

SCENARIO #1:



JOHN AND ADELE

BACKGROUND

John is an eight year old white male. His father is a doctor and remarried but does not see his children. He pays minimal child support. The mother, Adele, works part-time and is an alcoholic. One younger sibling who is mentally and physically handicapped lives with the mother and John.

You are Adele, John's mother. You are a 29 year old white female. You quit college your

sophomore year so you could go to work to support John's father as he went through medical school. You were both elated when John was born. During the time your husband was an intern, you found that a drink or two or three in the evening calmed you down, especially since he was gone so much. When your second child was born, she was severely handicapped. Both of you were in shock; a year later your husband finished his residency and announced that he was in love with another woman and divorced you. Last you heard, your husband is driving a Porsche and he and his new wife spent their last vacation in Cancun. Your parents are dead. You have a sister who lives 50 miles away. Your weekly income including child support is \$300 before taxes. Your handicapped child is three years old and is in day care provided by the school district.

CURRENT SITUATION

You have been late for the third time this month to work. Your car broke down and it will take \$400 to fix it. Your boss told you that you will be docked for a day's pay and that if you are late again, you will be fired. You don't know how you are going to get to work tomorrow. You consider several choices: (1) you can go car shopping, (2) you can put the car in the garage and worry about the money later, (3) you can invite the mechanic over for dinner, (4) you can get mad and quit, (5) you can call your ex and threaten to take

him back to court unless he pays for the car, (6) you can get a second job, or (7) you can get drunk.

Your daughter has had another seizure and you took her to the doctor (one of the reasons you were late for work). The new medicine will cost you \$45 every month.

John comes home from school and announces that the school is going to have a reading contest. Every book you read with him will earn points for him. Each book is one point and he wants to earn 100 points. You must do physical therapy with your daughter each evening for 30 minutes as well as get dinner. To get his books, he needs you to go to the library with him. You only have enough gas to go to work and back for the rest of the week, maybe not that. He also tells you that the school is having an open house and he will get a pencil if you come. But John is not old enough to keep your daughter. Your ex has already threatened to bring up in court that you are an unfit mother if you try to get more money from him.

The mechanic calls and invites you out to dinner. He tells you that you might be able to work something out in terms of payment. It has been a long time since you have been out and he is nice and good looking.

What are Adele and John's resources? Put a check under the resources that are present, a minus under the ones that are not, and a question mark where the resources are uncertain.

Financial	
Emotional	
Mental	
Spiritual	
Physical	
Support Systems	
Knowledge of middle class hidden rules	
Role Models	

SCENARIO #2



VANGIE AND OTIS

BACKGROUND

Otis is a nine year old black male. His mother conceived him at 14, dropped out of school and is on welfare. Otis has two younger siblings and one older sibling who is a gang member.

You are Otis's mother, Vangie. You are a twenty-three year old black female. You were the oldest of five children. You had your first child when you were 14. You have received welfare and food stamps since the birth of your first child. You lived with your mother until your fourth child was born when you were 17. Then you got your own

place. You dropped out of school when you were pregnant with Otis. School was always difficult for you and you never did feel comfortable reading much anyway. Your current boyfriend comes often and he works sometimes. Your mother lives down the street. Your weekly income (including food stamps) is \$215. You move a lot because there are always more bills at the end of the month than money.

CURRENT SITUATION

Your sister calls you and tells you that her boyfriend has beaten her again and she needs to come spend the night at your house. The last time she came she stayed for two weeks and her twelve year old handicapped son would not leave your five year old daughter alone. You have several choices: (1) you could take her in and make her pay for her meals, (2) you could not take her in and have the whole family mad at you, (3) you could tell your daughter to hit him when he comes close, (4) you could make Otis take care of the handicapped son, (5) you could slap the fool out of the handicapped son, (6) you could use the rent money for the extra food, (7) you could go partying together and let Otis take care of the kids; (8) you could move to a bigger place.

Otis comes home from school and announces that the school is going to have a reading contest. For every five books you read to him, he will get a

coupon to get \$2.00 off a pizza. To get his books, he needs you to go to the library. Also you are not sure you can even read to him because your skills were never good and you have not read for a long time. To get to the library requires that you walk because you do not have a car. There have been two drive by shootings last week. He also tells you that the school is having an open house and is sending a bus around the neighborhood to pick up parents. He gives you a note which you cannot read.

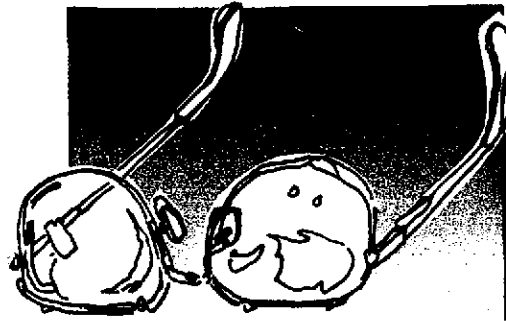
You are going to have to move again. This week Otis got cut badly at school and the school took him to the emergency room and they want \$200. Rent is due for the month and it is \$300 for three bedrooms. Sister is coming and that means extra food because she never has any money. Your boyfriend got arrested and wants you to get him out of jail. He was arrested for assault. The bondsman wants \$500. Your ex-boyfriend knew better than to come around. You need your boyfriend because his money makes it possible to keep from going hungry.

The teacher calls and tells you that Otis is misbehaving again. You beat the fool out of him with a belt and tell him he better behave. But that night you fix him his favorite dinner, then you tell everyone that you talk to how Otis is behaving and what a burden he is to you.

What are Vangie and Otis's resources? Please put a check under the resources that are present, a minus under the ones that are not, and a question mark where the resources are uncertain.

Financial	
Emotional	
Mental	
Spiritual	
Physical	
Support Systems	
Knowledge of middle class hidden rules	
Role Models	

SCENARIO #3:



OPRAH AND OPIE

BACKGROUND

Opie is a 12 year old black female and the oldest of five children. She runs the household because her mother, Oprah, works long hours as a domestic. Grandmother, who is 80, is senile and lives with them, as well as an out of work uncle.

You are Opie's mother, Oprah. You are a 32 year old black female. You were married for ten years to your husband and then he was killed in a car accident on the way to work two years ago. You work long hours as a domestic for a doctor. You go to the Missionary Baptist Church every Sunday where you lead the choir. Your employer treats you well and you take home about \$300

every week. You ride public transportation to work and the church bus on Sunday. You want your children to go to college even though you only finished high school.

CURRENT SITUATION

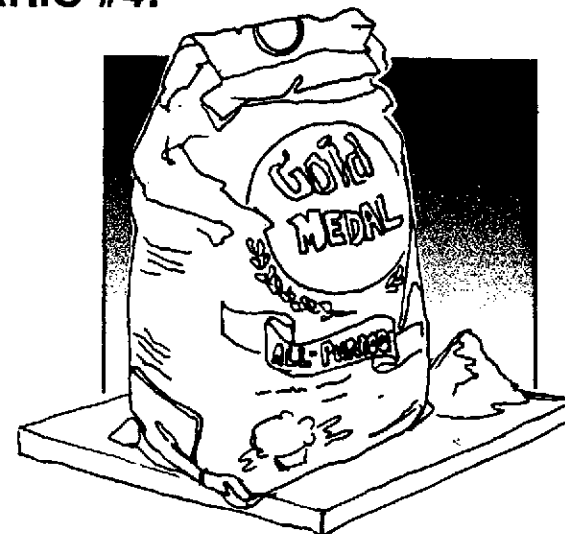
Your employer gives you a \$400 Christmas bonus. You thank the Lord at church for the gift. After church, three different people approach you privately. One asks for \$50 to pay to have the electricity turned on; one asks for \$100 to feed her brother's family; one asks for \$60 to replace a pair of broken glasses. You were hoping to save some money for an emergency.

Opie has the opportunity to be in a state-sponsored competition that requires after school presence.. You want her to do that but you must have her at home after school every day.

What resources do Oprah and Opie have? Put a check under the resources that are present, a minus under the ones that are not, and a question mark where the resources are uncertain.

Financial	
Emotional	
Mental	
Spiritual	
Physical	
Support Systems	
Knowledge of middle class hidden rules	
Role Models	

SCENARIO #4:



MARIA AND NOEMI

BACKGROUND

Maria is a ten year old Hispanic female. Her mother does not drive or speak English. Father speaks some English. Maria is a second generation Hispanic born in the United States. Mother does not work. Father works for minimum wage as a concrete worker. There are five children. The family gets food stamps and the mother is a devout Catholic.

You are Maria's mother, Noemi. You are a 27 year old Hispanic female. You have five children. You have been married to your husband for 11 years and you love him and your children very much. Children always come first. As a child, you and your parents were migrant workers so you are happy that you have a place to live and do not need to move around. Because of the migrant work, you never went past the sixth grade. Your husband works on a construction crew laying concrete. When it is not raining and when there is plenty of building, he has plenty of work. Sometimes though, he will go two or three weeks with no work and therefore, no money. Your parents live in your town and they help you when times are bad. You get food stamps to help out. You go to Mass every Saturday and often on the weekends you go to your parents with your children and brothers and sisters. Your husband is a good man and he loves his children. On a good week, he will bring home \$400.

CURRENT SITUATION

Maria comes home and says that she has to do a salt map. You have just spent all the money for the week on food and she needs five pounds of flour, two pounds of salt and a piece of board to put it on. She also needs to get information from an encyclopedia, whatever that is. The car is broken and will take \$100 for parts. The baby is sick and medicine will be \$30.00. It has rained for two

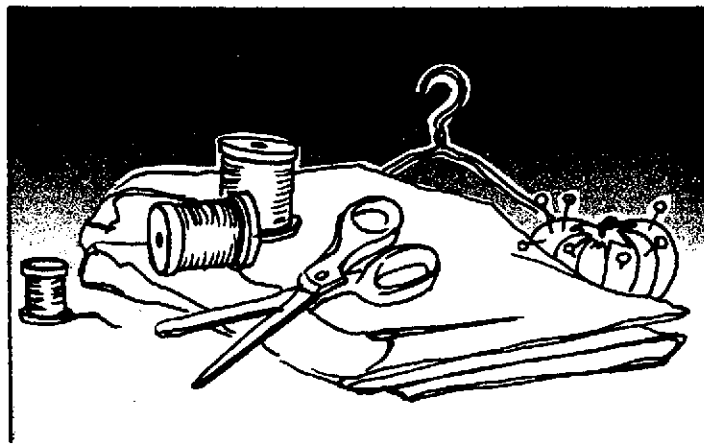
weeks and your husband has not had any work or pay.

The teacher has asked Maria to stay after school and be in an academic contest. You expect her to get married and have children just as you have. You need her to help you with the children.

What resources do Maria and Noemi have? Put a check under the resources that are present, a minus under the ones that are not, and a question mark where the resources are uncertain.

Financial	
Emotional	
Mental	
Spiritual	
Physical	
Support Systems	
Knowledge of middle class hidden rules	
Role Models	

SCENARIO #5:



EILEEN AND WISTERIA

BACKGROUND

Eileen is a ten year old white girl who lives with her 70 year old grandmother, Wisteria, who is on social security. She does not know who her father is. Her mother has been arrested four times for prostitution and/or drug possession in the last two years. About once a year, mother sobers up for a month and wants Eileen back as a child.

You are Eileen's grandmother, Wisteria. You are on social security and get about \$150 a week. Your daughter, Eileen's mother, has been in trouble for years. You have given up on her and you could not stand to see Eileen in a foster home so you have taken her into your home. Eileen's mother was never sure who the father was; she is a drug addict and has been frequently arrested. One of her various pimps or boyfriends gets her out of jail. Once a year, she sobers up for a short period of time, gives Eileen lots of attention, and then leaves. The last time she came and left, Eileen cried and cried and said she never wanted to see her mother again. You have some money in savings but you do not want to use it. Your house is paid for and you have a decent car. You worry what will happen to Eileen if you would get sick or die, and you pray each day to live until Eileen is 18. You don't see as well as you once did. All your relatives are either dead or distant. Every Sunday, you and Eileen go to the Methodist Church where you have been a member for forty years.

CURRENT SITUATION

Eileen came home from school today with a project to do. She must do a family history and interview as many relatives as possible. You are not sure what to say to Eileen.

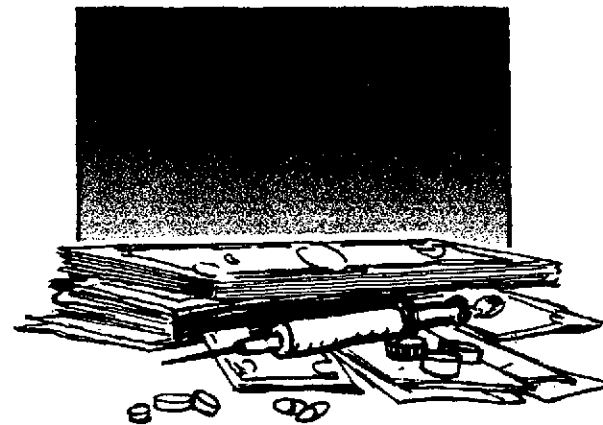
The teacher tells you at a conference that Eileen has an imaginary friend that she talks to a great deal during the day and recommends that

you seek counseling for Eileen. She knows a counselor who would only cost \$40 a session. She also comments that Eileen's clothes are old fashioned and that she does not fit in with the other students. You do not tell the teacher that you make Eileen's clothes. The teacher suggests that you let Eileen have friends over so she can socialize, but you don't know if you can stand the noise.

What are Eileen and Wisteria's resources? Put a check under the resources that are present, a minus under the ones that are not, and a question mark where the resources are uncertain.

Financial	
Emotional	
Mental	
Spiritual	
Physical	
Support Systems	
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Role Models	

SCENARIO #6:



JUAN AND RAMON

BACKGROUND

Juan is a six year old male Hispanic who lives with his uncle Ramon. Juan's father was killed in a gang-related killing. His uncle is angry about the death of Juan's father. When his uncle is not around, Juan stays with his grandmother, who speaks no English. The uncle makes his living selling drugs but is very respectful of his mother.

You are Juan's uncle, Ramon, a 25 year old Hispanic male. You doubt that you will live many

more years because you know that most of the people like you are either dead or in jail. You are angry. Your brother, Juan's father, was killed by a rival gang two years ago when Juan was 4. Juan is your godchild and you will defend him with your blood. Juan's mother was a piece of white trash and would not take care of Juan like a good mother should. She is in jail now for gang-related activities. You leave Juan with your mother often because the activities you are involved in are too dangerous for Juan to be with you. You are a leader in your gang and sell drugs as well. Your mother speaks only Spanish but you have taught Juan to be very respectful to her. She goes to mass every Sunday and takes Juan with her when she can. You make \$1000 a week on the average.

CURRENT SITUATION

Juan comes home with a parent-teacher conference request. You are away, hiding from the police. Grandmother cannot read Spanish or English.

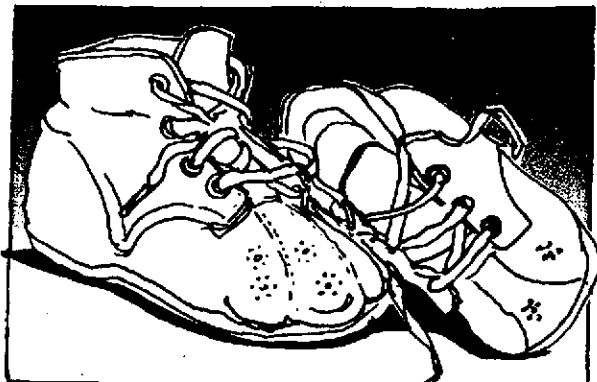
The rival gang has killed another one of your gang members. This has forced you to be away from Juan more than you would like. Plans are that you will kill the leader of the rival gang, but then you will need to go to Mexico for some time to hide. You are thinking about taking Juan with you because he is all in the world that you love. You

are stockpiling money and you don't want to take him out of school but he is only six. He can catch up. You don't think you will live past 30 and you want to have time with him.

What resources do Juan and Ramon have? Put a check under the resources that are present, a minus under the ones that are not, and a question mark where the resources are uncertain.

Financial	
Emotional	
Mental	
Spiritual	
Physical	
Support Systems	
Knowledge of middle class hidden rules	
Role Models	

SCENARIO #7:



SUEANN AND SALLY

BACKGROUND

Sally is an eight year old white female whose mother, SueAnn, has been married and divorced twice. Her mother works two jobs and does not receive child support. An older sister is pregnant. Sally has two step-siblings, one younger and one older. The current stepfather's favorite child is the youngest child, a son. The stepfather is laid off right now.

You are Sally's mother, SueAnn, a 33 year old white female. You are on your third marriage. You have four children by four different men. You are working two jobs right now because your current husband has been laid off. He is supposed to be

taking care of the kids, but he doesn't like to be tied down. You got pregnant when you were a senior in high school, so were unable to finish school. You knew who the father was but he changed his mind and would not marry you. You kept the child and she is now 15 and pregnant. Your second child is Sally and she is 8 years old. Between the two jobs you bring home about \$400 a week and you are exhausted. You make the girls cook and clean. You are very tired. Lately you and your husband have been fighting a lot. Your mother and father are divorced and live in the same town that you do. You remember how much you loved to dance country western and party. All you wish for now is sleep. You may have to move again soon because you are so behind on the bills.

CURRENT SITUATION

You get a call at work. You let your husband drop you off at work because he was going to fix the muffler. Your husband is now in jail. He was caught driving while intoxicated. This is the second time he has been caught. You need \$500 to pay the bondsman to get him out of jail. Furthermore, he was driving your car which did not have car insurance. They have towed the car and the towing bill is \$80. Each day it is impounded, it will cost you \$40 in parking fees and you cannot get the car out until you have proof of insurance. When and if he gets out of jail, he will need to see the probation

officer, which will cost him \$60 every time he sees him.

Your pregnant daughter needs \$400 to pay the doctor so he will continue to see her. You have told her she needs to go to the clinic where the service is free. However, the wait is usually 3 to 4 hours and she misses a half day of school. There is also the problem of getting her there. It is in a bad part of town and it will be dark before you can get there to pick her up.

The bill collector calls you at work and tells you he is going to take you to court for overdue electric bills at the last place you lived. You now live in an apartment where the utilities are paid but you are behind on your rent by a month. You were O.K. until your husband got laid off. You are out of birth control pills yourself. To refill the prescription, you have to go to the clinic and wait 3 to 4 hours and you can not take time off from work. Also, you need \$20.00 for the birth control pills. Lately your husband has been looking at Sally in ways that you do not like. But you are so tired.

What are SueAnn and Sally's resources? Put a check under the resources that are present, a minus under the ones that are not, and a question mark where the resources are uncertain.

Financial	
Emotional	
Mental	
Spiritual	
Physical	
Support Systems	
Knowledge of middle class hidden rules	
Role Models	



DISCUSSION OF SCENARIOS