
Comparing Novel and Film Presentation

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Similarities in Characters and Themes



Characters:

- Katniss's bravery, resilience, and protective instincts toward her family are present in both the book and film. She shows her dedication when she says, "I would do anything to keep you safe" (Collins, 2008, p. 12). Peeta's kindness is highlighted when he states, "I want to be more than just a piece in their game" (Collins, 2008, p. 201). Gale's loyalty and Haymitch's cynicism also remain central. Katniss's Mockingjay pin symbolizes rebellion and hope, especially when she realizes, "The Mockingjay is a sign of rebellion, a sign that we are not afraid" (Collins, 2008, p. 251). Her costume designs emphasize her transformation into a symbol of resistance.

Themes of oppression and control:

- The themes of oppression and control are evident in the Capitol's dominance over the districts. Both the book and movie show how the Capitol uses The Hunger Games to maintain power. Katniss observes, "They don't just want to punish us. They want to make an example of us" (Collins, 2008, p. 23). The movie contrasts the Capitol's wealth with the poor conditions in the districts, illustrating how they view the tributes as entertainment. This is further emphasized when Katniss realizes, "I'm not just a tribute; I'm a pawn in their game" (Collins, 2008, p. 118).

Similarities in Setting and Media Manipulation



Setting:

- The film brings the world of dystopian Panem to life by closely following the book's descriptions. District 12 is depicted as a poor area, highlighting the struggle of its residents, while the Capitol is shown as rich, extreme, and flashy. This contrast makes the differences between the two even more striking, as noted when Katniss observes, "In the Capitol, everything is bright and shiny. In District 12, we are just trying to survive" (Collins, 2008, p. 45). The Arena is also detailed to match the book, featuring dangerous settings like forests, rivers, and open fields where tributes must survive. It feels isolated and highly controlled, with hidden traps in the natural landscape, capturing the book's intense atmosphere and sense of danger. Katniss describes it as a place where
- "the trees seem to close in on you, and the ground can turn treacherous at any moment" (Collins, 2008, p. 127)
- **Media Manipulation and Reality TV:**
- In both the book and movie, **The Hunger Games** functions as a violent show meant to entertain the Capitol. The Capitol uses it to control people and make them numb to the violence. Katniss points out, "They watch us like we're nothing more than animals in a cage" (Collins, 2008, p. 216). Both versions illustrate how tributes, like Katniss and Peeta, are pressured to act in certain ways, such as pretending to be in love, to gain support. This highlights how the Capitol controls even the tributes' identities, as Peeta notes, "We're not just fighting for our lives; we're fighting for a story" (Collins, 2008, p. 202).



Differences in Perspective and Character Depth

Perspective Shift:

Book (First-Person from Katniss):

- The book is told only from Katniss's first-person point of view, allowing readers to delve into her personal thoughts, doubts, and feelings, especially regarding Peeta and the trauma of the Games. Katniss expresses her fears, saying, "I can't think about the Games. I have to focus on keeping my family safe" (Collins, 2008, p. 9). In contrast, the movie uses a third-person perspective, showing scenes outside of Katniss's experience, such as President Snow's plans and the Gamemakers' strategies. This approach helps viewers understand the Capitol's control, but it doesn't capture Katniss's inner feelings as closely. The film shows the Capitol's cruelty when President Snow declares, "The Games are the only way to keep the districts in line" (Collins, 2008, p. 37), highlighting the oppressive system from a broader viewpoint.

Character Depth and Dialogue Changes:

Dialogue Adaptations: Regarding **character depth and dialogue changes**, some dialogue is altered in the movie to fit the visual storytelling. Katniss's conversations with Haymitch are clearer, showing him as a more supportive mentor. In the book, she reflects, "He's hard to read, and I don't know how much I can trust him" (Collins, 2008, p. 101). The movie conveys her emotions through her facial expressions and body language. When she struggles with her decisions, her face shows uncertainty, allowing viewers to empathize with her, even if it changes how her struggles are understood.

Differences in Plot Elements and Ending



Presentation of the Games:

- The movie makes the action of the **Games** more intense with quick scenes, special effects, and different camera angles, making the danger feel real and exciting. For example, the audience sees Katniss run for her life as the Cornucopia is attacked, which adds to the thrill. In contrast, the book spends more time showing Katniss's planning and survival skills. She thinks, "I have to outsmart them if I want to survive" (Collins, 2008, p. 45). The movie focuses more on the emotions and physical challenges to keep things moving quickly and visually interesting.

Ending Differences and Impact on Characterization:

- **Book's Ending:**

Regarding **ending differences and impact on characterization**, the book's ending closely examines Katniss's thoughts and mixed feelings about Peeta, leaving readers uncertain about her future decisions. She reflects, "I can't let myself love him, not when he could be killed" (Collins, 2008, p. 280). In the movie, the focus shifts to the Capitol's anger and hints at upcoming conflicts, especially with President Snow, who states, "We need to show them who is in charge" (Collins, 2008, p. 360). This change makes the story more about the larger political issues rather than Katniss's personal struggles.