

Love

1. Love itself, is **complex**
2. Some theorists try to simplify it by breaking it down into **types**
3. **Romantic love, lust, friendship, parental affection** etc.
4. Romantic love includes **eroticism**, but also requires a degree of **friendship**

Romantic love

1. Romantic love is an emotion that requires a **singular object** – only one at a time
2. Which describes an emotion deeply inscribed in societies with **monogamous** ideals
3. By comparison, if one **fears spiders, any spider** will serve as the object of fear
4. True love requires the **love of one and only one** other
5. But if that **is all we are capable of loving**, then we may not be properly said to **love truly**

Katniss

1. Before the Hunger Games, love to her meant protecting her mother and sister
2. **need**
3. Peeta Mellark's schemes force Katniss to consider the true nature of **romantic love** for the first time
4. And to make a choice that will set the course for her life after the Mockingjay revolution

Decision

1. **Peeta re-enters** Katniss's life in Mockingjay after being brainwashed by the Capitol to detest her
2. Katniss, the story suggests, **picks whoever she cannot survive without**
3. This reduces her choice and its underlying emotions to a purely **pragmatic calculation**
4. The philosophers of **Stoicism** can help us to understand that Katniss's choice is
5. Based on **something else** – a **Stoic choice** rather than a **practical one**

Stoicism

1. Stoicism, is a school of philosophy founded by **Zeno of Citium** (334-262 BCE).
2. They advocate **moral goodness**, living in the present, **controlling one's desires**
3. And **not being attached** to things you can't control
4. Some of the best known **stoic** philosophers - **Zeno**, were **Lucius Annaeus Seneca**, (4 BCS-65 CE), **Epictetus** (55-135) and the Roman **Emperor Marcus Aurelius** (121-180).

Beliefs

1. Like the other ancient **Greek philosophers**, the Stoics believed that **human unhappiness** is rooted in wanting anything other than **what's essential** for the development of your **true self**.
2. This philosophy would be the hard sell in the Capitol where most people believed that **happiness** came from **excessive indulgence** in **food, drink, fashion** and **entertainment**.

What should be pursued

1. According to Zeno, the only truly bad thing is **moral evil**, and the only truly good thing is **moral goodness**
2. Everything else that people regard as **good and desirable** – love, money, power, pleasure, should be regarded with **indifference**
3. So also, should things such as **poverty and illness**

Character

1. What matters for the Stoics is **whether one's character** is morally good or evil, which doesn't depend on wealth or good fortune but does depend on **our own choices**
2. Katniss's sister, Prim, as she becomes an efficient and tireless caretaker, lives a **morally good life** even though surrounded by terrible circumstances

Living in the present

1. The Stoics also focus on **living in the present**

Nonattachment

1. The final important tenet of the Stoics is **nonattachment**
2. Don't become attached to anything or anyone
3. Seek to **master your desires** rather than trying to master things that lie outside your control
4. Things **not** in our **control** are: body, **property, reputation, command**, and whatever are **not our own actions**

Marcus Aurelius

1. Marcus Aurelius' was an **emperor of Rome**
2. Who focused on making himself a **better person** than on **bending his subjects** to his will
3. Marcus advocates **moderation, nonattachment**, and the affirmation of the **relationships that bind** us to our fellow human beings and other living creatures

Katniss the Stoic

1. Katniss has something of the **Stoic** about her
2. She has a **strong moral code**, a sense of **right and wrong** at the core of her morality is **steadfast loyalty** to her family
3. Living in the **shadow of death** allows her to take pleasure in the small moments of life

Material comforts

1. Katniss is not concerned about **material comforts**
2. She treasures a few things – such as her **father's hunting jacket** and her **mother's book of home** medical remedies
3. Everything else is a means to an end

Attachment to others

1. When we consider her attachments to others, she looks less like a stoic - Many of her decisions stem from her **attachments to others**
2. Such as expressing her **grief for Rue, Peeta's loyalty to her**, makes her unwilling to kill him

Why Katniss chooses Peeta

1. Katniss eventually chooses Peeta as her **romantic partner** –
2. There were many good reasons for **Katniss to choose Gale**,
3. But Choosing Gale would be an endorsement of the plot with Coin that killed her sister
4. She has a sense of **what's morally right** (like Zeno) and **won't betray it**
5. She remains **true to her nature** by choosing Peeta and her choice makes sense **rationally and morally**
6. She has **chosen**, like a **Stoic** would have chosen.