Obedience or Choice (Textbook page 128)

Garret (*message in a Bottle*)

*A. Read the passage and find the information.*

1- Where does Garrett live? How far is it from Boston, where Theresa lives? Look up both towns on the Internet.

*Garrett lives in Wilmington. Wilmington is in North Carolina. The towns are 820 miles apart.*

2- Why haven’t Theresa and Garrett talked about the problem they are facing?

*They do not want to have to talk about having to make a choice which is likely to be painful.*

3- Which sentence summarises the problem they are facing?

*“One of them was going to have to change his or her life dramatically.”*

4- What is Garrett’s job? Can you imagine why it would be difficult for him to change jobs?

*He is the manager of his own business (“He had his own business”). This means that if he moved, he would have to sell his business or hire someone to replace him. If he decided to sell, he might not be able to find another business in Boston. Hiring someone to replace him is not a good solution either.*

5- Compare and contrast Wilmington and Boston. Why would living in Boston be a big change for Garrett?

*Wilmington is a small coastal town in North Carolina (100,000 inhabitants). Boston is the capital of and largest city in Massachusetts (600,000 inhabitants for Boston itself, 4.5 million for greater Boston). Garrett would have to adapt to living in a much bigger city (find a new home, make new friends, build new relationships). He would have to start everything over again when in fact, in his home town, he is living the perfect life he has always imagined living.*

6- What consequences could his decision have for his family?

*Garrett has a father who is getting old and who has no one to take care of him. If Garrett moved it might have serious effects on his father’s hopes of having someone to take care of him in his old age.*

7- What does Garrett think will happen if Theresa decides to move? Can you imagine the consequences this decision could have for their relationship?

*Garrett is afraid that if Theresa decides to move, she will resent him for having to sacrifice her career and her son’s happiness for their love. Their relationship might not survive the strain and they might end up separating.*

8- Can you explain now why Garrett refuses to think about it?

He refuses to think about it because, whatever choice they make, they are not going to be happy.