

English Elephant Homework Week 2

Our first impression of District 12 is that of a miserable and dejected district. With Katniss's description taking on a downcast and dispirited tone, Collins already begins to paint a picture. [What of?](#)

Looking at the first paragraph of the given text, we are shown information as to the name of the area in which Katniss lives, the Seam, as well as of the inhabitants. Katniss is said to live in the Seam of District 12. Suggesting that this may not be the best area of the district. In a small town or city, for example, there are usually poorer housing areas, as well as in large cities, some of which we call slums or shanty towns. Creating the impression that, while all of District 12 is filthy, Katniss may be living in the worst part. As well as the word 'seam' also referring to a layer of underground minerals, such as gold or coal. Linking back to District 12's arduous job. [Good - what does the proper noun suggest about this place?](#)

nice link to context here

Focusing now on the descriptions of the people, we can see how Collins really sets the mood of the district. Katniss uses the word 'crawling' to describe the goings-about of the coal miners in the morning. 'Crawling' creates a sense of unease; it brings to mind bugs, or 'Creepy Crawlies'. Insects such as spiders or roaches could come to mind. Furthering the idea of a rejected or cast-off district. Katniss describes the inhabitants as having hunched backs and swollen knuckles. Showing the consequences of the hard labour they are being forced to do. She also says, 'many who have long since stopped trying to scrub the coal dust out of their broken nails'. This sentence provides the reader with much information about the despondent attitudes of the inhabitants of District 12. The workers who have 'long since stopped' cleaning their nails show the reader the overall mood of many of those in District 12. Displaying the fact that they have given up, accepted their lives, and lost hope for change. The coal dust that the workers leave on their hands has a risk of being inhaled or digested, which can lead to a serious disease and be fatal. This also suggests that the population of District 12 has given up on life and no longer cares if they live or die.

remember quotation marks

Nice Zoom!

Nice Point and Evidence and Explain

[How could you develop this with a Zoom and Link?](#)

Katniss describes the streets as black with cinders and the houses as squat and grey. The lifeless colouring also contributes to the miserable and neglected feeling of the district.

quotation marks!

Start with your Point

In the second paragraph, Katniss tells us about the district fence. A 'high chain-link fence topped with barbed-wire loops'. She explains that the fence is supposed to be electrified to protect the inhabitants from potential predators that come from the forest. Through Katniss's use of the phrase 'in theory', we gather that she has suspicions about this fence, and it creates the idea that it's there to contain rather than protect, adding to the sense of unease Collins has created in District 12. This can be further backed up by the fact that Katniss has to pass the fence through broken or weak areas of the fence and makes sure she is 'concealed by a clump of bushes' before she passes under, suggesting that she is being watched or punishment awaits her if she is caught.

[You need to Zoom and Link](#)

Finally, looking at the third paragraph, Katniss explains that she is in the forest to hunt. Showing us that she will risk her life due to the supposed threat of predators in search of food for her family. Katniss also tells us about her father with a very unfeeling sentence: 'He was blown to bits in a mine explosion'. Suggesting repressed anger about the event, as well as creating the idea that this may be a common occurrence and that District 12's residences are used to death and suffering.

To conclude, Collins may have created this dejected district for a number of reasons. Showing us the poverty in which the people of District 12 live in, she could also be suggesting that we look at real-world poverty and the people who are forced to live in it due to the greed of others. This works in her favour, sparking a flame of hate for the Capitol, the repressive 'government' of all the districts. Maybe even hinting at the oppressive control the people in power have over us. [A great effort with some nice ideas! Use PEEZL to give you a more](#)