Good writers build suspense and tension to draw the reader in. As a writer, Suzanne Collins has used a range of devices to create that tension for example:

- contrast
- vivid details
- sentence structure - holding information back from the reader.

Read the description of the Reaping in Chapter 1 from page 19.

1. What writer’s devices can you find in the chapter that build tension? Pick out three key examples. You could share ideas with a partner.

2. What does the word ‘reaping’ suggest? How effective is this choice?

3. How does the writer’s use of imagery to add to the tension? For example: ‘The camera crews, perched like buzzards on rooftops ....’ p.19. Look for other examples in the chapter.

4. Find a sentence which is structured to hold information back from the reader.

5. What part of Chapter 1 do you find most effective? How does the threat of the Reaping run through the whole chapter? What do you think builds most tension?

6. How does the writer Suzanne Collins build tension in Chapter 1 of The Hunger Games? Write four P.E.E. paragraphs exploring your ideas.
Happy Hunger Games

Task:

You are going to write an alternative ending to Chapter 1. You are in the square to witness the Reaping. You must write about the moment the name of the District 12 tribute is drawn out. Write from the moment:

‘The crowd draws in a collective breath and then you can hear a pin drop, and ...’ p.24

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<tr>
<th>Ideas</th>
<th>Writer’s hints</th>
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<td>You could be one of the children from the district aged 12 to 18.</td>
<td>Imagine how you would be feeling and what might be running through your mind. You might be part of the draw for the first time or this might be your last. Will you escape the draw? What about your friends or family?</td>
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<td>You might be one of the family members who are ‘lined up around the perimeter holding tightly to one another’s hands.’</td>
<td>Think about what your deepest fear would be as you stand there watching the children, hearing the draw take place. Will you lose one of your children? How would it feel to hear Effie Trinket treat this as a game?</td>
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<td>You could be an official. The Mayor, a Peacekeeper or even Effie Trinket. Alternatively you might be one person in the crowd who ‘have no one they love at stake or who no longer care who slip among the crowd taking bets on the two kids whose names will be drawn.’</td>
<td>This would be an interesting choice and to do this you will need to think carefully about the language you use. You might be quite ambivalent about the fact two children will be sent to die. Seeing events from a Peacekeeper’s perspective could show a view that ‘it is only right’ a tribute is sent to the Capitol. On the other hand, you might be weary from seeing the suffering and misery in the District. If you are Effie Trinket, you might be only concerned with yourself and how you appear on screen. Try to show the character’s thoughts and feelings by the words they use.</td>
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Getting started

- Before beginning jot down some ideas about your character and the way that they might view the Reaping for the Hunger Games.
- In your writing use some of the devices that you have explored.
- Carefully choose the best words and images that help make your writing tense and exciting to read.
- Use paragraphs and sentence structures to help add to the tension in the writing.
- Good writers edit their writing and try to improve what they have done.
- When you have finished look again at your work. Underline your best line and highlight two examples of tension that you have used.