

GUIA N° 2

I

Hi, Anne.

I am an 18-year-old senior a few weeks away from graduating and I am totally at a loss as to what I am going to do with my life. To put it in short - I am a complete mess, I'm not sleeping, my grades are slipping, and I am totally freaked out. Normally, I would (a) _____ to my parents about this, but they are also having problems at work, so I don't want to bother them too much. I don't feel that I have a right to complain to them or tell them how I feel because they are both almost sixty and have been working for 35+ years, but on the other hand I feel totally deserted and completely (b) _____. I am an only child, so I don't even have a brother or a sister to ask. I've talked to my friends, but of course they say I should do what I think is best for me.

What can I do? Should I approach my parents about this situation? I will be really (c) _____ if you can help me with this.

Thanks,
Charlie

II

Dear Anne,

I have a really serious problem. I don't really know how to start because I feel that nobody will understand me. I am 15 years old and for years I have lived in a loving and (d.) _____ family. We went on holidays together, had fun going to the cinema, and we had lunch together every Sunday.

However, for the last six months my parents have been fighting all the time. At first, they would (e.) _____ in their room so as not to disturb me and my little sister (she is only 9), but then things got worse and worse and now they argue all the time - even at the dinner table. In the evening, I can hear them argue very loudly in their bedroom.

I love both my parents and I am very sad that they fight. My little sister is (f.) _____ too and I don't know what to tell her.

I don't know who is right and who is wrong and the worst thing is that I don't know why they are fighting. What can I do? I really want things between my mom and dad to get back to normal, as it used to be.

Thanks for listening and all the best,

Nina

Taken from: ECC files

- 1) Read the letters once more and answer these questions. ◆ 4 pts., 2 each
- Why doesn't Charlie want to talk to his parents about his problem?
 - How do we know that Nina's family was a happy one?

- 2) Read the letters again and choose one option (I - III) for each gap (a - f). ◆ 6 pts.
- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a. I. discuss | d. I. united |
| II. talk | II. disfunctional |
| III. ask | III. strange |
| b. I. alone | e. I. whisper |
| II. surprised | II. cry |
| III. indifferent | III. argue |
| c. I. cheerful | f. I. upset |
| II. grateful | II. complicated |
| III. disappointed | III. hopeful |