Suzanne Collins was born into a military family, the youngest of four on August 11, 1962 in Hartford, Connecticut. The job demands of her father, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force who had seen active duty in Vietnam, caused the family to constantly move around the eastern United States before finally settling down in Alabama where Suzanne attended high school at the Alabama School of Fine Arts. Collins attended Indiana University where she graduated with a double major of drama and telecommunications before earning her M.F.A. (Masters of Fine Arts) in dramatic writing from New York University shortly after.

Focusing mostly on acting between the ages of 12 and 20, it was then when Collin’s realized that she not only wanted to speak the words, but create them as well.
Her passion quickly grew from that moment. In 1991, Suzanne Collins began her professional career writing for children’s television. She worked on the staffs of several Nickelodeon shows, including the Emmy-nominated hit *Clarissa Explains it All* and *The Mystery Files of Shelby Woo*. For preschool viewers, she penned multiple stories for the Emmy-nominated *Little Bear* and *Oswald*. She also co-wrote the Rankin/Bass Christmas special, *Santa, Baby!* with her friend, Peter Bakalian, which was nominated for a WGA Award in Animation. Most recently she was the Head Writer for Scholastic Entertainment’s *Clifford’s Puppy Days*, and a freelancer on *Wow! Wow! Wubbzy!* While working on a Kids WB show called *Generation O!* she met children’s author and illustrator James Proimos, who talked her into giving children’s books a try.

Thinking one day about Alice in Wonderland, she was struck by how pastoral the setting must seem to kids who, like her own, lived in urban surroundings. In New York City, you’re much more likely to fall down a manhole than a rabbit hole and, if you do, you’re not going to find a tea party. What you might find...? Well, that’s the story of Gregor the Overlander, the first book in her five-part fantasy/war series, *The Underland Chronicles*, which became a New York Times bestseller. It has been sold into 21 foreign territories.

The idea for her first story series, the critically acclaimed *Underland Chronicles*, came to Collins as she pondered Alice in Wonderland and thought one was much more likely to fall down a manhole than a rabbit hole. Published by Scholastic Press between 2003 and 2007, the *Underland Chronicles* is a five-story
series following the adventures of an eleven year old boy named Gregor and his time in the fictional world of Underland.

In 2008, Collins published the first story in her next book series, the Hunger Games, which follows the story of 16 year old Katniss Everdeen as she attempts to survive the Hunger Games, a government enforced battle which pairs twenty-four teenagers in a battle to the death. Collins has said that the inspiration for the Hunger Games was a combination of the Greek myth, Theseus and the Minotaur, and time spent channel flicking between reality television and coverage of the Iraq war. The adjacent sequels in the Hunger Games trilogy, Catching Fire and Mockingjay were released in 2009 and 2010.

Movie rights for the Hunger Games were purchased by North American entertainment corporation Lions Gate, who will release a film adaptation of the book on March 23, 2012 starring Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark, and Liam Hemsworth as Gale Hawthorne. Suzanne Collins currently lives in Connecticut with her husband, actor Cap Pryor, two children, and two feral cats that previously wandered their backyard. Much to her success with the Hunger Games, Collins was named as one of TIME’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2010. As of March 16, 2012, Suzanne Collins became Amazon Kindle’s best-selling author of all-time.

Lionsgate released a film adaptation of THE HUNGER GAMES on March 23, 2012, directed by Gary Ross who also shared screenplay credit with Suzanne and Billy Ray. It broke multiple box office records and went on to become the 14th
highest-grossing North American release of all time on its way to generating nearly $700 million at the worldwide box office. Lionsgate released the second installment THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE worldwide on November 22, 2013, directed by Francis Lawrence from a screenplay by Simon Beaufoy and Michael DeBruyn and bringing back stars Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Willow Shields, Paula Malcomson, Donald Sutherland, Stanley Tucci and Lenny Kravitz along with new cast members Philip Seymour Hoffman, Sam Claflin, Jena Malone and Jeffrey Wright. It was the highest-grossing domestic box office release of 2013 and the 10th highest-grossing domestic release of all time. Lionsgate will release THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 1 on November 21, 2014 and THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY – PART 2 on November 20, 2015, also directed by Lawrence.

In September 2013, Suzanne released a critically acclaimed autobiographical picture book, YEAR OF THE JUNGLE, illustrated by James Proimos. It deals with the year she was six and her father was deployed to Viet Nam. It has been sold into 12 territories in 11 languages. Her first picture book, WHEN CHARLIE MCBUTTON LOST POWER, about a boy obsessed with computer games, was illustrated by Mike Lester and came out in 2005. It has been sold into 4 foreign territories.
B. Summary of the novel

The novel opens with Katniss wandering through the ashes of her decimated district, District 12. It’s been a month since Katniss was rescued from the Quarter Quell arena after shooting an arrow at the force field, the same time her district was bombed by the Capitol. During that month, Katniss lived safely underground in the highly regimented District 13, where the heart of the revolution resides, powered by President Coin, whom Katniss doesn’t completely trust. Katniss is trying to make sense of this new world amidst a rebellion and is still quite unstable as she recovers from the physical and emotional trauma she underwent in the arena.

Katniss’ coming to District 12 was her own idea. She wanted to see her home and mourn for those who were killed. She feels great guilt for everyone who died. Gale heroically led as many people as he could, including Katniss’ mother and sister, Prim, to the Meadow and into safety. Now, the District 12 refugees have been welcomed into District 13, whose population is waning because of a pox epidemic that killed many of the district’s citizens and left a great number of them infertile. Gale waits for Katniss overhead in a hoverplane. Katniss is still trying to make sense of her feelings for Gale, and it is especially hard now as she worries constantly about Peeta, who was captured by the Capitol, wondering if he is alive or dead.

Along with Katniss, the others rescued from the Quarter Quell arena were Finnick Odair and Beetee, who had been part of the rebel plan organized by Head Gamemaker Plutarch Heavensbee. Now, Katniss is experiencing great pressure from District 13’s leaders to be the Mockingjay, the figurehead for the revolution that her
defiance of the Capitol has helped inspire. It’s a role that Katniss isn’t sure she can fill. She wonders if she would do more damage than good.

Eventually, Katniss does agree to be the Mockingjay, but it’s only after she sees Peeta on a televised interview calling for a cease-fire, which makes him a traitor even though Katniss is sure Snow made him say it. Katniss creates a list of demands, all of which she requires in order to be the Mockingjay. On that list is Peeta’s immunity. Katniss learns that clothing designer Cinna, before he was killed, had already designed and created all of her Mockingjay uniforms. Katniss discovers her prep team imprisoned in District 13’s cells deep underground; they’ve been horribly abused and mistreated. She saves them and grows increasingly wary of Coin and the way she runs District 13. Katniss continues to see major parallels between District 13 and the Capitol.

Coin calls an assembly per Katniss’ request, not only to announce Katniss’ acceptance of her Mockingjay role, but also the immunity of Peeta and the other captured tributes should the rebels win. Coin adds, however, that should Katniss deviate from her Mockingjay role, immunity will be revoked and all tributes, including Katniss, will be subject to the laws of District 13.

Katniss’ first propo, short for propaganda spot, is an utter failure. It’s staged and stilted, and Katniss doesn’t even recognize herself. Haymitch, now sober since District 13 doesn’t allow alcohol, laughs at the propo and points out that Katniss is most powerful and moving during genuine scenarios. Coin says to send Katniss, a
bodyguard team, and a camera crew to District 8 that day to get some more realistic propos.

Katniss and Haymitch are still angry at each other. They both think the other failed to protect Peeta in the Quarter Quell arena. Upon talking, however, they realize neither one of them could have made any other choice. Now, they will work together to win this war and rescue Peeta.

On her way to District 8, Katniss learns that the rebels have control of every district except for District 2, which has always been favored by the Capitol. The rebel plan was to take over each district, ending with 2, cutting off supplies to the Capitol. If the rebels win, the new government will be a republic.

In District 8, Katniss meets Commander Paylor and visits the wounded in a makeshift hospital. The patients call out to her by name, invigorated by the mere sight of her. They want to touch her and talk to her, and suddenly Katniss realizes that she hasn’t been fighting against the Capitol alone. She also recognizes that she does possess power, the kind of power that Snow is afraid of because it inspires unity and hope. Just as Katniss and her team are leaving District 8, another airstrike arrives, targeting the hospital. Katniss and Gale disobey orders and climb to the rooftop on a nearby building to shoot down the bombers. Once the attack is over, Katniss surveys the destroyed hospital. There are no survivors. She is enraged at this disregard for human life and an attack on the defenseless and weak. She delivers a fiery message to Snow, all of it captured by her fearless camera crew. Back in 13, Katniss and Finnick watch another interview with Peeta, but this time she can see that he has been tortured.
and is hurt. Katniss and Finnick pretend they didn’t see the interview, and nobody tells Katniss about Peeta, not even Gale. Katniss eventually gets Gale to confess, but she feels betrayed. Gale and Katniss, growing farther and farther apart, return to District 12 to film more propos. Katniss remembers how she used to be happy there and wonders what her life might have been like had she run.