

# Emulating Suzanne Collins



## Mockingjay//Suzanne Collins

Mockingjay is the third and final book in the Hunger Game series. It is about a girl named Katniss Everdeen who joins the rebellion to fight against the capital and defeat President Snow once and for all. There are complications along the way, many of her friends and allies die, some even while they are by her side, and she still can't decide whether she loves Peeta or Gayle. Finally, the book ends with them capturing snow and Katniss surprising everyone. She shoots President Coin at the last second,

which is the leader of the rebellion and in charge of her. She expects to be killed after this happens but instead is locked up and well taken care of.

# Flashbacks

## What is the author doing here?

The author is using flashback to show the reader the relevance of something, or how it affects the story. A good example of the author doing this is, "I stare at the lash marks, and again hear the whistling of the whip, see is bloody figure hanging unconscious by the wrists." In this piece of text, the author is telling us that Katniss takes a look at the whip marks on Gale's back and has a flashback to when he was getting tortured. Flashbacks play an important role in the book by reminding the reader what happened earlier in the character's life, or earlier in the story to lead up to that moment in time. They can also show us, the readers, why certain things can affect the character in a certain way, whether it's because of personal experiences or whatever the reason may be. In this case, Suzanne is using flashbacks in specific parts of the

book to show the connection between something and Katniss' past. Another great example of this is a part in the book where Katniss finds the hanging tree, "I remember the scene. I was home from a day in the woods with my father. Sitting on the floor with Prim, who was just a toddler, singing The Hanging Tree." She is basically using flashbacks to continue the story and answer questions, by bringing up the past to show how it is affecting her or will affect her.

## Why is it important to to the book overall?

It is important to the book overall because it reminds us at times why certain details in the book are important or what happened in the past for the story to get to the point it is at, which is relevant to the book's purpose because the purpose of the book is to entertain the reader. So by giving the reader information as to how the character's past may affect their future, a.k.a foreshadowing, the reader is using their imagination to perceive what will happen, which to most readers is entertaining. Flashbacks could also remind us how the character got to the state that he/she is at by giving us a little backstory, which

would provide the reader with important details about the life of the character before that moment that has helped lead up to it, in the form of a flashback. This could potentially give the reader the feeling that they almost have a connection with the character since they are finding out so much about them through these flashbacks, or backstory.

## What does this element make the reader feel or know?

This element makes the reader know why certain things in the story are the way they are, or turn out the way they are. It also provides information as to what happened before the current event, to maybe give clues as to happen next. It basically gives the reader a sense of knowledge. It also makes the reader feel like the character is feeling, you can't pinpoint a specific feeling since it depends on what the flashback is about, this is caused by the first person point of view. Reason being, since the book is written in the first person it makes you look at it from that point of view, so you will most likely feel like the character while reading this book.

# Point of View

## What is the author doing here?

The author is providing the reader with Katniss' point of view so that they can have a better understanding of the story by seeing it through the eyes of the book's main character. The reason the readers have to see it through her point of view is because the book is the story of an important part of her life which is told entirely through her perspective. Therefore by telling the story in this perspective, the reader will see it through her eyes and experience her emotions and inputs towards everything that is happening. The reader also is limited to her knowledge of what is happening, and what she doesn't know is happening. There are many examples of this since the whole book is written like this, one example of this being, "I guess I walked here, but the next thing I'm conscious of is sitting on the floor in front of the kitchen cabinets of our house in the Victor's Village."

## Why is it important to to the book overall?

It is important to the book because it shows us how the character is seeing the world or issues we are reading about in the book, through their own perspective, which in turn provides us with a better understanding of the how much they can really do in the situation that they are in, and invites us to put ourselves in the character's shoes and imagine what we would do in a situation like theirs. This also allows us to learn more about the character's personality and who they are, in this case as a person. This in return will again strengthen that belief that we are building a connection, or to some maybe even relationship with this character, as we read the book and learn more about them.

## What does this element make the reader feel or know?

This makes the reader feel like they are in the characters shoes. There is no specific emotion connected to feeling like you are in the character's

shoes, since you are experiencing, or feel like you are experiencing, what the character is so it could be anger, happiness, sadness, etc.

# Use of Commas

## What is the author doing here?

The author is using commas sparingly and prefers to stick to a shorter sentence if she can, like in this part of the book, "Haymitch leans forward and dangles something on a thin white wire in front of my nose." She also likes to describe everything that is happening but not in too much detail most of the time, I'm guessing to try to get the reader to use his/her imagination more. An example of this in the book being, "Cressida has smoothed everything over in the creative department, with her gesture." Also by using more commas, the author could use more adjectives to describe important moments in the story better, which would make the book more interesting for the reader. There are not many examples of this, but a good one is, "When the restless, wiggling majority has settled into sleep, I

carefully extricate myself from my blanket and tiptoe through the cavern until I find Finnick, feeling for some unspecified reason that he will understand.”

## Why is it important to to the book overall?

This is important to the book because it affects how you will feel as you read it. For me, personally, books that push me to use my imagination to picture how scenes in them look are the ones that I enjoy reading the most because it makes me think creatively. For example, when Suzanne uses short sentences, with little to no adjectives and little to no commas, it makes me imagine the scene instead of it just being drawn out for me. While when she uses sentences with many commas, she usually is also using many adjectives as well, which puts a clear picture of the scene in my mind and helps me understand the book better. The author also doesn't use a lot of commas in most of her sentences, if any at all, which makes them short and to the point. This can be reflected onto the ideas these sentences present at times as well since she usually keeps what she is trying to explain or say, short and to the point, although there are a few exceptions.



## What does this element make the reader feel or know?

It makes the reader feel like they are there, but like I said before it pushes them to imagine how the scene would look like in their mind. That's why they feel like they are there because by using more commas to separate the adjectives or important details in a sentence, the author is giving the reader a clearer picture of what that specific scene they are reading about in the book looks like. It also makes them feel like they are the character I guess, and it also makes them feel creative. By feeling more creative and imaginative the reader would probably be happier and enjoy themselves more while reading the book.



# Quotes

**“I stare at the lash marks, and again hear the whistling of the whip, see his bloody figure hanging unconscious by his wrists.”**

**“I guess I walked here, but the next thing I’m conscious of is sitting on the floor in front of the kitchen cabinets of our house in the Victor’s Village.”**

**“Cressida has smoothed everything over in the creative department, with her gesture.”**

**“The president sends everyone off to go to work, so Gale wheels me back to the hospital.”**

**“Haymitch leans forward and dangles something on a thin white wire in front of my nose.”**

**“When the restless, wiggling majority has settled into sleep, I carefully extricate myself from my blanket and tiptoe through the cavern until I find Finnick, feeling for some unspecified reason that he will understand.”**

**“I remember the scene. I was home from a day in the woods with my father. Sitting on the floor with Prim, who was just a toddler, singing The Hanging Tree.”**



# Emulation

July 4th. A day of celebration, full of parties, alcohol, food, and fireworks. It was my first July 4th since I got back from 'Nam, and I wanted it to be an amazing one for my family.

"We're going to have a big BBQ at uncle Johnny's house," I told them. They were so happy, running around smiling and laughing. As 6 o'clock approached we got into the car and drove off. I always hated driving, it was one of the highest causes of death in America. Yet it's so practical, millions of people do it every day. I pulled into the parking spot and before I could even park? , I heard the first one... a firework. Instantly my mind went into another world. I was back in Vietnam with a rifle in hand, hiding behind a dirt hill.

"They're closing in!" I hear someone yell. I heard the bullets fire then saw a body drop. It was one of my ally's, his face looked awfully familiar... Joe! I race out from under cover and run across the sandy dunes. Before I drop to my knees at the side of his body.

"JOE!" I yell.

"Randy get to cover, don't worry about me," he said

as his voice slowly fades into thin air. "I'm not gonna leave you here!" I yell.

"Go!" he replies. I could see his face slowly going paperwhite.

"NO!" I yell, as I pick him up and start to carry him towards the Hummer. I sat him in the passenger seat and hopped behind the wheel. I hit the gas and saw the dust cloud behind me, but as I looked over I saw Joe pale white and not moving.

"JOE!" I screamed as I stopped the car and shook him. "Joe snap out of it, we gotta get you home to your daughter man, and your wife...!" I yelled.

"Randy..." he said slowly. "It'll be ok... It'll be ok." he was gone, just like that, he was... gone. I hear a horn and I am suddenly back in my car, my family staring at me and angry people honking behind me.



## Flashbacks

The way flashback and backstory is used in my essay, is to show the reader why fireworks affect Randy the way that they do. The flashback of the firefight from when he was in the army shows the reader that the noise fireworks make triggers a memory in his brain that he is very emotional about, since in the memory he loses a brother in arms. The impact this has on the story, is it gives the reaction Randy gives the fireworks reasoning, and the effect i'm hoping to have on the reader is to make them have that sudden moment of understanding and realization.

## Point of View

The way I am using point of view from Suzanne, is by making my story from the first person point of view. The way this will impact my story, is it will make the reader feel like they are experiencing the plot of the story themselves as they read the story. The effect i'm hoping for this to have on the reader is to either make the reader feel like they are basically the main character themselves or to connect the reader with the character, by making the reader realize what the main character is seeing or doing and how it's affecting them.

## Use of Commas

The way I'm using commas in my story, is by using a similar style for my sentences as the author and making them usually short or medium length while still putting some longer sentences in every once and awhile. This impacts the story by making it so that some parts have more description than others. The effect I hope this has on the reader is making the reader use more imagination where I choose to not put as many adjectives which hopefully makes them more interested in the story.

# About the Authors

## Suzanne Collins

Suzanne is the daughter of an Air Force pilot, and moved several times when she was young. She proved herself as a television writer for children and shortly after published her first book "Greg the Overlander". Her most well know accomplishment is the "Hunger Games" trilogy, which has won many awards over the past couple of years and have even been turned into 4 movies.



# Marcin Czapla

Marcin Czapla is a 16 year old 10th grader that goes to Science Leadership Academy. He enjoys playing numerous sports such as soccer, basketball, and football. He is a part of the school robotics team and likes engineering. As far as reading goes, Marcin loves to read from all sorts of genres including but not limited to Action & Adventure, Mystery, Science-Fiction, etc. He also is very interested in architecture and loves the concept of it.

