

Task: This week we have been learning about Katniss and Peeta's interviews before entering the Hunger Games arena. Below are the excerpts from the interviews with Caesar. Ensure that you have listened to chapter 9.

- 1) Read the excerpts and highlight key information.
- 2) Think carefully about how Katniss feels about what Peeta revealed in the interview. Answer the multiple choice questions below.
- 3) Write a letter to Peeta, from Katniss to explain her feelings about the interview he did. Describe the moment and include some show not tell descriptions of her feelings.

to Cinna for reassurance. He gives me a subtle thumbs up.

I'm still in a daze for the first part of Peeta's interview. He has the audience from the get-go, though; I can hear them laughing, shouting out. He plays up the baker's son thing, comparing the tributes to the breads from their districts. Then he has a funny anecdote about the perils of the Capitol showers. "Tell me, do I still smell like roses?" he asks Caesar, and then there's a whole run where they take turns sniffing each other that brings down the house. I'm coming back into focus when Caesar asks him if he has a girlfriend back home.

Peeta hesitates, then gives an unconvincing shake of his head.

"Handsome lad like you. There must be some special girl. Come on, what's her name?" says Caesar.

Peeta sighs. "Well, there is this one girl. I've had a crush on her ever since I can remember. But I'm pretty sure she didn't know I was alive until the reaping."

Sounds of sympathy from the crowd. Unrequited love they can relate to.

"She have another fellow?" asks Caesar.

"I don't know, but a lot of boys like her," says Peeta.

"So, here's what you do. You win, you go home.

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She can't turn you down then, eh?" says Caesar encouragingly.

"I don't think it's going to work out. Winning... won't help in my case," says Peeta.

"Why ever not?" says Caesar, mystified.

Peeta blushes beet red and stammers out, "Because... because... she came here with me."

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For a moment, the cameras hold on Peeta's downcast eyes as what he says sinks in. Then I can see my face, mouth half open in a mix of surprise and protest, magnified on every screen as I realize, *Me! He means me!* I press my lips together and stare at the floor, hoping this will conceal the emotions starting to boil up inside of me.

"Oh, that is a piece of bad luck," says Caesar, and there's a real edge of pain in his voice. The crowd is murmuring in agreement; a few have even given agonized cries.

"It's not good," agrees Peeta.

"Well, I don't think any of us can blame you. It'd be hard not to fall for that young lady," says Caesar. "She didn't know?"

Peeta shakes his head. "Not until now."

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I allow my eyes to flicker up to the screen long enough to see that the blush on my cheeks is unmistakable.

"Wouldn't you love to pull her back out here and get a response?" Caesar asks the audience. The crowd screams assent. "Sadly, rules are rules, and Katniss Everdeen's time has been spent. Well, best of luck to you, Peeta Mellark, and I think I speak for all of Panem when I say our hearts go with yours."

The roar of the crowd is deafening. Peeta has absolutely wiped the rest of us off the map with his declaration of love for me. When the audience finally settles down, he chokes out a quiet "Thank you" and returns to his seat. We stand for the anthem. I have to raise my head out of the required respect and cannot avoid seeing that every screen is now dominated by a shot of Peeta and me, separated by a metre that in the viewers' heads can never be breached. Poor tragic us.

But I know better.

After the anthem, the tributes file back into the Training Centre lobby and on to the elevators. I make sure to veer into a car that does not contain Peeta. The crowd slows our entourages of stylists and mentors and chaperones, so we have only each other for company. No one speaks. My elevator stops to

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Question	Possible answers	Tick One
At the beginning of Peeta's interview, Katniss feels:	a) Distracted	
	b) Focused	
	c) Fascinated	
When Katniss begins to listen to Peeta's interview, she is:	a) irritated	
	b) impressed	
	c) bored	
The moment that Katniss realises that Peeta is talking about her, she feels:	a) thrilled	
	b) angry	
	c) shocked	
During the anthem, Katniss describes the people feeling sorry for her and Peeta, but she feels:	a) suspicious	
	b) confused	
	c) ecstatic	

