

For the Sake of the Children

Wali Abunit has not been healthy recently. Read his conversation with his doctor and find out: What is making him feel so bad?



“Wali, the results of the tests show that your blood pressure is high...too high for a man of your age. What’s wrong?” asks Dr. Netaka.

“I don’t know. Well, you know, I just don’t feel happy. I’m depressed. Is that strange?”

“No, not at all.

Unfortunately, many people are like that. Do you have any idea what’s causing your depression?”

Wali hangs his head and stares at the floor. He is embarrassed. He starts to say something, but stops.

“Hmm,” says his doctor. “I think you know what’s wrong. You can tell me. I won’t tell anyone else, not even your

wife, Fionia.”

“My wife...Fionia. It’s funny that you should mention her name,” says Wali. “Actually, I think my marriage is the problem. Did you know we’ve been married for 15 years? Fifteen long years,” Wali sighs. “Our marriage is terrible. We fight and argue all the time. We can never agree on anything. It’s hard for me to live with her. I guess...I don’t love my wife anymore.”

“What about your two children? Do you love them?” asks Dr. Netaka.

“Yes, very much. And that’s part of the problem. I’m afraid to get a divorce because of

the children. I think Fionia and I will have to stay married for the sake of the children.”

Dr. Netaka thinks about this for a minute and then asks Wali, “Why? Why do you think you have to stay with your wife because of your children?”

“Everyone knows that children suffer when their parents get divorced. I don’t want my children to suffer and be unhappy and confused. And I don’t want to lose them. If I divorce Fionia, she will probably keep the children. I would only be able to see them every now and then. I couldn’t bear that. I would miss them too much.”

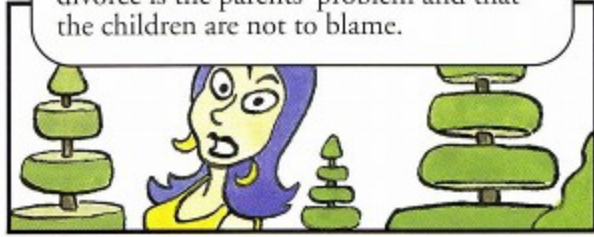
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think about divorce?
Check the opinions you agree with.

Children don't want to see their parents unhappy or fighting all the time. So divorce may help the children, not hurt them.



When parents get divorced, they should explain to their children that the divorce is the parents' problem and that the children are not to blame.



Divorce is wrong. Husbands and wives should try hard to stay together.



With or without children, it doesn't matter. When love ends, the marriage is over.



It's OK to get divorced if you don't have children. But if you do have kids, you should never get divorced.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

TURN TO PAGE 82 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.

LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

In many countries, the divorce rate is getting higher and higher. Is there a way to lower it? Check the ideas you like.

The government gives money as a reward to couples who have been married for a long time.

Divorce is not allowed, except in certain situations, such as terrible mental illness.

The government charges a high tax on divorces.

The government hires marriage counselors to give advice to people.

Couples live together for a few years before they decide to get married.

Couples live together but don't get married.

What are your ideas?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____