The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins

I’m not a fan ...

There have been some complaints from concerned parents about the book *The Hunger Games* and its suitability for use in school.

The head teacher has said that to address these concerns they want to meet with students from the class that have been studying the novel to hear their argument for why it should be taught.

Here are some of the things that parents have said about the book:

‘deeply worrying view of the world’… ‘scenes of excessive and extended violence’… ‘no sense of any moral values in the novel ’…‘disturbing’…‘totally inappropriate for an educational establishment’…‘concerns about the way that violence is shown to be the only choice’.

**Task:**

In groups of four you must prepare your argument for why you believe *The Hunger Games* should be taught to students of your age. Consider the following points when you compile your argument:

- What are the main themes of the novel?
- What might some people object to in some of the themes and events in the text?
- Reading the plot summary, do you think this sounds appropriate as a novel for school?
- How do you feel about the novel?
- Is the novel generally suitable for young people?
- What age group is it most suitable for? Should it be used with a younger class? If not, why not?
- What do young people today want from a novel they read in class? Is this different to a novel they read independently?
- Is this novel very different to novels you have read previously in school?
- Are there shocking elements to the novel?
- What do you say to critics of this novel who focus on the violence and bloodbath in the story? Is that all that the book is really about?
- Should schools use public money to buy modern books like this one?
- How has this novel engaged you?
- What is your overall view on using the novel in class?
- Think about what the parents have said and try to argue against their points using evidence from the text.