that Katniss is actually incredibly insecure “I’m not witty, funny, sexy, or mysterious. By the end of the session I’m no one at all” (Collins 118). This quote is Katniss’s thoughts about herself while preparing for the interview, when she was back in the capital she did not care about her appearance because she was too focused on surviving. As the story progressed and she was put in the public eye of the capital, she grew to be insecure. However, at the end of the novel she is more confident than ever. “I am still the girl on fire” (Collins 354). This quote is again Katniss’s inner monologue but this time she is confident.

The story of Katniss Everdeen is one known by nearly everyone, both in Panem and the real world. But what made this iconic heroine from an even more iconic novel so famous in the first place? Katniss was not always the “girl on fire” in fact, her flame used to be incredibly dull, but she grew to be a hero and burn bright.

When we are first introduced to Katniss she is a simple huntress from district 12 who only cares about taking care of her mother and sister. After moving to the capital to prepare for the games we find out through her inner monologue of the novel, further proved by the following quote: “He’s good looking, he’s strong enough to handle work in the mines, and he can hunt. You can tell by the way girls whisper about him when he walks by in school that they want him. It makes me jealous but not for the reason people would think. Good hunting partners are hard to find.” (Collins 10). She continues to reject romance even after going to the capital her anger towards Peeta’s confession is proof. “I press my lips together and stare at the floor, hoping this will conceal the emotions starting to bail up inside of me.” (Collins 33) She even attacks Peeta after he gets off stage. However she later admits to Peeta her confidence is further proved by the fact that in the context of this quote more she is confident, she is only wearing a simple dress which is a big contrast from the previous quote where she was insecure, in which she was wearing a lavish gown with jewels and makeup but she was still insecure. This contrast cements Katniss’s newfound confidence and emphasizes her growth as a character.

Another part of Katniss’s growth is that at the beginning of the novel she refused to accept romance and rejected it completely. She had an obvious crush on Gale at the start that she feels the same way about him which shows that she went from rejecting romance entirely to being open to it. She grew and realized love, in fact, does not make her weak.

Katniss’s growth in The Hunger Games is very evident. She went from a dull huntress into a shining star, and the victor of the games. Everything about her character grew and changed and all of this growing and changing is what made her into the heroine that we now know as “The Girl on Fire.”