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JM Students Enjoy Hunger Games



Photo Andy Scheck

If you haven't heard about Suzanne Collins' young adult novel, *The Hunger Games*, you soon will - it's now a major motion picture that will open in theaters March 23. Loyal fans of the book can hardly wait.

The novel is set in a post-apocalyptic world; one in which two dozen children, between the ages of 12 and 18, are selected to participate in an annual event - the Hunger Games - a televised battle that only one will survive. The story that unfolds is one of sacrifice, survival, and rebellion.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School English teacher Jill McTaggart saw an opportunity in the popular novel, which was originally published in 2008, and this year added it to her curriculum. It's the first time the book's been used in a Moraga classroom, and her students have enjoyed helping to develop and test the related assignments.

On a recent Friday, a particularly tasty project was due. To demonstrate that they paid attention to the novel's details, students created food that relates to the book. Some made foods eaten by the characters, such as bread, stew, and a delightful cake decorated with a flaming "Mockingjay" (the symbol of the rebellion), while others crafted detailed, edible versions of such things as the book cover and the battle arena. L.Borrowman

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