

William Gardener

Act I, Scene 4 (AG) — Five and a half years later

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You're worried about Barbara and the stress of trying to take care of both Stephanie and Virginia. In addition, you know how much Barbara wants to go back to college to get a teaching degree. Barbara just can't do all three of these things at the same time, no matter how much she might feel she can. You have to help her make the right decision.

You make good money at the law firm. Sure, a lot of the income is tied up with the new house and there are plenty of costs associated with a five year old. Still, money isn't the real issue here; time is. While you're sure that Barbara would like to personally take care of her mother, you're worried that she'll be sacrificing her future career if she does so. Virginia is going downhill and she'd probably be better off with professional care anyway. If you can delicately convince Barbara that it would be better to put Virginia in a nursing home, Barbara would be able to take the classes she needs to work on her teaching degree.

Stephanie will be in school this year and this is the time for Barbara to really reach out and expand her possibilities. She needs to have more and better opportunities for the future, not less.