

Thursday, March the twenty-ninth

Into the Wild (p. 176)

You were supposed to establish the relationships between the four characters, which was easy. It's a nuclear family! Then, you were supposed to identify the children's reactions to the parents' gift of a new car for Chris. Romance and Valentin suggested that this suggestion triggered Chris's violent reaction. Finally, we could put this information into a table to summarize.

What triggers the reaction	Chris's (ziz) reaction	Carine's (z) reaction
the parent's gift of a car	<p><u>stage directions</u> between <u>parantheses</u> and <u>in italics</u></p> <p>Chris is <u>appalled</u> = disgusted</p> <p>He questions his father : « Why would I want a new car? »</p> <p>He is <i>mocking</i> (stage directions) his parents' Cadillac</p> <p>He is accusing : « Are you worried what the neighbours' reaction? »</p>	
His mother suggests that his car is dangerous.	<p>He goes berserk, repeating « Blow up! » twice and « Thing » three times</p> <p>Finally, he becomes <u>superficial</u>.</p>	<p>Carine <u>jabs</u> Chris's leg under the table to make him be polite.</p> <p>She is <u>conciliatory</u>.</p> <p>She is a <u>peace-maker</u>.</p>

Vocabulary

He accuses his parents of keeping up appearances. to keep up appearances = sauver les

apparences

une gachette = a trigger

déclancher = to trigger (reg verb)

to poke someone with your finger = to jab someone (reg verb)

afternoon lesson :

After watching the scenes from *Into the Wild* again

What (subtle) things can you say about the parents?

They are obviously wealthy. Their clothes, Billie's jewelery and their attitude show this.

well-off.

well-to-do. These are politically correct words for “rich”.

They confirm that “money is no object” when they tell Chris that they can pay for Harvard Law School, the most prestigious and expensive law school in America.

They are obviously strict because Walt reproaches Carine for driving without a permit whereas she hadn't known it was forbidden.

When Chris comes in Walt seems very formal and cold. They don't seem close.

We can see that Walt is expecting conflict. That's why he says “Everything has to be difficult.”

To conclude, we saw that the siblings are closer to each other than to their parents. Carine uses teamwork to pacify her brother and her parents : Chris goes berserk and she is conciliatory.