

Dear members of the JHS Class of 2018,

Welcome to Jesuit! This letter explains the expectations for completing your summer reading, *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. Now, many of you may have already read the book or seen the movie—if not, you're in for a treat! Whether you are encountering this story for the first time or the fifth, we want you to read actively with an eye to some specific topics that we'll discuss as a class in September.

Active reading means that you are thinking about the themes of the book as you read, underlining examples in your book, perhaps even talking about the themes in the book with others or writing about them in a journal. Remember that we read differently when we know we are going to talk and write about a book than we do when we read purely for enjoyment. So, we hope you enjoy the story, but we also look forward to hearing your thoughts on the following:

- Katniss Everdeen's character traits: As you read, underline quotes in the book that show evidence of her resourcefulness, self-sufficiency, loyalty, selflessness, and openness to growth.
- Katniss's relationships with others: As you read, underline examples of specific times when Katniss's relationships with 1-2 others (Gale, her Mother, Prim, Peeta, Rue, or Haymitch) bring out the best in her and contribute to her character growth in positive ways.
- The power of compassion: Underline quotes in the book that show the power of love and compassion to defeat violence and oppression.
- Are the Hunger Games fair? Underline quotes that show how social class gives the tributes from some districts advantages over the other tributes. Can those advantages become disadvantages and vice/versa?

During the first few days of English class, you can expect a test on the major characters and events of *The Hunger Games*, several class discussions on the book and perhaps one or more writing assignments. Reading actively this summer with attention to these four topics will help you do well in the first few weeks of school and will deepen your enjoyment and understanding of the book!

See you soon!

The Jesuit High School English Department