About half way through, you slip into narrative – be careful to avoid this, although your last two paragraphs return to nice, interpretative ideas.