

◇ Chapter 5
Roles and Relationships

Enrichment Activities

CHANGING ROLES

Directions: Roles in a family change as people grow older. Read the following examples of role changes that happen in many families. If you can think of more examples, add them to the list. Then choose one of the situations to write about. Imagine that you are writing to a friend whose family is experiencing the change. Tell the friend what to expect and give your advice on dealing with the situation.

1. A teenager advances from a small middle school to a large high school.
 2. A stay-at-home mother becomes a full-time employee outside the home.
 3. A new baby is born and an only child becomes a big brother or sister.
 4. A sixteen-year-old gets a driver's license.
 5. A parent takes on the role of caregiver to a seriously ill family member.
 6. A divorced parent remarries and becomes a stepparent.
 7. A parent gets laid off and becomes an unemployed worker.
 8. A grandparent moves in with the family.
 9. _____
 10. _____
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DIFFERENT PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

Do you know the folktale about the three blind men and the elephant? Each of the blind men touched an elephant and then began to argue over what an elephant was like. The man who touched the elephant's ear believed that elephants were like fans. The man who touched the elephant's leg deduced that elephants were like tree trunks. The man who touched the elephant's tail thought that elephants were exactly like ropes.

In the same way, although you are one person, different people "see" different parts of you. Sometimes, it is because you *want* them to see a particular part of you. For example, you may want your coach to see you as a talented, enthusiastic player. Other times, it's because people want to see *you* a

particular way. Your parents, for example, may want to think of you as their little girl and youngest child, even though you are now a young adult. Your coach may see you as a team player, while your math teacher sees you as his best student. You may be a clown among friends but the most serious at any sign of injustice. All of these are clues to the wonderful and complex person that you are.

- What roles do you play? Are you a leader? Class clown? Best athlete? Most likely to help a friend? Smartest in the class? Most popular?
- How do different people see you in different situations?
- What parts of yourself do you carefully show to some people and not to others?

Take a moment to look at yourself through each of these people's eyes:

	How they see you	How you want them to see you
Parents or guardians		
Siblings or cousins		
Grandparents or mentors		
Teachers or administrators		
Coach		
Best friend		
Classmates		
Neighbors		

Focus In

1. Which roles do you feel the most comfortable playing?
2. Which roles would you like to change? Why?
3. What kinds of roles do you think you want to play as an adult? Remember, some of these

choices you can change. Others, like being a parent, once made are carved in stone.

Project: Get some modeling clay. Make a face or figure that represents a role you play now or that you see yourself playing in the future.