

The Hunger Games Blog

All of the girls, Laila, Mariam, Liesel, and Katniss, and yes they are girls, rebel against their society. In times of stress they view they have of their world is unfavorable, unfair, and controlling. They fight back. Much of their fighting is subdued and behind the scenes, the rest of the community is not privy to the fight. But these girls resist their environment by resisting what is being asked of them.

I begin with Mariam because she was slower to resist than the other girls. Mariam was submissive. She married an older man who enforced the societal expectations of women. And when she could not give him a child she was beaten, and mentally abused. She was treated like, and made to believe that she was worthless. If that is not enough, her husband brings another wife into the family.

Mariam takes all that she is given and she even believes that she deserves it, until Laila (the other wife) and her children are in danger. Mariam puts herself in a position of protection for Laila and the children. It is Mariam who takes beating for Laila and it is Mariam who takes the blame for Rasheed's death, making it possible for Laila to go away with the children to a better life.

Laila was raised in a more progressive household. When she married Rasheed she did it to protect herself. She was not prepared for the strict conservative beliefs of Rasheed's home. She argued with him. She hit him back. Her first child was not even Rasheed's. She is the exact model one would expect to rebel against this culture.

No one in the neighborhood or community around them knew what was happening. The fact that these women talk back to their husband is punishable by death. They attempt to escape to Pakistan and are caught. Rasheed would have been within his rights to kill them both, but he only beats them, and leaves them without food. He sends the daughter to the orphanage. This backfires for him. This does not make them obey, it makes them rebel more.

Liesel is not as proactive in her rebellion; in fact I would argue that she doesn't even know that she is in rebellion. Liesel is rebellious because in her desire to read and become educated she is in conflict with the ideas of the German leader; Hitler. Not only does Liesel continue to read and use words and reading to make the community closer, she and her family hide and care for a Jewish man. Liesel and her friend Rudy feed the Jewish people who are being moved to a concentration camp. At this time in history all of these things were punishable offenses. She was incredibly lucky to have lived, and she committed the highest form of defiance, caring about the Jews.

Katniss's rebellion is not as subtle. At first it is hard to even know she is doing is wrong until she says so or the Capitol gets mad. This is difficult to see because her society is a future society and we do not fully understand all of their customs yet. When Kat lays flowers on Rue's body and sings for her before the game crew comes to get her, we don't think anything of it, but her act of defiance shows the gamers and viewers that she is still human and she is pointing out the unfairness of Rue's death. That is probably the number two or three thing that makes the Capitol angry.

Before the games begin Kat needed to impress the sponsors, who do not pay attention to her. So, she shoots near the game sponsors to get their attention. They are not pleased and can do nothing about it publicly without admitting that they do not care about their contestants. Kat has made them look incompetent at least twice.

But do not forget the “suicide pact” with Peeta and the berries. The gamergames changed the rules and our heroes were not going to play that rule. This is the act that will be punished from here on out. Kat is a survivor, like all the girls, she makes us fully aware of her distrust of her society. She wants someone to see the injustices.

These acts of defiance are the best these women could do, but they show us readers that there is something wrong, something is not right. Their acts cause the readers to think and compare. How are we rebelling against wrongs? What can we do to make things better in our environment?