The Hunger Games
Vocabulary Strategy

Literary Text: The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins  (Scholastic Press First Edition)

Name of Strategy: Magic Square for Book One: The Tributes

Purpose: “This activity, according to Vacca and Vacca, ‘has a way of reviving even the most mundane matching exercise’ (Content Area Reading 287). The magic square is an arrangement of numbers that, when added down, across, and diagonally, always equal the same sum, or the magic number. The Vacca text offers suggested combinations for 9-25 words (289). This strategy helps students to carefully read and evaluate the terms and definitions, self-check their answers, and use logical reasoning skills in an engaging format. For variation, this activity may be adapted for character study (match characters to traits or descriptive clues) or literary terms (irony, symbolism, metaphor, etc.). For more variation, have students create their own simple Magic Squares individually or in groups and trade with each other to complete the activity and find the magic number” (Rich, BYU, 2007). This strategy should be presented before reading each section of The Hunger Games. Attached is an example worksheet for Book One: The Tributes. By providing this to the students before reading the students have the opportunity to review some of the important words they will need to know while they read. This activity causes students to be more engaged in their reading because they are looking for specific words. It will also help them with reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition.

Directions:

1. Prepare copies of the Magic Squares, Book One: The Tributes handout.
2. Hand out the worksheet to students before beginning the novel (or each section if you are using vocabulary words from the others books) and orally deliver instructions. Show them examples on the board, as this activity can be initially confusing. (It would be ideal to complete an entire Magic Squares worksheet in class before allowing the students to do this on their own at home).
3. Have the students fill out the Magic Squares as they read and encounter the chosen vocabulary words. This will take as long as it takes the students to read Book One: The Tributes.

Assessment: “Evaluate for completion (the student finds the magic number) and accuracy (student identifies correct magic number by correctly matching the definitions to the right terms)” (Rich, BYU, 2007).