“What We Hunger For”
Roxane Gay

By: Ahmed, Addie, Morgan, Maddy, and Brielle
“All too often, representations of a woman’s strength overlook the cost of that strength, where it rises from, and how it is called upon when needed most” pg 176
Roxane Gay

Born: Omaha Nebraska Oct 15, 1974

- Well known as an American feminist writer
- Sexual Assault at 12 years old
- PhD in rhetoric and technical communication from Michigan technological University
- English professor at Purdue University
- She writes everything from novels, short stories, and many non fiction essays
- “What We Hunger for” was published in her newest collection of essays, Bad Feminist (2014)
“I think there are a lot of rules for women. We have a lot of expectations and a lot of rules for women. So we’re expected to march in a straight line, and when we don’t all hell breaks loose” -Roxane Gay
Summary

- The Hunger Games
  - Katniss Everdeen

- Roxane Gay is a rape survivor.

- Hope
  - “Just because you survive something, does not mean you are strong” pg 179

- Rape culture, women strength and empowerment, patriarchal society, sexuality.
Challenges we faced

- Different perspectives?
  - Girl vs. Guy?
    - Does the story have a different effect on girls and guys?
    - Is it easier to relate to if the reader is female?
  - What if you have never heard of the Hunger Games?
  - Can Katniss and her motives be misinterpreted or viewed differently than Gay’s?

- Serious subject matter

- Counterargument
  - Consequences from bad decisions, wrong perspective, a lot of emotion, broad assumptions of the theme/topic
Initially our group as a whole took away that Roxane Gay wanted to tell a story of woman empowerment.

After further engagement, we realized themes such as guilt, ideal woman, turning weakness into strength, slut shaming, hiding reality from teens/young adults

We see the transition between the fragileness of a child to the strength of a woman
  ➢ “As an adult....I was young.” (Gay 178).

The negative connotation of slut
  ➢ “I sat perfectly still...hiss of the word ‘slut’” (Gay 180).
  ➢ “Is the suggestion...for teen readers,” (Gay 180).

The vision of what we believe to be and what people see we are and how that affects how we see ourselves.
  ➢ “That shame... eve known,” (Gay 179).
Analysis

*Development of Gay’s understanding:

“I was a good girl (6) who went to church. I had faith. I believed in God back then, so I prayed.” (Gay 179)

“I tried to hide what happened ... because I was a good girl.” (Gay 179)

“When you least expect it, you become the girl in the woods ... You lose your name because another one is forced on you.” (Gay 180)

“You think you’re alone until you find books about girls like you ... a fairy tale and I am always, always in search of a fairy tale.” (Gay 180)

“Katniss endures the unendurable. She is damaged and it shows.”
“The Hunger Games trilogy is dark and brutal, but in the end, the books also offer hope-- for a better world and a better people and, for one woman, a better life, a life she can share with a man who understands her strength and doesn’t expect her to compromise that strength, a man who can hold her weak places and love her through the darkest of her memories, the works of her damage” (181)
Essential Questions
What are some limitations in her perspective? Is the text relatable to everyone?
• Is Gay really a “good child” as she claims? What defines a “good child” in society?
How does this quote reflect in today’s society? (consider slut shaming the word ‘slut’ and how it differs with men and women)

“It is disturbing that within the world of the Hunger Games, it is perfectly acceptable for teenagers to kill one another and die or otherwise suffer in really violent ways, but it is not at all acceptable for them to explore their sexuality”
What do you think the purpose of Gay using such a personal story within the text?
Her website/ bibliography

http://www.roxanegay.com/


What if Famine did find something Dean hungered for, during their confrontation in the diner? Destiel, plain and simple. My first smut please don't judge. I expect this to remain fairly vanilla. Rated: Fiction M - English - Romance/Supernatural - [Castiel, Dean W.] - Words: 959 - Reviews: 3 - Favs: 8 - Follows: 20 - Published: 8/21/2014 - id: 10637346. + - Full 3/4 1/2 Expand Tighten. Author's note: Okay...yeesh. Â“Well, now I'll tell you: You do hunger for something. You've just hidden it away, so far back in the depths of your mind, that it almost wasn't there. But you see; I've brought it forward again." And that was when a third voice chimed in, the voice of someone who Dean had known since childhood and was both his saving grace and worst nightmare. "Let him go."