A feminist reading

Task one

Discuss with your classmates the following question:

What is feminism?

A dictionary definition of feminism is:

*The advocacy of women’s rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes.*

Task two

Read Chapter two of *The Hunger Games*. Highlight and make notes on:

- moments when female characters appear to be strong or powerful
- moments when female characters appear to be weak
- moments when a female character appears to act stereotypically
- moments when a female character breaks stereotypes.

Task three

Read the following comments about the book. Choose one and write a response supporting or arguing against the opinion expressed.

1. ‘Katniss is a rare thing in pop fiction: a complex female character with courage, brains and a quest of her own. She’s …the opposite of Bella, the famously drippy, love-obsessed heroine of the *Twilight* books – and unlike clever and self-possessed Hermione of the *Harry Potter* series, she’s the lead, not a sidekick.’ (Katha Pollitt, [http://www.thenation.com/article/167182/hunger-games-feral-feminism#](http://www.thenation.com/article/167182/hunger-games-feral-feminism#))

2. ‘This is a book about a post-apocalyptic killing game that spends zero pages describing how Katniss kills anyone but spends countless pages on how she is dressed, how everyone is dressed. What will she wear? What kind of jewellery? Hair up? Will the ‘sponsors’ like her better this way or that? Her chief weapon isn’t a bow, it’s her appearance.’ (Anonymous web comment)