

The 53rd Hunger Games

Cyber rolled out of his bed onto the cold, hard floor. His room was small and nearly completely bare, nothing except the hard single bed that he had just fallen off. He lived in District 3, the area in charge of the production of electronics. His family worked in the factories, working day and night to provide the Capitol's citizens with all the gadgets that they desired, the necessary and the unnecessary. Today was the day of the reaping, when two children, one female and one male, from the ages of twelve to eighteen years old are picked to fight to the death in the Capitol's Hunger Games, a form of punishment for when all of the districts rebelled around 53 years ago, now making people who weren't even alive when that happened pay for it. No one in this district wanted to be picked, but those who were starving and hungry could opt to take a tessera, increasing your chances of being reaped for a meagre supply of oil and grain for the next year for you and then your family members if you enter more.

Cyber was fourteen and had chosen to take tesserae for himself, his two brothers (Gear, aged eight, and Spark, aged ten) and his father, Volt Copperforge. His mother had died in an accident in the factory, and had been impaled by an automatic drill, killing her instantly. Cyber woke up with a jolt, and groaned. His head had hit the rough, grey, concrete floor hard, and as he gingerly touched the back of his head, he felt a soft bump starting to form. He got up and woke his brothers and father from their own tiny rooms and got dressed into his best clothes, this was the reaping after all, and the Capitol made it be treated as a festivity to make it even worse for the Districts.

good
conveys
boredom,
hopelessness

The family walked down the old, potholed streets in the heavy rain, trying to ignore the grey smog that hung low over the streets, the death and misery that the factories caused. They then reached the Justice Building, a gloomy grey building, its windows dark and gloomy, which had long since lost their transparency to time and the acidic fumes from the factories. This is where the reaping would take place. The reaping started two minutes after they got there, at 9 am, and Cyber was led to another group of fourteen year olds in a cage of queue barriers that was closed behind the last of us to enter, keeping us trapped until one of us was chosen, and waited for the two tributes to be named. "Ladies first!" announced the District 3 escort, Canus Gadget, "Thistle Hardthorn!"

avoid repeating vocab unless it is for effect

These are
great details
suggesting
the
entrapment
within this
harsh
landscape

A girl stepped out of the enclosure that the female 15 year olds were in, sobbing. Cyber recognised her instantly. She was in his class at school, and although he didn't really know her very well, he felt a pang of sadness. This was the first time that someone that he knew had been reaped. She was then taken to her mentor, Wiress. "Now time for the boys!" declared Canus, "Cyber Copperforge!"

'No, no, no no no!' thought Cyber, 'my chances were so low!'

He walked out slowly onto the looming high stage, and met his mentor, Beetee Latier, a grim-faced man with dark hair who appeared to be in his twenties. Then he and Thistle were taken into different rooms in the Justice Building where they could be visited by family and friends who could then say goodbye. Cyber was visited by his two brothers and his father,

who all sobbed him a goodbye, and then gave him a ring that had a piece of old circuit board on it, **a part of one of the factory's processors**, to use as his token for the games.

He then boarded the train that took him to the Capitol, on which Beetee coached him on what strategy to use in the Games. "How much do you know about electronics?" Questioned Beetee.

"Not much," confessed Cyber.

"How about a weapon you think that you could be good at using?" Asked Beetee.

"A gun." Decided Cyber.

"How about something that would be in the arena?" Sighed Beetee.

"Maybe throwing knives?" Suggested Cyber.

"Good choice," said Beetee, "Practise with them a bit, but then don't use them anymore until your private session with the Gamemakers. This way, the other tributes won't know what weapon you use."

Cyber's training and interview went past in a blur, and he came out with a training score of nine, while the careers mostly got around that same score, making it seem that they were at the same level, although Cyber felt very differently. And then it was time to enter the arena, and face the other tributes, and quite possibly, death.

Then he was on his pedestal, looking around at the arena, awestruck by the expanse of **wintery** snow capped mountains of **grey stone** and **dark** evergreen forest that surrounded the **bleak** mountain top that the pedestals and Cornucopia were on. Cyber saw Thistle directly ahead of him, and he hoped that someone else would be the one to have to kill her. Then Claudius Templesmith announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, let the 53rd Hunger Games begin!"

Cyber ran to the Cornucopia as fast as he possibly could, narrowly avoiding a punch from the District 4 male as he grabbed a pack labelled 'knives' and another labelled 'supplies' and ran back the way that he came, seeing both a knife and an arrow sail past his head, one of the hitting another tribute that had been running near him. Once he was far enough away, he stopped running, and inspected his packs. One was **deep black** and had 10 throwing knives in it, the other **blood red** with a bag of trail mix, a full one litre bottle of water, a blanket and a 2 metre length of rope. Then suddenly he heard a cannon go off. He listened for more and heard thirteen in total, leaving eleven tributes including him.

For the rest of that day, he hiked away from the Cornucopia until he finally reached the peak of a mountain, where he set up camp for the night. Not long afterwards, he heard the Hunger Games theme, after which he saw who had died on the first day. The first was the District 2 male, followed by the District 4 female, then both from 5, the male from 6, both from 8 and 9, the males from 10 and 11, and both from 12. That night Cyber was restless as he was repeatedly woken by cannons sounding, three in total.

The next day went by without any more deaths, and that evening it was announced that both tributes from District 7 had died the previous night, as well as the District 4 male. Then, Claudius Templesmith's voice rang out **in the snowy grey sky** and announced, "For the remaining tributes, a feast is in order. The event will take place in two hours."

great!

Cyber was hungry, and had finished his trail mix and water, so he began to go back towards the Cornucopia to see what food he could get. After hiking for around two hours **through the snow that was starting to fall down**, he caught sight of the **blood stained** pedestals and a table next to the Cornucopia, on which was an assortment of different foodstuffs including bottles of water and boxes of everything from sandwiches to gourmet salads and pastas. He quickly hid behind a rock to stay hidden. Suddenly the District 10 and 11 girls, who appeared to have allied with each other, ran for the food, only to be shot down by two swift arrows from a tree opposite Cyber, where he could see Thistle sat, ready to shoot or run. The cannons boomed immediately, signalling that the girls were dead. Cyber then raced forwards at the same time as, the Careers, Thistle and the girl from 6, throwing knives and dodging arrows and swords as he grabbed a bottle and box and ran in the direction of his old camp, only to be shot in the foot and hear three **dull** cannons fire as he fell **down into the thick, red snow that carpeted the ground**.

what else could be here to suggest the deathliness of this place?

He saw the boy from District 1 standing over him, his breath rancid and foul. "It will be a pleasure to kill you," he leered, "your friend is already dying right now, you might as well give up."

"Not. My. Friend." groaned Cyber weakly, reaching for a knife as the other boy dangled a sword in front of his face, wanting to savour his victory, "And. Neither. Are. You."

He then stabbed the boy through his heart, rolling away just in time to avoid the body falling on Cyber. Then, out of the blue, an arrow flew from the Cornucopia and hit his other foot just as another two **dismal** cannons went off, making Cyber the victor of the 53rd Hunger Games.

A hovercraft went to pick him up, and he was instantly sent to a medical room, after which everything else went by in a blur, his interview, seeing Beetee again, and going back home, when doing so using the money that he had won, used to give food to the starving citizens of District 3.

What could you tell me about setting to emphasise this ending?