

**CYRM Resource Book  
Young Adult Nominees  
(Grades 9-12)  
2010-2011**

***The Hunger Games***

by Suzanne Collins

Scholastic Press, 2008

***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***

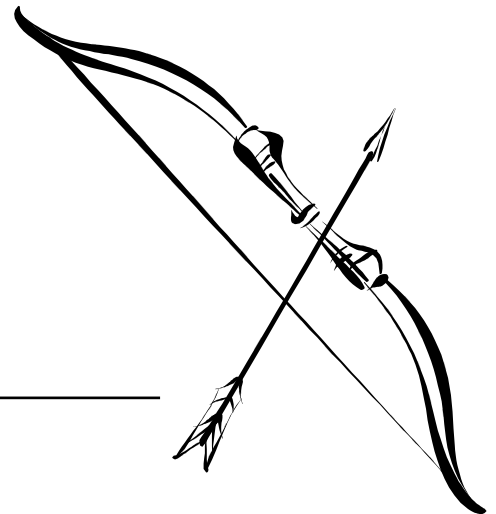
by Mary E. Pearson

Henry Holt & Co., 2008

***Unwind***

by Neal Shusterman

Simon & Schuster, 2007



California Young Reader Medal  
**Young Adult  
Ballot  
2010-2011**

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Hunger Games*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Adoration of Jenna Fox*  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Unwind*

California Young Reader Medal  
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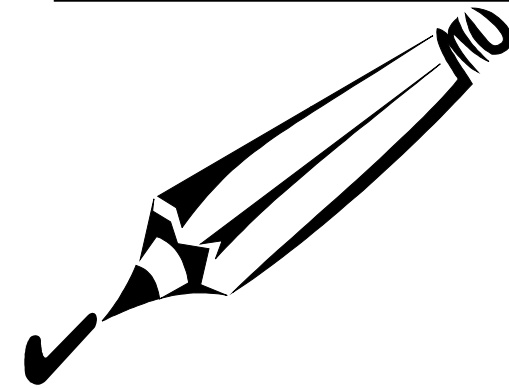


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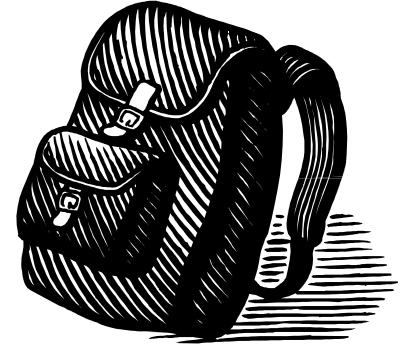
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# ***The Hunger Games***

by Suzanne Collins



## **Synopsis**

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The United States has been replaced with a country named Panem, and the fifty states are now divided into The Capital and 12 districts. Each year two young people are randomly chosen from each district to compete in The Hunger Games. Katniss' younger sister Prim is chosen, but Kat volunteers to go in her place. Along with Peeta, the baker's son, Kat travels to the Capital for what Kat fears will be her death. The ultimate reality show, *The Hunger Games*, is broadcast throughout Panem on giant screen sets that are located throughout each district. Citizens and family members all watch as the contestants fight each other to the death in order to be the winner, and sole survivor.



## **Hooks**

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- Are there too many reality shows on TV? What makes for a compelling reality show? Are there lines reality show producers should not cross?
- What will the United States be like in the future? What effect would unemployment, global warming and population growth have upon that future?
- What natural abilities do you possess that would help you to survive if your life were at stake?

# ***The Hunger Games***

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## **Meet the Author—Suzanne Collins**

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Prior to writing her first series, *The Underland Chronicles*, Suzanne Collins was a writer for several Nickelodeon shows, including *Clarissa Explains it All*, *Little Bear*, and *The Mystery Files of Shelby Woo*. Currently Suzanne Collins is working on the third book in the *The Hunger Games* series.

To find out more about Suzanne Collins visit her website at:

[www.suzannecollinsbooks.com](http://www.suzannecollinsbooks.com)

### **Other Books by Suzanne Collins:**

*Catching Fire* (Book 2 of *The Hunger Games* Trilogy). Scholastic Press. September 1, 2009.

*The Underland Chronicles*. Scholastic Inc. September 1, 2009.



## Connections for *The Hunger Games*

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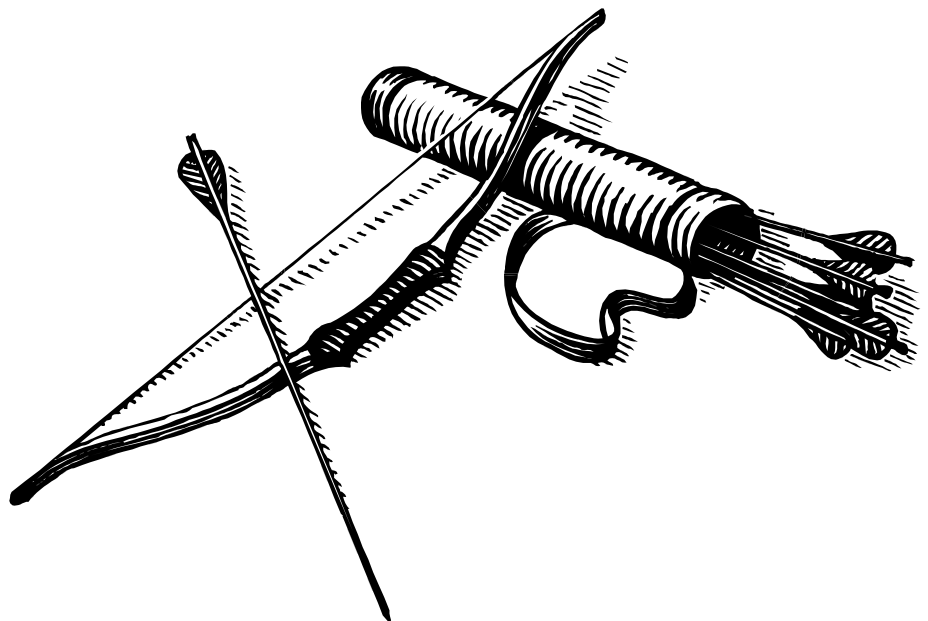
Anderson, M.T. *Feed*. Candlewick Press, 2004.

Bertagna, Julie. *Exodus*. Walker Books for Young Readers, 2009.

Bertagna, Julie. *Zenith*. Walker Books for Young Readers, 2009.

Pratchett, Terry. *Nation*. HarperCollins, 2008.

Woodling, Chris. *The Storm Thief*. Scholastic Inc., 2007.



## Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *The Hunger Games*

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- How does Katniss feel about Panem?
- If you were in Katniss' place, would you / could you do the same thing when Prim's name was chosen? Why or why not?
- How does Katniss' early interaction with Peeta affect their relationship after they are chosen as tributes?
- Who are the most important people to the main characters at the beginning? Does that change at the end?
- Hunger Games is Panem's version of Reality TV. What aspect of our culture do you see reflected in this story?
- How are career tributes different from others? Why do you think Peeta joined them at the beginning of the games?
- Without Rue, how would Katniss' story be different?
- What is the cruelest part of the Hunger Games? What is the most hopeful part of the Hunger Games?
- Do you think that the feelings that Peeta and Katniss show are genuine?
- What part of the story would you change, if you were the author?

# ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***

by Mary E. Pearson



## **Synopsis**

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Jenna has been in a coma for more than a year. She is told by her parents that she was in a terrible accident when she awakens. So much seems strange to Jenna, she no longer lives in Boston as her family abruptly moved to California, her grandmother seems to hate her, and her parents are very evasive when she asks questions. As Jenna begins to watch videos from her childhood, strange memories start to return. What secrets are her parents hiding?

## **Hooks**

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- Scientific discoveries are made everyday. What would constitute ethical boundaries for those discoveries?
- The cloning of animals appears in the news from time to time. What are the positives and negatives of such scientific knowledge and ability?
- Would it ever be justified to break the law in order to save someone's life?

## ***The Adoration of Jenna Fox***

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### **Meet the Author—Mary E. Pearson**



Even as a small child, Mary E. Pearson was enthralled with characters and stories. She “would wake up each day as a new character and would not answer anyone unless properly addressed as that character.” She has a background in art, and a teaching credential from San Diego State University. She taught various grades, but it was through Writers Workshop with her second graders that she began her career as an author.

To learn more about Mary E. Pearson visit her website at:

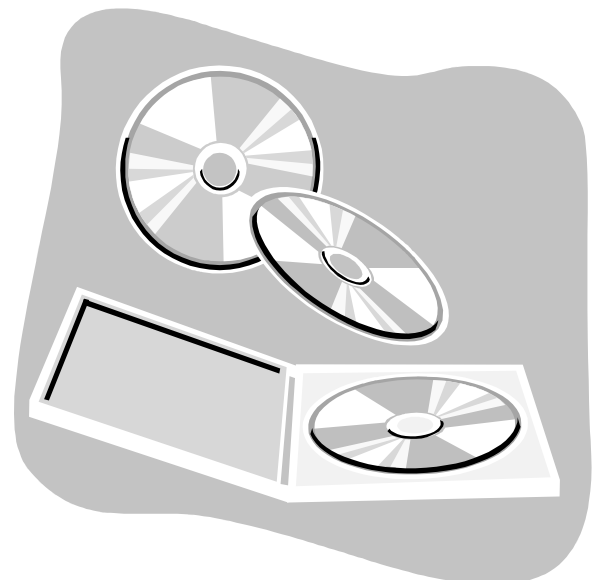
[www.marypearson.com](http://www.marypearson.com)

#### **Other Books by Mary E. Pearson**

*The Miles Between.* Henry Holt and Co. September 1, 2009.

*Scribbler of Dreams.* Harcourt Paperbacks. October 1, 2002.

*A Room on Lorelei Street.* Square Fish; Reprint edition. September 30, 2008.





## Connections for *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*

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Cooney, Caroline B. *They Never Came Back*. Delacorte Press, 2010.

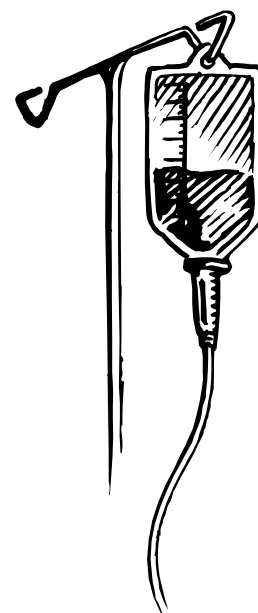
Koha, Kathe. *Headlong*. Farrarm Straus and Giroux, 2008.

Ryan, Amy Kathleen. *Vibes*. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2008.

Westerfield, Scott. *Uglies*. (Series). Simon & Shuster Children's Publishing, 2005.

Zarr, Sara. *Once Was Lost*. Little, Brown. 2009.

Zevin, Gabrielle. *Elsewhere*. Square Fish. May 15, 2007.



## Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *The Adoration of Jenna Fox*

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- Do you think that the time frame of the story is the present, past, or future? What makes you think so?
- Many of the characters seem frustrated. Which character, besides Jenna, is the most frustrated? By what are they frustrated?
- When Jenna finds out about the accident, what was your reaction?
- Do you think Jenna Fox is “living?”
- Some words defined throughout include: Curious, Lost, Hate, Empty, Human, Identity and Forever. What do you think the significance is of defining these words?
- Do you think that just because something is possible in science that it should be done?
- If you had the option to live the span Jenna can, would you want to live it? Why or why not? How would society change if everyone could live that long?
- Do you think that the type of technology described in the book solved the sadness of losing a child? Is the same child being created?
- Which is the whole Jenna, the one before the accident, or after? Why?
- What is the cruelest part of the Adoration of Jenna Fox? What is the most hopeful?
- What part of the story would you change, if you were the author?

# ***Unwind***

by Neal Shusterman



## **Synopsis**

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The Bill of Life states that human life may not be touched from the moment of conception until a child reaches the age of thirteen. However, between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, a parent may choose to retroactively ‘abort’ a child on the condition that the child’s life doesn’t ‘technically’ end. The process by which a child is both terminated and yet kept alive is called “unwinding.” Conner, Risa, and Lev, all from different backgrounds, are on their way to be “unwound” when their paths cross and they find themselves bound together to escape a world where unwanted teens are killed for their body parts. This unlikely trio must survive until they turn eighteen, the magic age where they can no longer be harmed.



## **Hooks**

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- You get in trouble from time to time. It is nothing major, but your parents are firm believers in consequences. What would those consequences be?
- “The end justifies the means.” Do you agree?
- To what extent would you go to save your life? The life of a friend? The life of people that you just met?

## **Meet the Author—Neal Shusterman**

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Neal Shusterman grew up in Brooklyn, New York. He began writing at an early age. After graduating from UC Irvine, he had his first book deal and was hired to write a movie script.

Neal Shusterman has a unique outlook on life. He feels that “Writers are a lot like vampires. A vampire will never come into your house unless invited—and once you invite one in, he’ll grab you by the throat, and won’t let go.” Mr. Shusterman is a successful novelist, screenwriter, and television writer. He has written several hour-long prime time specials for the “Goosebumps” TV series, and he wrote for the “Animorphs” TV series. Mr. Shusterman says he is always at work creating new stories to tell. When asked why he writes, Shusterman says it is because he wants to affect people -- to somehow change them for the better. Words can change the world. Mr. Shusterman has always loved reading, and feels that stories aimed at adolescents and teens are the most important stories that can be written – that’s the time when we choose paths for ourselves.

To find out more about Neal Shusterman visit his website at [www.storyman.com](http://www.storyman.com).

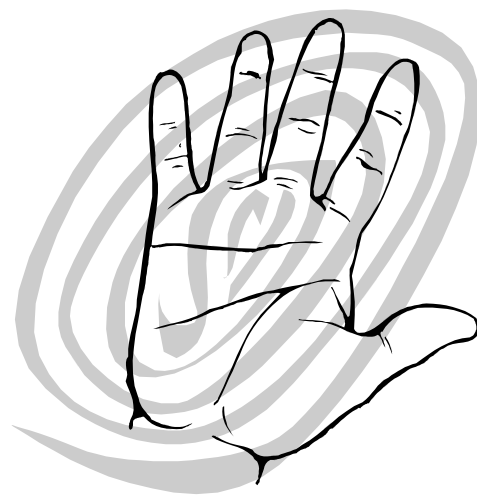
### **Other Books by Neal Shusterman**

*Everwild*. (The Skinjacker Series). Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing,  
November 10, 2009.

*Everlost*. (The Skinjacker Series). Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing,  
November 10, 2009.

*Downsiders*. Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing,  
November 10, 2009.

*Antsy Does Time*. Puffin, January 7, 2010.





Bodeen, S.A. *The Compound*. Square Fish; Reprint edition, September 1, 2009.

Card, Orson Scott. *Ender's Shadow*. Starscape; 1st edition, May 19, 2002.

Klavan, Andrew. *The Last Thing I Remember*. (Homelander Series), Thomas Nelson, 1 edition, April 28, 2009.

Lowry, Lois. *The Giver*. Delacorte Books for Young Readers, January 24, 2006.

Smith, Alexander Gordon. *Lockdown, Escape From Furnace*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR), October 27, 2009.



## Writing Prompts / Discussion Questions for *Unwind*

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- How would you feel if you discovered you were going to be unwound? What would you do?
- Which of the main characters, Connor, Risa, or Lev, do you most identify with? What traits do you have in common?
- What positive consequences can you imagine could be realized by a society where unwinding exists? What are the negatives? Do the negatives outweigh the positives or vice versa?
- As the plot progresses, the characters of Connor and Risa get separated from Lev. How does this affect the evolution of the characters?
- If you were in a position that could only be cured by accepting replaced parts from unwound teens, would you take them? What if it wasn't you, but someone you loved? Would your answer be different?
- What do you think of Clappers?
- What is the cruelest part of *Unwind*? What is the most hopeful part of *Unwind*?
- What part of the story would you change, if you were the author?
- A big question asked is "If every part of you is still alive but inside someone else, are you alive or are you dead?" What do you think?