



ROLE PLAY #6 – Family Vacation

Information for both Parties:

The Samson family is currently in the midst of planning their annual family vacation. Faced with increasing expenses and decreased discretionary income, the family is forced to deal with the limited budget and minimize the costs associated with the holidays. Toni Samson wants to go to their lakeside cabin, to do the usual boating, hiking and having outdoor barbecues. Toni says a much-needed rest from the stresses of work is much deserved. Sam Samson wants to visit his/her aging parents who have hinted strongly they would like to spend some time with their only two grandchildren. Susan, who is 14, says that she's tired of the cabin and wants to spend time shopping and in a hotel pool and Jacuzzi. Robert, who is 8, says he doesn't want to leave home because the puppy has always been left alone during past trips to the cabin; also Robert doesn't want to leave his friends. Sam and Toni Samson are working out the holiday plans.

Information only for Sam (Unskilled Party):

Although Sam would really like to go to the cabin because the family usually has a lot of fun there, but they are of two minds. They are feeling guilty about not having seen their parents for a couple of years now. Their mother has been sounding depressed when talking on the telephone and Sam is wondering whether she is ill. Asking her about her health on the telephone would not provide Sam with much information, as mother is quite tight lipped about her health. But if Sam could actually see her, they would be in a better position to know if something is wrong, if not from seeing her, at least from hearing from her friends.

Sam knows that when they visit, mother perks up and raises her spirits for several months. Sam likes the children to spend time with their grandparents too because they find out about a different time in history and a different way of life when the grandparents tell them stories about life on the farm before retirement to the city.

The children love the stories and can appreciate the good values of the old days, such as hard work, resilience in the face of nature's erratic ways, and so on. Grandfather is a great storyteller and it amuses the whole family.