

DAY 93

LESSONS COVERED: ULAT 2.10

CONTENT:

1. DISCUSSION ON THE TOPIC OF THE RICHARDSONS

OVERVIEW: The goal of this day's class is to engage students in conversation on a topic they should consider personally significant and thus to demonstrate the value of Spanish. Ideally, if your class has established an exchange relationship with a class overseas that is using the ULAT to study English, you can perform a videoconferencing session to discuss the questions below on the Richardson story. The students may find it very interesting to discover that some cultures will consider John Richardson to be a very good father, while others will see him as an utter failure. Should your class lack such an exchange relationship the conversation can be carried out among the members of your classroom for oral participation credit. To stimulate conversation, if you lack a cross-cultural perspective on this family, as the teacher, you should try to adopt a position opposite that of the majority of your students. Here are the discussion questions:

1. Is John Richardson a good father? Why or why not?
2. Is Carol Richardson a good mother? (Don't settle for the knee-jerk response of "yes", of course, because she works so hard caring for the family. Think this answer through carefully.) Why or why not?
3. Are the Richardson children good kids? Why or why not?
4. What should* John do if he wants to be a better father?
5. How could Carol be a better mother?
6. Why isn't Carol happy in the home?
7. What should Carol do about her family's life?
8. How is your family different from the Richardsons?

*The modal "should" will be introduced later in this unit, however it would be appropriate to teach it to your students for the sake of today's conversation.