



THE GAMBLE

– EXTRA

Level 3

This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least three years and up to four years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level B1. Suitable for users of TEAM magazine.

SYNOPSIS

Ryan Atwood is sixteen. A good kid with a troubled family background, Ryan is on probation, living with his attorney, Sandy Cohen, and his wife, Kirsten. He strikes up an unlikely friendship with their son, Seth.

When Sandy arranges for Ryan to go to a group home, Seth helps Ryan run away and camp out in an unfinished model home. Seth and Ryan are spotted by the girl next door, Marissa, who is let in on the secret. Marissa thinks her dad is in trouble and confides in Ryan. Marissa and Ryan's secrets bring the two close.

Suspicious, Marissa's boyfriend, Luke, and his friends follow Marissa to the model home and pick a fight with Ryan. During the fight, a fire is started. The model home burns down and Luke and Ryan are arrested.

Luke is quickly released and Kirsten, concerned about Ryan's safety, brings him home from Juvie. Ryan hopes he can now stay with the Cohens, but has a shock when his mom shows up. Dawn wants to start over, but at Vegas Night she gets very drunk and leaves without saying goodbye. The Cohens become Ryan's guardians and things are looking up.

Seth is delighted when Summer Roberts reluctantly agrees to be his partner at the debutante ball. On the night of the ball, however, Summer dumps him, and Seth dances with Anna, a new girl from Pittsburg.

Jealous of Marissa's friendship with Ryan, Luke splits up with Marissa. Ryan steps in to take his place for the first dance. Everyone is happy – until a fight starts between Marissa's dad, Jimmy, and a neighbour. Jimmy is knocked unconscious. Marissa is upset and leaves the ball – the evening has been ruined.

THE BACK STORY

The OC was first shown on TV in August 2003 and ran for four series. The glamorous lifestyle and characters, compelling storylines and great music made it a big hit with teenagers.

The show centres on the idea of a poor kid with a troubled background living in a very rich town, full of rich kids. The storylines deal with teenage issues of love, self-esteem and peer pressure.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: Series 1–3 of *The OC* are currently available on DVD. *The Gamble* is based on episodes 2–4 of the first series.

CD: A recording of *The Gamble* is available to accompany the Scholastic reader.

Internet: Find out more about the series at www.fox.com/oc.

Books: This reader is the second of three Scholastic readers on *The OC*. Also available are: *The OC: The Outsider* (level 2) and *The OC: The Misfits* (level 3).

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Have they heard of *The OC*? How many students have seen it? Do they want to read *The Gamble*? If not, choose another book! Read 'The story so far' section with the whole class. Discuss what they think will happen in this book.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and extra activities from this resource sheet to go with each section of reading. (All answers on page 4.)

Using the DVD

Try to get the English language version DVD of the first series of *The OC*. *The Gamble* is the story shown in Episodes 2–4 of the series. Show it in chunks of five to ten minutes in parallel with the class reading schedule. Alternatively, show the whole programme after students have finished the book, as a reward. (See ideas on page 4.)

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills.

Glossary

Go to 'New Words' at the end of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions used in *The Gamble* (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource). Put them into context. Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Book exercises

Show students the Self-Study Activities on pages 54–56. These are divided into sections. They complete some exercises before they read a section, and some after.

Feedback

Have class feedback sessions each week. Talk and ask about the story so far. Get students to ask each other questions.

Fact Files

After the story, there are three Fact Files. Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. (See ideas on page 4.)

What did they think?

Get everyone to do a written or verbal review of *The Gamble*. Compare opinions. Did you like it? Let us know at: readers@link2English.com.



THE GAMBLE - EXTRA

People and places

1 Who ...

- a) is an attorney? *sandy*
- b) is worried about her dad?
- c) didn't want Ryan to stay?
- d) is Marissa's best friend?
- e) is having trouble at work?
- f) has more than one girlfriend?
- g) is not a very good mom?
- h) has just arrived in Newport?

Chapter 1: Seth's plan

1 Order the events.

- a) Marissa drives Ryan and Seth to the model home. ☐
- b) Seth tells Ryan he has a plan. ☐
- c) Marissa tells Ryan she is worried about her dad. ☐
- d) Luke phones Marissa. ☐
- e) Ryan decides to run away. ☒
- f) Ryan tells Marissa his mom has disappeared. ☐
- g) Ryan meets Marissa while he's waiting for Seth. ☐
- h) Summer phones Marissa. ☐

2 Use these words to complete the questions.

Where ~~Who~~ Why What kind How long

- a) *Who* came to Marissa's house to see her dad?
- b) did Marissa go after she left the model home?
- c) can't Ryan phone his dad?
- d) have Marissa and Luke been together?
- e) of music do Seth and Marissa like?

Now answer the questions.

Chapter 2: The fight

1 Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

acting asks buys ~~go~~ going have knows look

- a) Seth, Ryan and Marissa *go* down to the pier on their bikes.
- b) Ryan is thinking about to Austin.

- c) Ryan he can't stay in the model home forever.
- d) Seth and Ryan a fight with Luke in the diner.
- e) Jimmy Kirsten for money.
- f) Seth a bus ticket for Ryan on the Internet.
- g) Seth and Sandy for Ryan.
- h) Summer tells Marissa that she has been strangely.

Chapter 3: The fire

1 Answer the questions.

- a) Did Marissa tell Summer about Ryan?
- b) Why did Marissa leave Holly's party?
- c) Why didn't Ryan kiss Marissa?
- d) Who followed Marissa to the model home?
- e) Why did Seth pretend to look for Ryan?
- f) How did the fire in the model home start?
- g) Did Luke leave Ryan upstairs?
- h) Who said the fire was his fault?
- i) What happened when Ryan and Luke went back to the Cohens?

Chapter 4: A surprise visitor

1 What do you think?

- a) Will Ryan stay with the Cohens?
- b) Does Ryan really believe Luke is good for Marissa?
- c) Why doesn't Julie like Ryan?
- d) Why is Ryan angry that the Newpsies ignore him?
- e) Who does Marissa want to be with – Ryan or Luke?
- f) Will Dawn change?

Chapter 5: Vegas Night

1 At Vegas night, who ...

- a) isn't talking to his wife? *Jimmy*
- b) gets very drunk?
- c) spends the evening with Summer?
- d) can't remember Seth's name?
- e) lies?
- f) plays blackjack?
- g) kisses Marissa?
- h) leaves early?

Chapter 6: 'Two handsome young men ...'

1 Order the events.

- a) Ryan tells Marissa he's staying. ☐
- b) Summer tells Marissa she wants to dance with Ryan. ☐
- c) Sandy and Kirsten become Ryan's guardians. ☒
- d) Luke tells Ryan to stay away from Marissa. ☐
- e) Kirsten, Seth and Ryan go to the Country Club. ☐
- f) Ryan tries on a tuxedo. ☐

Chapter 7: Dancing, not fighting

1 Are the sentences true or false?

- Ryan loves dancing.
- Marissa asks Ryan to dance with Summer.
- Marissa tries to teach Ryan how to dance.
- Ryan wants to go to Holly's party.
- At the party, Marissa starts talking to Ryan.
- Seth hits Luke.

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2 Answer the questions.

- Why isn't Summer happy?
- Why is Seth happy?
- Why does Seth want to go to Holly's party?
- Why does Luke hit Ryan?
- Why doesn't Ryan hit Luke?

Chapter 8: Dance partners

1 Complete the sentences with the names of the characters.

Anna ~~Julie~~ Luke Marissa Ryan Seth

- Marissa tells *Julie* that she had a fight with Luke.
- Julie thinks Marissa's future isn't safe with
- Ryan tells that he's not going to Cotillion.
- Ryan knows that is cheating on Marissa.
- Seth thinks looks amazing in her Cotillion dress.
- Ryan becomes 's dance partner.

2 Talk to a partner.

- Which of the young people in *The Gamble* do you most like?
- Which of the young people is most similar to you?

Chapter 9: The debutante dance

1 Who says or thinks these things?

- 'Will things ever be the same again?' *Marissa*
- 'I'm going sailing for the rest of the summer ... to Tahiti.'
- 'Be a man!'
- 'Listen, you can be my partner again.'
- 'Maybe some day we can be more than just friends.'
- 'Sorry, I've already got a partner.'
- 'Why won't you talk to me?'

FINAL TASKS

1 Writing. Choose one of the characters from the story. Write a page of their diary for the days just before the debutante ball.

2 Speaking. Work in pairs. Choose one of the photos in the book. Describe what is happening. Say why it's important in the story and what happens before and after.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Complete the gaps with words from the 'New Words' list.

- 'How many are there on your birthday cake?'
'Sixteen, and I'm going to blow them all out!'
- Oxfam is a that helps poor people in many different countries.
- We're going camping. There aren't any beds so you need to bring a
- He was when he fell off his skateboard in front of the girls. His face went very red.
- The police officer followed the men because they looked She thought they were criminals.
- Jim fell and hit his head. He lay on the floor.

2 There are mistakes in each of these sentences. Correct with words from the 'New Words' list.

- The man ~~hummed~~ *hugged* his wife goodbye at the airport.
- 'Is there anywhere to eat at the beach?'
'Yes, there's a door at the end of the pier.'
- We went to see a musical at the theatre. We were scary to see an old friend was one of the actors!
- James had a lot of alcohol and got drunk at the party.
- She was very angry and she glasses at them, but they didn't notice.

CASUAL LANGUAGE

- 'geek' This means an uncool person – someone different from the others. The Newport kids thinks Seth's a geek. (See pages 6, 15 and 16.)
- '(Yeah,) right' 'Right' can mean 'OK'. (See pages 31, 38, 41, 44 and 50.) The expression *Yeah, right!* is used when someone doesn't believe something that someone else is saying, e.g. on page 7, Seth doesn't believe Sandy when he says he can find Ryan a home with another family. (See also pages 29, 30, 42 and 44.)
- 'dude' This is a typical American English expression, and means 'guy' or 'man' (See pages 6, 8, 18, 20 and 38.)
- 'What's up?' This means 'What's the matter?' or 'What's the problem?' (See pages 17, 18, 21 and 29.)

Complete the sentences with the casual language.

- A: It's time to go.
B:, I'm coming.
- A: I'm not in love with Summer.
B: Yeah, That's why you watch her all the time!
- 'Hey,, do you want to try this new PlayStation?
- He's really strange. All the kids think he's a
- A: ?
B: Nothing, I'm fine.

ON SET WITH *THE OC* (pages 56–7)

Quiz

The whole class reads the Fact File. In pairs, students prepare 5–10 questions about the information, for example: *Who plays Luke in the series? Where is The OC filmed? How long does it take to film an episode of The OC?* Put pairs together to make small groups and quiz each other.

MISCHA BARTON (pages 58–9)

Interview

The students work in pairs. One student is a journalist and the other is Mischa Barton. The students prepare questions and answers, based on the information in the Fact File. Example questions could be: *Why do you think Marissa is attracted to Ryan? Are you similar to Marissa in any way?* Journalists carry out their interviews.

DEBUTANTE BALLS (pages 60–1)

Discussion

Write the phrase ‘coming of age’ on the board. Explain that debutante balls and the *quinceañera* are different ways of celebrating the coming of age. Point out that in different countries the official age of becoming an adult varies and that different cultures celebrate it in different ways. Divide the class into small groups. Each group discusses what age they think is appropriate to celebrate becoming an adult. They plan their ideal coming of age celebration. Ask groups to share their opinions with the whole class.

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

If you plan to show the programmes in class, watch them yourself first to check they are suitable for your class. Identify good places to pause. The dialogue is fast and slangy with American accents so students shouldn’t be disheartened if they find it difficult to follow at first.

What happens next?

Freeze-frame a scene just before a dramatic moment. Students say what is about to happen and what has just happened.

What are they saying?

When students are familiar with the story, choose a dramatic scene (e.g. Holly’s party). Play the scene without sound. Ask students to suggest what the characters are saying. Then students work in pairs or small groups and write the dialogue for the scene and then act it out. Finally the whole class watches the scene with sound. Compare the original dialogue with students’ dialogues.

TV series versus the book

Sometimes the book version is slightly different from the TV programme – ask students to identify and discuss the differences.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 54–56)

- 1 a) got drunk b) probation c) water polo d) cheating on e) attorney f) guardian
- 2 a) stunned b) diner c) suspicious d) pier e) embarrassed
- 4 a) Trey b) Sandy c) Seth d) Marissa e) Ryan f) Jimmy g) Summer h) Ryan i) Luke j) Seth
- 5 a) ignored b) glared c) handcuffed d) hugged
- 6 a) ii, b) iv, c) i, d) v, e) iii

- 8 a) True b) False. Luke pulls Ryan out of the model home. c) False. After the fire Ryan and Luke go to the Cohens’ house. d) True e) False. She isn’t friendly. f) False. Ryan is angry when he sees his mom again. g) False. They aren’t together now. h) True
- 10 a) ballroom, tuxedos b) musical c) jealous d) stands up to e) society f) gamble
- 12 a) She wants to go to Cotillion with Ryan. b) Marissa chooses Summer for Seth and Anna for Ryan. c) Seth wants to go so he can speak to Summer. Ryan doesn’t want to go because he doesn’t want any trouble. d) Luke hits Ryan, but Ryan doesn’t fight back. e) Because he is from a rich family and he can take care of Marissa. f) Because they realise they can’t hide at home forever. g) She tells him that girls like boys who are confident. h) Yes, he does. They have a lot in common.

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places

- 1 a) Sandy b) Marissa c) Kirsten d) Summer e) Jimmy f) Luke g) Dawn h) Anna

Chapter 1

- 1 1 e) 2 b) 3 g) 4 a) 5 f) 6 c) 7 d) 8 h)
- 2 a) Who Some men, probably policemen. b) Where She went to Holly’s party. c) Why Because his dad is in prison. d) How long A few years. e) What kind Punk music.

Chapter 2

- 1 a) go b) going c) knows d) have e) asks f) buys g) look h) acting

Chapter 3

- 1 a) No, she didn’t. That was a secret. b) Because her friends were talking about Ryan. c) Because he didn’t want to get her in trouble. d) Luke and his friends. e) Because he didn’t want his dad to get suspicious. f) It started because Luke and his friends were fighting with Ryan. A candle fell on Ryan’s sleeping bag. g) No, he didn’t. He pulled him out of the house. h) Seth. i) The police arrested them.

Chapter 5

- 1 a) Jimmy b) Dawn c) Seth d) Summer e) Ryan f) Dawn g) Luke h) Dawn and Ryan

Chapter 6

- 1 1 c) 2 e) 3 f) 4 a) 5 d) 6 b)

Chapter 7

- 1 a) F b) F c) T d) F e) T f) F
- 2 a) Because he doesn’t want to go to Cotillion with Seth. b) Because he has been dancing with Summer all afternoon. c) Because he wants to talk to Summer again before Cotillion. d) Because he doesn’t want him to talk to Marissa. e) Because he has promised not to get into trouble.

Chapter 8

- 1 a) Julie b) Ryan c) Seth d) Luke e) Anna f) Marissa

Chapter 9

- 1 a) Marissa b) Anna c) Anna d) Summer e) Ryan f) Seth g) Marissa

Vocabulary Builder

- 1 1. candles 2. charity 3. sleeping bag 4. embarrassed 5. suspicious 6. unconscious
- 2 1. hummed = hugged 2. door = diner 3. scary = stunned 4. drank = drunk 5. glasses = glared

Casual language

1. Right ... 2. right 3. dude 4. geek 5. What’s up?