



**No word is more romantic than love. To many people, love means everything. A person becomes happy when in love, and lonely and depressed if unloved. Love is usually regarded as a great thing, immune from criticism. But problems arise if it is identified with selfishness and jealousy. Too many people seek “own” their lovers, like property simply because they are centered on their own feelings of love; but this attitude can easily jeopardize the relationship. Ultimately love is based on mutual understanding and affection, and we accept our partners as they are, not as something to be possessed or changed.**

**Love between parents and children are usually regarded as endless and unconditional. Nevertheless a distinction is sometimes made between maternal and paternal love. The attitude is sometimes expressed that a father may have limits to his love, but that a mother never can. Perhaps this is because the child was once, before birth, part of mothers. Daily existence, but to the father has always been another, separate, being.**

**COMPREHENSION:**

1. What is the most romantic word?
2. What two negative emotions does love sometimes provoke?
3. Why may there be a difference between maternal and paternal love?

**LET'S TALK**

1. What is "love at first sight"?
2. Do you believe that the first love is bound to fail?
3. Do you think love out of wedlock deserves criticism?  
Why and why not?
4. Do you think platonic love exist between man and woman?  
Do you have any experience?
5. Do you think you have to marry if you are in love?
6. Do you think you have to be in love before you marry?