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The North American first edition cover

Author(s)	Suzanne Collins
Cover artist	Tim O'Brien
Country	United States
Language	English
Series	The Hunger Games trilogy
Genre(s)	Adventure Dystopian Science fiction Young adult Alternative history
Publisher	Scholastic
Publication date	September 14, 2008
Media type	Print (Hardcover, Paperback)
Pages	374
ISBN	0-439-02348-3

Inspiration and origins

Collins says that the inspiration to write *The Hunger Games* came from channel surfing on television. On one channel she observed people competing on a reality show and on another she saw footage of the *invasion of Iraq*. The two "began to blur in this very unsettling way" and the idea for the book was formed.^[5] The Greek myth of *Theseus* served as the basis for the story, with Collins describing Katniss as a futuristic Theseus, and that Roman gladiatorial games formed the framework. The sense of loss that Collins developed through her father's service in the Vietnam War also affected the story, whose heroine lost her father at age 11, five years before the story begins.^[6] Collins stated that the deaths of the young characters and other "dark passages" were the hardest parts of the book to write, but she had accepted passages such as these were necessary to the story.^[7] She considered the moments where Katniss reflects on happier moments in her past to be the more enjoyable.^[7]

Source 1

Link: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunger_Games

Title: The Hunger Games – Wikipedia

Author(s): multiple authors – collaborative website

Information gained from this site: Original idea came from channel surfing for Ms. Collins. She saw a reality show (maybe Survivor??) and footage from Iraq and got the idea from there. She also used the Greek myth of Theseus – Katniss is like Theseus; gladiator games are similar to battle in the arena. Collins also got ideas from her dad's service in Vietnam War – this relates to Katniss losing her dad in the mine explosion.

Theseus

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see *Theseus (disambiguation)*

Theseus /ˈtiːsiːsɪs/ (Greek: Θησεύς greek [ˈtʰɛːsɛ̂ʝs]) was the **mythical**^[1] founder-king of Athens, son of Aethra, and fathered by **Aegeus** and **Poseidon**, both of whom Aethra had slept with in one night. **Theseus was a founder-hero**, like **Perseus**, **Cadmus**, or **Heracles**, all of whom battled and overcame foes that were identified with an archaic religious and social order.^[2] As Heracles was the Dorian hero, Theseus was the Athenian founding hero, considered by them as their own great reformer: his name comes from the same root as θεσμός ("thesmos"), Greek for "institution". He was responsible for the *synoikismos* ("dwelling together")—the political unification of Attica under Athens, represented emblematically in his journey of labours, subduing highly localized ogres and monstrous beasts. Because he was the unifying king, Theseus built and occupied a palace on the fortress of the Acropolis that may have been similar to the palace that was excavated in Mycenae. Pausanias reports that after the *synoikismos*, Theseus established a cult of **Aphrodite Pandemos** ("Aphrodite of all the People") and **Peitho** on the southern slope of the Acropolis.

Plutarch's *vita* of Theseus makes use of varying accounts of the death of the **Minotaur**, Theseus' escape and the love of **Ariadne** for Theseus, in order to construct a literalistic biography, a *vita*.^[3] Plutarch's sources, not all of whose texts have survived independently, included **Pherecydes** (mid-sixth century BC), **Demon** (ca 300 BC), **Philochorus** and **Cleidemus** (both fourth century BC).^[4]

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2	Medea and the Marathonian Bull, Androgeus and the Pallantides
3	Theseus and the Minotaur
4	Ship of Theseus



Theseus Slaying Minotaur (1843), bronze sculpture by Antoine-Louis Barye

Source 2

Link: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theseus>

Title: Theseus – Wikipedia

Author(s): multiple authors – collaborative website

Information gained from this site: Theseus was the founding father of Athens. He had to battle the Minotaur and had many other battles making him a hero. He was an inspiration for Katniss' character.

over origin of 'The Hunger Games' - CSMonitor.com - Windows Internet Explorer provided by School Distric

www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2012/0323/A-Battle-Royale-online-over-origin-of-The-Hunger-Games

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A Battle Royale online over origin of 'The Hunger Games'

Some claim that 'The Hunger Games' is a rip-off of the 1999 Japanese series 'Battle Royale.' But the storyline of a death match being employed by authoritarian rulers dates back to the Roman Empire.

By Arthur Bright, Correspondent / March 23, 2012

Jennifer Lawrence portrays Katniss Everdeen in a scene from 'The Hunger Games.'

Murray Close/Lionsgate/AP

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Source 3

Link: <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Global-News/2012/0323/A-Battle-Royale-online-over-origin-of-The-Hunger-Games>

Title: A Battle Royale online over origin of 'The Hunger Games'

Author(s): Arthur Bright

Information gained from this site: Argues that many people are unhappy that The Hunger Games is a ripoff of a Japanese novel, Battle Royale (I must search this!). Says there are many youtube videos documenting the similarities between Collins' novel and the potential original novel. Good quote: "But proponents of "The Hunger Games" being its own work have plausible arguments too. They note that "The Hunger Games" is at its heart a science-fiction story set long after a global war, whereas "Battle Royale" is more of a near-future, modern-world thriller. They also argue that "Games" is about broader revolutionary themes, while "Battle" is focused on simple, visceral survival. And of course, the violent, bloody "Battle" is not the young adult novel that "Games" is."

Collins says she had not heard of Battle Royale till someone told her about it, so it's hard to argue she got the storyline from it if she'd never heard of it.



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APRIL 3, 2012

THE REAL HUNGER GAMES: "BATTLE ROYALE"

Posted by Joshua Rothman



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Source 4

Link: <http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/culture/2012/04/the-real-hunger-games-battle-royale.html>

Title: The Real Hunger Games: "Battle Royale"

Author(s): Joshua Rothman

Information gained from this site: States that Battle Royale came out in film in 2000, following the success of the novel. It's film release was in anticipation of the future success of The Hunger Games, so it was almost as if the writers & directors tried to get to the audience first. I have never heard of it, but knowing The Hunger Games and my love for it, I now want to watch it. Great quote: "'Battle Royale' is also about a group of teen-agers murdering each other in a gladiatorial contest"

RUBRIC EXPECTATIONS:Original or Reinvented Story

- Evident that research has been put in to determine whether the story is an original
- Description of what is original about it OR what other stories it came from and why you think that it is a copy
- Explanation of the purpose of the reinvention
- Sources are included and given credit to in the speech

Is my story new or is it a remix?

Suzanne Collins' novel, The Hunger Games, is considered by most to be a remix and NOT an original story. When I first read it, I thought it was the most amazing story and kept my interest the whole time, so much so that I got everyone else around me to read it as well. But upon researching and reading about the novel, I quickly learned that many of the ideas have come from elsewhere. Even though Collins says she got the idea from channel surfing (she saw some reality television show and footage of the war in Iraq), and from her dad's experience in the Vietnam War, many critics agree that her plot is not original.

One piece of evidence to prove it is a remix is the reaping scene from Collins' novel. Katniss' sister, Prim, is drawn as a tribute, but she volunteers. This archaic concept of sacrificing one or two to control the many is also seen in the short story, "The Lottery", by Shirley Jackson. In this story, the people all draw to see who will be stoned to death as a sacrifice for the crops that year. Both are incredibly morbid, and Collins' version is a new rendition of Jackson's story, but even her story concept dates back in history to the ancient civilizations who would toss women down steps, or crucify criminals, or kill children. It's not a new idea in Collins' novel, just a remix of other stories.

Another piece of evidence is through the Japanese novel, Battle Royale. Now, Collins' argues that she had never heard of Battle Royale but that is not to say its ideas have not penetrated other media outlets that Collins has been exposed to. "Battle Royale" is also about a group of teen-agers murdering each other in a gladiatorial contest" (The New Yorker). It was originally a novel, just like The Hunger Games, that became a movie in 2000. According to The New Yorker, the movie came out almost in anticipation of how big of a hit The Hunger Games would be, and simply tried to beat them to the punch.

One final piece of evidence, in a long list of many that I need to research, is through the reference to the "star-crossed lovers" in The Hunger Games. This reference is an allusion to William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in which the two protagonists end up taking their lives due to their families feuding with one another. Katniss and Peeta, in the end of the novel, were told that only one could survive the Hunger Games competition. When that announcement came, neither wanted to be the one to survive because he/she would have to face their community and the loser's family. Similarly, both Romeo and Juliet could not live their lives without each other, and rather than face life alone, they took their own life.

Regardless of your own beliefs, the evidence is out there on a drastic level to prove that The Hunger Games, although an incredibly awesome story, is simply a remix of many other stories out there in novels, stories, film, and music. But just maybe, it will prompt many to look back at those older stories if they enjoyed Collins' story so much.