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School: iLEAD Exploration Hybrid

Grade: Sophomore

Book title: Sunrise on the Reaping

Book author: Suzanne Collins

Rating: 5/5

*Sunrise on the Reaping* is the latest prequel to *The Hunger Games*. The main plot follows Haymitch Abernathy in his own hunger game that he won. While the ending seems obvious at first, as you progress through the book, you will come to realize that there are many plot twists that were omitted in the hunger games recap. Haymitch survives through all the mental and emotional trauma, and by the end of the book, most readers will come to realize why Haymitch is the way he is. The slow transformation from an ambitious teenager to a chronic drinker will make sure even the most stone cold readers feel empathetic toward Haymitch.

Understanding of the hunger games lore is deepened by the plot and many questions about Haymitch are answered in it. I personally loved how much *Sunrise on the Reaping* provided insight about Haymitch's perspective and opinions of Panem. A lot of the things that happened in the story were cruel and sad, and I wish they didn't have to happen, but those dark parts of the plot are what sends us an important message that is applicable in the real world. All the parts of Haymitch's games (and the lore) that weren't included in the other books or the hunger games recaps are very shocking. Overall, it is a read that I never regretted.

I would recommend *Sunrise on the Reaping* to all hunger games fans. It is a crucial piece to the entire story. I would say the book is a little similar to *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* because they are both set in past hunger games, but have a separate main plot. However, the

main difference is the fact that most characters from *The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* were new while *Sunrise on the Reaping* includes some more characters that we are familiar with. All in all, I just hope most people enjoy reading this book and understand the message behind it.