Obedience or Choice (Textbook page 128)

Theresa (*Message in a Bottle*)

*Read the passage and find the information.*

1- Where does Theresa live? How far is it from Wilmington? Look up both towns on the internet.

*Theresa lives in Boston whereas Garret lives in Wilmington, North Carolina. The towns are 820 miles* *apart.*

2- Compare and contrast Wilmington and Boston.

Why would living in Wilmington be a big change for Theresa?

*Wilmington is a small town in North Carolina (100,000 inhabitants). Boston is the capital of and the largest city in Massachusetts (600,000 inhabitants for Boston itself, 4.5 million for greater Boston). Theresa would have to adapt to living in a much smaller town (find a new home, make new friends, build new relationships...).*

3- Would Theresa’s family mind if she moved?

What impact would her decision have on her relationship with her friends?

*Her parents would probably not mind as they live “elsewhere”, but her son would be very much affected by the move because he goes to a school he likes. Theresa also has “a network of friends she would have to leave.” She would probably lose them all and would have to make new ones in a town where no one knows her.*

4- What is Theresa’s job? Why would it be very difficult for her to change jobs?

What does the word “blossoming” suggest?

*She is a journalist working for a major newspaper. She has worked hard to get where she is (“She’d worked hard to get where she was, and if she left Boston, she’d probably have to give it up”). The word “blossoming” suggests that she has still not reached the peak of her career. Leaving Boston would mean that she would have to give up all her dreams of promotion.*

5- What does Garrett think/fear Theresa will feel if she decides to follow him to Wilmington?

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.*