

2. MARIA'S PROBLEM

What do you see in the picture?

What is the young woman doing?

What is she thinking about?

How does she feel?



Read the story silently.
Underline words you don't understand. Your teacher will help you with new words.

Maria Garcia is the youngest of six children. Her family came to the United States six years ago. Her parents work very hard, but they don't have a lot of money.

Maria will finish high school in June. She will be the first person in her family to graduate from high school. She is an excellent student. She won a four-year scholarship to a college in another state. Her family is very happy and proud of her. They want Maria to go to college. They are glad that the scholarship will pay for her education.

Maria wants to go to college too, but she has a problem. She is in love. Her boyfriend Toni does not want her to go away for four years. He is 27 and he wants to get married now. He has a good full-time job with benefits in a factory. He wants to have a wife and family. He says he will take care of Maria and she doesn't need a college education or a job. Maria doesn't know what to do.

A. COMPREHENSION CHECK.

Listen to your teacher read the sentences and answer yes, no or maybe.

1. Maria comes from a large family.
2. Maria's family has plenty of money.
3. Maria is a very good student.
4. Her family will pay for her college education.
5. She has a scholarship at a college in her city.
6. Maria's family wants her to go to college.
7. Maria's boyfriend Toni wants her to go to college.
8. Toni has a good job in a factory.
9. Toni wants his wife to work.
10. Maria loves Toni, but she also wants to go to college.

B. WHAT'S HAPPENING?

First answer the questions orally. Then write down the answers.

1. How long has Maria's family been in the United States?

2. How many brothers and sisters does Maria have?

3. Who will pay for Maria's college education?

4. Is the scholarship from a college near Maria's hometown?

5. For how many years will Maria have to go away to college?

6. Does Maria want to go to college?

(Continued on next page.)

7. Who is Toni?

8. How does Maria feel about Toni?

9. Why doesn't Toni want Maria to go to college?

C. TALK IT OVER.

Discuss the questions with your teacher and classmates. Talk about your personal experiences. Compare your country and the United States. What is the same? What is different?

1. Did you go to school or college in your country? Did anybody in your family go to high school or college?
2. How many years did your parents go to school?
3. Do you have to get a good education in your country so that you can get a good job?
4. Is education free in your country or do you have to pay for it? Is it expensive?
5. How many years do most men go to school in your country? How many years do most women go to school in your country?
6. Who gets a better education in your country, men or women? Why?
7. How many years do people in the United States go to school?
8. What do young, unmarried women do in your country? Do they work, go to school or stay home? What do they do in the United States?
9. Do many women work outside the home in your country? In the United States? Which women work outside the home most in your country: young single women, married women, women with children, women with no children, widows, divorced women, poor women, rich women, old women? What about in the United States?
10. What happens to a family in your country if the husband loses his job, gets sick, divorces his wife or dies? What do you think happens to a family in the United States?
11. Do you want your children to finish high school and go to college? Why? Why not?
12. Do you think it is important that young men and women get a good education in the United States? Why? Why not?
13. Why do Maria's parents want her to go to college?

D.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?



Tell your teacher all the problems in the story. Your teacher will list the problems on the chalkboard.

With your classmates, choose one problem you want to discuss today. Write down the problem.

Find some solutions to this problem. Talk about the consequences of each solution.

What can be done about the problem? Write down some possible solutions.

What might happen if you do that? Write down a possible consequence of each solution.

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

- 1. _____

- 2. _____

- 3. _____

In small groups, discuss the solutions and consequences. Choose the one solution you think is best. Each group should share its solution with the class. Tell your teacher and classmates why you think this is the best solution. Can your class agree on one solution?



E.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Help Maria. You are her friend. Give her some advice. Tell Maria what to do. Write down what you would say to her.

Maria, I think you should _____

F. SPEAK UP!

Work in a small group or with a partner. Choose someone that Maria should talk to. Should she talk to Toni, her parents, her brother, her sister, a counselor or somebody else? What should she say? Write a conversation that might help Maria.

Maria: _____

Maria: _____

Maria: _____

G. SHARE YOUR IDEAS.

What do you think young men and women should do? Read the following statements. If the statement describes what you think men should do, write *M* on the line. If it describes what you think young women should do, write *W* on the line. Write *M + W* if you think the statement describes what both young men and young women should do.

1. Young _____ should learn to cook and clean.
2. Young _____ should go to college.
3. Young _____ should get some training.
4. Young _____ should get a job.
5. Young unmarried _____ should live with parents or relatives.
6. Young unmarried _____ should live with roommates.
7. Young unmarried _____ should live with their boyfriends or girlfriends.
8. Young _____ should help their parents sometimes.
9. Young _____ should take care of their parents all the time.
10. Young _____ should let their parents support them.
11. Young _____ should take care of themselves.

12. Young _____ should work before they get married.
13. Young _____ should get married and stay home.
14. Young _____ should get married and then work.
15. _____ should get married when they are between 18 and 25 years old.
16. _____ should get married when they are between 26 and 30 years old.
17. _____ should get married when they are over 30 years old.
18. Young married _____ should stay home and take care of the children.
19. Young married _____ should get a job.
20. Young married _____ should get a job and take care of the children.

Look at your answers. Are the things you think men should do different from the things you think women should do? How are they different? Why are they different? Share your answers with your classmates. Give reasons for your choices.