

5A COMMUNICATIVE Soap opera

The characters

Lizzie



Lizzie Blake is the 44-year-old 'head' of the family. She has several properties she rents out and so she doesn't have to work. She will protect her family at all costs.

Charlie



Charlie Blake is Lizzie's 45-year-old husband. He's being investigated for fraud at the moment. He's only interested in himself and making 'fast' money. He has never worked and was married before.

Alexis



Alexis is Charlie's 21-year-old daughter from a previous marriage. She had a baby at the age of 19 and has always refused to say who her daughter's father is. She has always had a bad relationship with Lizzie. She and Talia live with Lizzie and Charlie. She works as a PA to a fashion designer.

Talia



Talia is Alexis's two-year-old daughter.

Gloria-Mae



Gloria-Mae is Lizzie and Charlie's 18-year-old daughter. She doesn't get on with Alexis. She's studying computing at college and is very attractive. She's engaged to Jackson and is desperate to get married and leave home as soon as possible.

Jackson



Jackson is Gloria-Mae's boyfriend. He lives with her and the rest of her family. He's unemployed, so he volunteered to look after Talia while Alexis is at work. He's engaged to Gloria-Mae but he's not in love with her. He's attracted to Alexis!

Elvis



Elvis is Lizzie and Charlie's 10-year-old son. He's jealous of Talia because he thinks she gets all the attention. He hates Jackson and would like him to leave the house forever.

- Read the information about the characters. Draw a family tree showing the relationship between the people.
- An independent television company is planning to make a one-hour pilot for a soap opera. If it's successful, a series will be made. The TV company wants you to write a plot outline for the pilot, based on the descriptions of the people you've just read about.
The soap opera will begin on Lizzie's 45th birthday. She has organized a big family dinner and she wants everyone to be there. Discuss:
 - the relationship between the people.
 - incidents that might happen before, during, and after the dinner.
- Write notes explaining what happens in the pilot episode.
- Now read out your plan for the episode to the class, and listen to other groups' plans. Which pilot do you think is the best?