



Farzad



Shop keeper

The Shopkeeper

The fucking Nazi's have sprayed slogans all over his shop again, so of course he is upset. No wonder the milk is so expensive as it has to pay for surveillance cameras, panic buttons and the frequent visits of the spray cleaning crew. Prejudice abound, even here. Running a shop wasn't really what he was dreaming of, but at least he owns it and calls the shots for it. He has good connections, and dreams of tying his little business to one of the larger chains some day. That'd make him proud, and, naturally, it is also more safe. His psychologist has told him to part with his own anger and prejudice by integrating himself in the Swedish society — getting some Swedish friends. That's a bit nervous, but an obvious good idea. But where to start? And does it have to involve drinking the schnapps?

Macro: integration

Micro:

Relations to other Characters

Tobias: thinks he is my friend just because he greets me on the path

Emma: pretty and nice

Sara: poor girl with the mother and all that

Martin: smart guy, generous, maybe a guy you could talk to

Dad: fuck no!

Step dad: ain't getting how he can be with that woman, and why the other man sticks around

Mum: looney lady

Fia: respect – not many Swedish people are very spiritual

Grandma: wonder if she is still alive, she was a good person

Moa: my first Swedish lay

Patrik: why does he need to have a cabin here of all places?

Farzad

Came to Sweden in the 70's, when Iran went down the shitter and the fundamentalists took over. In Sweden, he was able to build a new home with his engineering background. Farzad is a happy-go-lucky kind-a-guy that knows to appreciate life. He still cannot understand that he could win the Heart of Marianne and marry a blonde-haired Swedish woman. Even now, he sometimes has trouble believing it. He hears from his parents less and less, and he understands that they are old and bad, but if he went back, he would probably not be able to get out. Swedish citizen or not. His best friend is Marianne's ex-husband Gunnar. They go fishing, talk about life and Farzad brags how nice it is to work 20-hour weeks just before pension.

Macro: relation to parents in Iran

Micro:

Relations to other Characters

Tobias & Emma: a good couple, they need each other — but don't forget Sara!

Sara: destined for greatness, believe you me!

Martin: my baby's son, and a good man too

Dad: my best friend, we fish and shoot the bullshit

Mum: my baby, my love, my spice in life

Fia: the most peculiar person ever to become a priest — a clergyman needs

to be strong and tough

Kajsa: probably good for Martin

Grandma: I'd like to meet her again before she dies

Patrik: Martin's best friend — always welcome in our house

Shopkeeper: carries a lot of anger, rough around the edges, but I like him



Emma



Fia

Fia

Fia lives next-door to Engström in her parents’ summer cottage in the archipelago. She is closing in on 35. So far, her plan was a live with God, but recently, she’s gotten cold feet. Her faith is vaning, and she’s taken a break in her priest studies. She has moved to the Island on a permanent basis and only goes into town for lectures, if even that. She hopes to use this new-found time to finish off that thesis that’s been going on forever, and see if she and God can make up.

Macro: relation to God & religion
Micro:

Relations to other Characters

- Emma: she was my best friend when we were little
- Shopkeeper: living out here is expensive
- Mum: a strong and independent woman
- Martin: we played doctor behind our old house when we were little
- Grandma: helped her in her grieving her husband a few years back
- Mårten: my “first” at the confirmation camp
- Dad: I want to be free from prejudice, nice with long walks, religious discussions, the source of my doubt
- Sara: she can talk to me in confidence
- Step dad: we have a lot to learn from other cultures
- Tobias: I buried his grandfather during priest practice

Emma

Studies religion at the university. That’s nothing that will land her a job, but religion isn’t everything she knows. She makes dresses on the side, plays in a band, and is working on a collection of poems. It is hard to find time for all of this, though, when you have a thesis to write. So many things that need doing that nothing gets done. Emma lives with Tobias and his daughter Sara. Laila, Sara’s mother is dead and it is hard to know how to handle that. What should you expect from a teenage daughter that’s not your own. How long until the inevitable “you’re not my mother!”? One should live one day after another, but that’s not Emma’s forte. She wants to plan, make lists that are so long that she end up hiding them so she wont panic over everything that needs doing. Thank god they have an Xbox.

Macro: the identity as a mother & living in Laila’s shadow
Micro:

Relations to other Characters

- Tobias: this might be it — the lasting one
- Sara: my step daugther, but if I used that word, I’d get hell for it
- Martin: my brother — he is what he is
- Mårten: the friend Tobias keeps bragging about
- Step dad: my real father. He is great — but I’m afraid I am more like my mother
- Mum: I just wish she would relax — she embarrasses me
- Dad: never could get along with him
- Kajsa: Martin’s new victim — let see how this one goes
- Grandma: wonderful, but takes too much of Tobias’ time
- Moa: I’ll tell her a thing or two one of these days
- Linda: good for Sara — I like that she didn’t know Laila
- Shopkeeper: he looks at me in a weird way
- Gabriella: Sara’s favourite, grr

Gabriella



Kajsa



Kajsa

Kajsa is friends with Moa and Tobias and is currently dating Martin. She is frisky yet down-to-earth that studies psychology at the uni. She has a complicated relation to her mother who goes in and out of different mental homes. Is trying to build a security based on her own independance. Hopes to “find” her mother some day.

Macro: relation to Martin

Micro:

Relation to other Characters

Tobias: like an older brother
Emma: we try to get along, but we sort of fight for the same space
Sara: I can relate
Martin: not sure what will become of this
Mårten: I’m keeping the door open for working outside of Sweden
Granda: sort of an extra mother for me

Dad: Martin’s dad seems like a great guy, but they seem very different
Mum: I am not interested of being the mother of my partner
Step dad: I’m surprised at how well their relationship seems to work (for the three of them)
Moa: a late-in-life best friend to whom I can reveal all

Gabriella

Gabriella is the project leader for Martin and Tobias at InTech. She is a little younger than both of them, but much more focussed. Gabriella has sort of “made it” — she makes a good dime, has a lot of friends, no problem finding good one-night-stands and is happ about her work and her looks. But deep down is this feeling of having bet it all on the wrong horse. Maybe this wasn’t what it was about after all.

Macro: sacrifice everything for your career

Micro:

Relation to other Characters

Emma: she doesn’t get how good her life is
Shopkeeper: foreign men are a bit too possessive
Martin: come on, pop the fucking question!
Moa: what did the kiss in the elevator mean? (fuck I was drunk!)

Grandma: who will take care of me when I grow old
Mårten: if he hadn’t emigrated, we could have turned into something
Dad: Martin has a cool dad
Sara: I’d like one of those
Tobias: if I just had had a child when he did, the chores would be over by now



Linda



Mumrienne

Marianne, the Mum

Marianne was born '47 and is 61 this year. But she says she doesn't feel a day over 20. And does her best to behave accordingly. Sadly, Farzad gives her free reign. Marianne dreams of buying a motorbike, dying her hair, hiking trails in mountains. She wants to go dancing. She wants to sing karaoke with her son Martin. Marianne is a doctor in an emergency ward and works strange dates and hours. Three days of crazy-ass workloads followed by two days leave. Your hands hurt, and your head, and if it wasn't for the fact that she was a doctor, she would have strongly suspected that there was something wrong with her. But she knows what stress can do to a body. And surely she would be her own best diagnostician?

Macro: the difference between who you are and who you want to be

Micro:

Relation to other Characters

Martin: my son – look how old he has become!

Dad: a soulmate, still

Step dad: my new man, a touch of exotism in the archipelago, and a great support for me

Emma: my daughter that I suspect favours her father over me

Kajsa: Martin's new GF — seems nice

Patrik: if he was just a couple years younger (just joking!)

Tobias: Martin's oldest friend — a welcome face

Linda

Linda's parents suck for sure. They only care about Linda's parents and that's all there is to it. But that's hard to understand when you are 14 and have no clue how it SHOULD be. Of course you have some kind of clue about how other people have it, but then there is the public face and what happens behind the curtains, Linda is not too stupid to get that. Linda loves being around people — then her parents need to pretend to be good, which gives Linda an opportunity to pretend too. Pretend that they really care. That it is like this always.

Linda is going to run away any day now. And when she does, she'll come to Sara. After all, they are best friends. And Sara is good. She is stable, and secure, even though she is even worse off than Linda — having no mother at all.

Macro: the relation to her parents

Micro:

Relation to other Characters

Tobias & Emma: I wish THEY were my parents

Sara: my best friend

Martin: a cool dude, and friends with Tobias



Martin



Mårten

Mårten

Mårten was the one they thought would succeed. If they had invented Facebook 20 years before, he would have been in the top five of that list. And most desirable for dating. And smartest. And having dinner with. But he couldn't really get that himself. He just felt the pressure. So he went abroad. That's how you make the big bucks. But Silicon Valley wasn't like back home, and in a bad way. He was crippled by anxiety, failed at work and ended up being fired and going home, head hanging low. He lived for six years with his aunt in a shitty little town before he felt that he could return to the city. He moved back into his old studio apartment and tried to rebuild his life. Find his friends one by one, and make graphs on the back wall of the lies he'd told, and who could possibly have told what to whom so that he would be able to pose as what they expected of him.

Macro: my self-image and others' image of me
Micro:

Relation to other Characters

- Tobias: my oldest friend, but I have a hard time letting him back into my life

Emma: met at a party at some point

Sare: Tobias' kid with Laila who died; seems to have survived

Martin: seems to have taken Tobias' place in my life

Gabriella: she stuck around — and made it!
- Fia: my first love

Kajsa: friend of Tobias; dating Martin

Grandma: someone to talk to

Moa: she keeps my secret — and doesn't care

Linda: her parents are idiot already when we were in highschool

Partik: I could have told you that that idiot would be a cop some day

Martin

Martin is closing on on 35. He works at InTech and has recently gotten involved with Kajsa. Martin's parents have been divorced most of his life. Martin's mother later remarried an Iranian immigrant. Just a year back, Martin's father came out of the closet. Martin likes using his parent's cottage in the archipelago and often takes his friends there. Despite his gradually increasing responsibilities at work, he isn't really happy there. But that's a secret. Martin also has trouble holding on to women. He feels he is leading a life that isn't his. His main weakness is not taking responsibility for his own life. He is not sure what he wants and have trouble with committment.

Macro: the relation to his parents
Micro:

Relationer til andre roller

- Tobias: old colleague and nowadays brother-in-law

Emma: half-sister, same mum, different dads

Sara: my sort-a niece

Gabriella: colleague that i fucked around with for a while but it never got serious; my current boss

Grandma: Tobias' really got a special grandma — amazing

Dad: I really don't know what to think about Dad'd new identity — surreal

Mum: I'm afraid she'll grow old and that I will have to take care of her
- Step dad: Farzad is a great guy who was good for me when I was growing up

Shopkeeper: fucking expensive!

Patrik: my best friend, and Tuesday squach partner

Moa: Kajsa's best friend and my colleague — I find myself jealous of her, or wanting to fuck her, off an on

Fia: neighbour in the cottage in the archipelago, played doctor as kids



Moa



Grandma

Grandma

She is old and bad, but it's been like that for so long that it isn't the defining trait. They all know it sucks for her. They help out as much as they can, but talking about it really doesn't do anything for anyone. At least her mind is still sharp as a razor. She complains about other seniors, that they are so full of prejudice and so reluctant to change. She is curious about life outside of this apartment that she has a hard time leaving without help. Reduced to a spectator, life still counts. She is a support for many people in many ways. A living proof that growing old and bad doesn't necessarily break you down and make you bitter. She listens and gives the answers. She has the perspectives on things. No one questions this ability. And now, she is cleaning out her own apartment piece by piece to make it easier for Tobias when that day comes.

Macro: crappy health
Micro:

Relations to other Characters

Tobias: my only grandchild has grown up to be a clever and good person	Mårten: I remember him when he was 10
Emma: if Tobias loves her, that is good enough for me	Fia: I DID ask her to not mention God that much
Sara: wonderful, but sometimes she is too quick for me; cannot keep up for long	Kajsa: I just hope Martin doesn't hurt her
Martin: almost like a second grand child — he's been around for a long time now	Gabriella: spoiled!

Moa

Moa works with user interface design at InTech. Gabriella usually uses her as a specialist in her projects when she is needed. By way of Tobias, Moa has gotten to know Kajsa, her new best friend. Moa lives in a collective. She sees herself as polyamorous and bisexual. Moa takes things easy. That's what makes her so attractive. She has a hard time dealing with situations where she must make important decisions. She is happy about her relations and her freedom, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to live in a collective and not being able to focus on a single partner (or get that focus back). It really should be possible to separate love and sex, but it really is DAMN HARD!

Macro: adapting your dreams to reality
Micro:

Relations to other Characters

Emma: pity she is taken	Mårten: we fuck around when he is back from the states
Gabriella: I want to get to know her better	Dad: more power to people who come out!
Kajsa: I am her big support	Patrik: some guys are just too much
Martin: I bet he is jealous of me	Sara: she might become something great
Grandma: I'd like to grow old with dignity too!	Tobias: a stable friend to have close by



Gunnar



Patrik

Patrik

Martin's friend, and nextdoor neighbor back in town. Cop since two years who greams of garden parties with the neighbors, a less violent patrol district and of doing UN service in Iraque. Plays squash with Martin on Tuesdays. The reality as a police officer doesn't live up to his expectations, nor his sense of morality. His heart is too big for this world.

Macro: his view of the law as equal for all

Micro:

Relations to other Characters

Emma: Vennens søster er altid off-limits
Grønthandlarn: Hans priser burde være ulovlige

Martin: Min bedste ven, vil altid være der
Kajsa: Jeg håber Martin klare at holde fast i det

Gunnar, the Dad

When Gunnar grew up, he had this hope of being cured. He did everything to win the heart of Marianne and finally succeeded by ripping his shirt off and dancing on the tables at some party a hundred years ago. But it didn't cure him. Instead, he was blessed with a son. But not cured. So he left. Because he was afraid of what he would do to Martin. Simply, he was brainwashed. That's all there is to it. Jesus didn't love the fags back then.

Coming out was not simple. Especially when you're 58 and have pretended to be someone else for your entire life. How does one change? How do you start over?

He would like to sell his part of the cottage, quit his job and move to Spain or something, but it is hard. There is a lot that keeps him put. But when will he have time for his own life? And isn't it bad to prioritize that over that of others?

Macro: the identity as a homosexual

Micro:

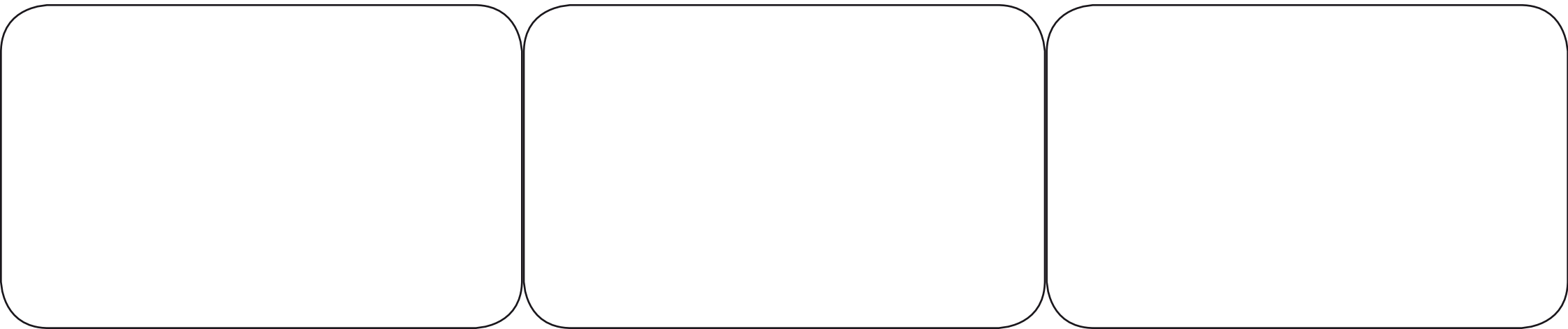
Relations to other Characters

Tobias: wishes Martin was a little bit more like him;
grandchildren would be fun, but another anchor

Emma: a step up from Laila, no sweat
Sara: the grandchild I'd love to have
Martin: the son I let down

Step dad: my best friend, crazy enough
Mum: my second-best friend, crazy enough

Fia: someone to talk to about my faith
Kajsa: Martins new girl, for a day or two
Moa & Gabriella: Martin's just had too many exes





Sara



Tobias

Tobias

There are only 24 hours in a day, but in those hours, you should work, court your girl, raise your daughter and call your Grandma. You should shop, clean, attend the teleconferences and make sure Sara's cell phone plan is on a positive balance. Suddently, he finds himself thinking that it is 2001. The last 6 years have just whizzed past.

The only sane way of dealing with an insane schedule is routine. But the backside is that all days all look the same and you feel that you never make anything of them. And there is no undo button, and you cannot save between the levels. You're fucked. And if you are like Tobias, you're not even hoping for extra life.

Macro: the identity as the head of the family supposed to take care of everyone
Micro:

Relations to other Characters

Gabriella: a good project leader that works a bit too much — good looking	Dad: not one day too soon!
Emma: the best thing that ever happened to me — I mustn't blow this one	Mum: God...
Sara: she feels like a walking time-bomb	Fia: creepy that the is a priest — I get into some weird defensive position
Martin: my best friend, but not the opposite?	Kajsa: don't blow this Martin
Mårten: a winner	Moa: user interfaces is crap
Step dad: I wish I could be like Farzad — wise, and a lot of time on my hands	Linda: seems like a good girl
	Patrik: I'm jealous on his friendship with Martin
	Shopkeeper: nice dude, that I greet on the path

Sara

I'm OK. OK, so not OK OK. But there is not crisis. You get used to most things. Including the sudden death of one's mother. Crazy.

I guess, as time goes by, that I'll get used to someone else taking her place too. Whatever that means. That and puberty.

Emma is good, but don't force me to admit that to myself just yet. I have to give me time. Lying in bed in the evenings, talking to my mother. Slowly warming her up to letting her know she's being replaced. That has to be done gradually.

Dad work's too much. But maybe it is his way of coping. On the other hand, I have a boat load of surrogate parents there for me. Martin, Kajsa and Gabriella. Less so now with Emma. And maybe that's the thing.

Macro: the relation to her parents
Micro:

Relations to other Characters

Tobias: darling Dad, hated Dad	Mum: she is crazy fun!
Emma: mostly good, but hard to live with that	Fia: she'll be my confirmation priest, if Dad lets me
Gabriella: I was sorta hoping that she and Dad...	Grandma: she is really clever, but it is hard seeing her because she suffers so much
Martin: good guy, but unreliable	Linda: I wish she was my sister
Mårten: Dad keeps talking about him, but I don't remember him	Shopkeeper: he was nice to me when I was a kid
Dad: Martin's dad, like an extra grandad	
Step dad: Like an extra grandad	



Spot



InTech

InTech

The company is going bad, and to battle that management has employed a competence consultant. This person is never in the game, but this gives something to focus on at InTech. They who are doing great have nothing to fear — maybe they even think it is positive — but for others it can be very stressful to be monitored and evaluated. People walk around the corridors wondering when it is their time to be called to a “conversation” with the consultant. Having their productivity assessed. And the value they bring to the company. This work-related stress naturally rubs off on the scenes in the homes.

Macro: the bad business, restructuring, negotiations

Relations to Characters

Tobias works there as a programmer
Martin works there as a programmer
Mårten worked there for a bit before leaving for the states

Gabriella is the project manager for the group where Tobias and Martin work
Moa works there half-time with graphical user interfaces

Spot

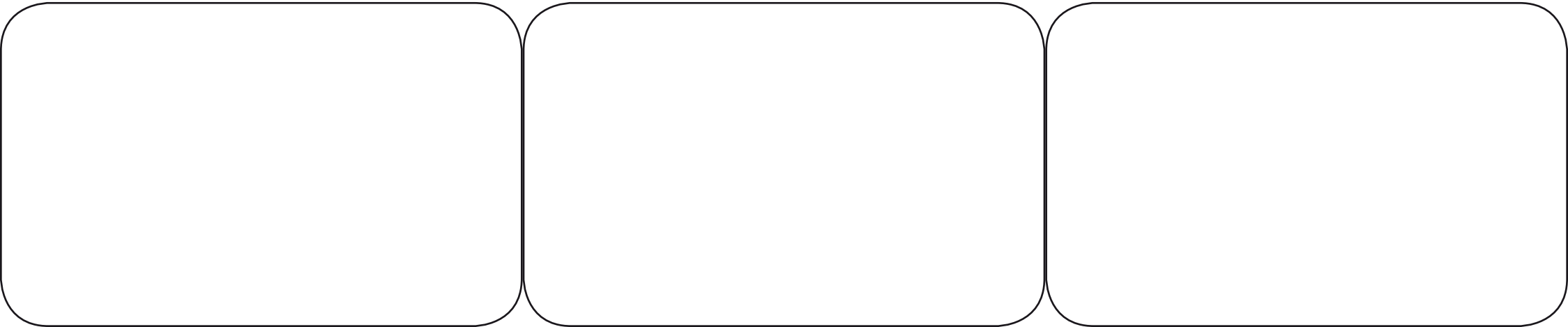
Sara’s dog, Spot, has gone missing. Tobias, Emma and Sara will have to go look for the dog, which is a good opportunity to introduce other characters like Patrik and Fia, or why not call Martin, Kajsa and all the friends and form a search party. The dog went missing in their back yard, so it is likely that someone took him. But don’t say that so Sara hears it.

§ Spot won’t enter into the game until the game master goes and get him.

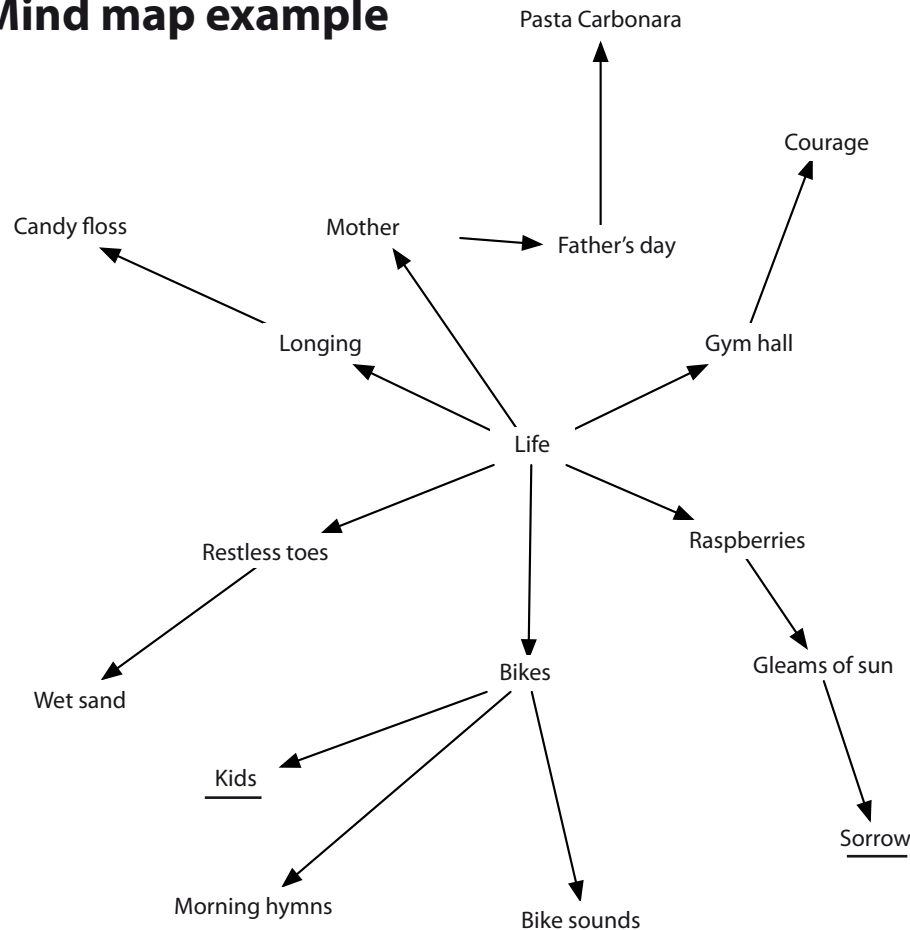
Macro: why isn’t anyone calling to say where he is — is he dead?

Relations to Characters

Tobias “Dad”
Sara “Mum”



Mind map example



Take the chance to reveal something about yourself that no-one knows (did we all get this card?)

Life is a tragedy — let that shine through

Life is about procreation — make sure Linda and Sara's stories are told

Life is a miracle — don't lose sight of that

Life is not a story — it does not have to "make sense"

Life most certainly isn't a freak accident — there is a bigger purpose

Recently had a big success (with something)

Drinks too much

***Is starting to get really good at internet poker
(is reeling in the "big bucks")***

***Things that s/he is a diabetic, but doesn't dare
to go to the doctor***

***Is madly in love — feels great! (in whom, is it
mutual?)***

Some economic troubles

***Unfinished bad business with other character
(what?)***

Trouble getting out of bed in the morning

Trouble at work (what?)

***Ashamed over gray and white hairs (that may
be stress- or age-related)***

***Feels locked in in life — wants to do something
else but cannot***