THE HUNGER GAMES



I. Vocabulary. Match the word with the definitions. Write the letter.

1. uprising ___	a. compassion
2. defeated ___	b. act of resistance, rebellion
3. mercy___	c. suffering caused by hunger
4. punishment ___	d. beaten, overcome, demoralized
5. starvation___	e. infliction of a penalty

II. Reading. Read this excerpt from Chapter 1 and do the True / False exercise.

Just as the town clock strikes two, the mayor steps up to the podium and begins to read. It's the same story every year. He tells of the history of Panem, the country that rose up out of the ashes of a place that was once called North America. He lists the disasters, the droughts, the storms, the fires, the encroaching seas that swallowed up so much of the land, the brutal war for what little sustenance remained. The result was Panem, a shining Capitol ringed by thirteen districts, which brought peace and prosperity to its citizens. Then came the Dark Days, the uprising of the districts against the Capitol. Twelve were defeated, the thirteenth obliterated. The Treaty of Treason gave us the new laws to guarantee peace and, as our yearly reminder that the Dark Days must never be repeated, it gave us the Hunger Games.

The rules of the Hunger Games are simple. In punishment for the uprising, each of the twelve districts must provide one girl and one boy, called tributes, to participate. The twenty-four tributes will be imprisoned in a vast outdoor arena that could hold anything from a burning desert to a frozen wasteland. Over a period of several weeks, the competitors must fight to the death. The last tribute standing wins.

Taking the kids from our districts, forcing them to kill one another while we watch — this is the Capitol's way of reminding us how totally we are at their mercy. How little chance we would stand of surviving another rebellion.

Whatever words they use, the real message is clear. "Look how we take your children and sacrifice them and there's nothing you can do. If you lift a finger, we will destroy every last one of you. Just as we did in District Thirteen."

To make it humiliating as well as torturous, the Capitol requires us to treat the Hunger Games as a festivity, a sporting event pitting every district against the others. The last tribute alive receives a life of ease back home, and their district will be showered with prizes, largely consisting of food. All year, the Capitol will show the winning district gifts of grain and oil and even delicacies like sugar while the rest of us battle starvation.

"It is both a time for repentance and a time for thanks," intones the mayor.

Write TRUE, FALSE or DOESN'T SAY next to the sentences.



1. The mayor is reading the history of Panem. _____
2. The districts rebelled against the Capitol. _____
3. The Hunger Games comes from the Treaty of Treason. _____
4. The Treaty of Treason was written by the President. _____
5. The idea of the Hunger Games is to stop rebellion. _____
6. Winners of the Hunger Games receive beautiful homes. _____
7. Sugar is a very special food for the districts. _____
8. The Hunger Games is a fun activity for the districts. _____

