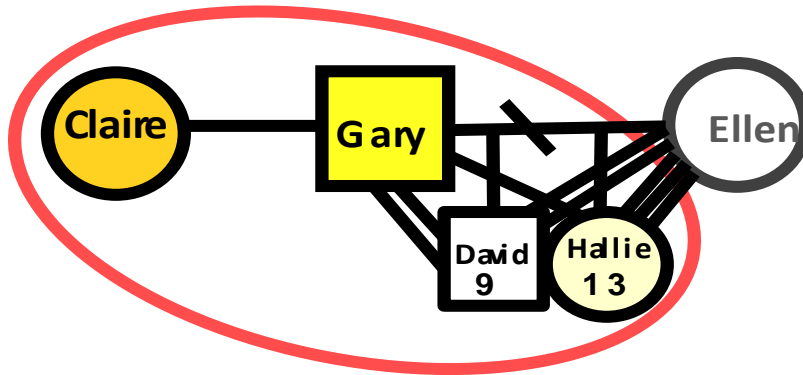


## [Handout # 3]

## Gary and Claire



1. **Claire:** When your kids are here, it's like I'm *invisible*. You give them your *total* attention. It's like I don't even exist.
2. **Gary:** But, they're my kids! What do you expect!
3. **Claire:** Your daughter treats me like a piece of furniture, if that. She doesn't even say hello to me and you don't do anything about it! How do you expect me to feel!
4. **Gary:** I just think you're being over-sensitive.
5. **Claire:** I'm not over-sensitive. I'm just human! And I'm your wife!!
6. **Gary:** How many times have I said, *Don't make me choose!*
7. **Claire:** Right. So you think it's OK that when you and I are sitting on the couch, Hallie comes and sits *right between us*. She's being a manipulative brat and you do nothing!
8. **Gary:** You just don't understand! That's just how kids are!
9. **Claire:** There you go again. You're always defending *them!*
10. **Gary:** I think you just want them to be little robots. They're *kids*, honey.
11. **Claire:** But you don't even ask them to clear the table.
12. **Gary:** But Claire, they're just here for a weekend!
13. **Claire:** (Starting to cry) See, we can't talk about anything without you getting defensive.
14. **Gary** (slumping in his chair): See, we can't talk about anything without Claire getting upset!