Bismarck’s House

The house of cards is a strange, isolated house. Most of the people who live there are old and have known each other for a long time. The housemates do not trust each other and are constantly trying to be better and more powerful than the rest of the people in the house. The house is surrounded by a beautiful, massive garden. Some members of the house have no garden while others have lots. The people in the house want as much of the garden as they can get their hands on and will do anything they can to get some of it.

Think carefully about the descriptions of each of the people in the house. As you read try to work out who in the house may fall out with somebody else and what they may fall out about.

# https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/7f/4c/22/7f4c22620e7047eac27bc09297103fbf.jpg

# Brian

Brian is very snobbish and he looks down at all of the other housemates. He is big and still quite strong but he is middle-aged. He lives in his own apartment on the estate and has little to do with the other members of the house. Brian owns most of the garden and doesn’t want to share it with anyone – which is why he is so concerned about the sun-lounger that Geri has bought…

# http://www.i4interactive.com/womanlawyerforum/images/christine.jpg

# Francis

Francis used to be the most important person in the house but she has had problems recently: some time ago, Geri beat Francis up in a fight and stole her walk-in-closet. As a result Francis hates Geri and wants her cupboard (closet) back. On the bright side Francis still owns a large part of the garden.

# http://www.stripes.com/polopoly_fs/1.232322.1374839743!/image/image.JPG_gen/derivatives/landscape_804/image.JPG

# Geri

Geri was once weak and used to be bullied by Francis. More recently Geri has been working out and has become very fit and strong. She is very jealous of Francis and Brian because she does not own much of the garden. Geri is determined to get more of the garden so she can sunbathe, even if it means taking it from Francis or Brian. Geri is very angry that Brian is refusing to allow her access to the garden, and has bought a sun-lounger anyway.

# https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcQIimcH60qtDXw87AnKnRVmwaFIbNhj38ji4SHbR35uaIojjxxq

# Austin

Austin was once big and strong but now he is old and weak. He is very proud and wants to extend his already large room. Encouraged by his close relative Geri, he recently moved some of his things into young Boswell's room, much to the alarm of Seb in the room next door.

# https://encrypted-tbn1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcSvR7QA8zooOv_ahcuaHaExlWIhubGWlHPAAqbWxV9hhtHC1wGFSA

# Russell

Russell is the biggest person in the house and therefore had the biggest room. Russell is really unfit and so is really slow whenever he decides to do anything. He is Seb's uncle, and so he hates Austin.



**Otto**

Otto is the ‘sick man’ of the house. He is very, very old and he finds it extremely difficult to look after his room and his part of the garden. Otto knows both Austin and Russell want his room and his garden and swaps sides whenever arguments between Austin and Russell break out.

# https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/68/2c/eb/682ceb08a5d1f945bd045b695257b294.jpg

# Seb

Seb, like Boswell, is a teenage rebel. Both boys were brought up by Otto, but they lost respect for him and renovated his house to provide them with fresh rooms. They had talked about knocking their two rooms together and creating a "bachelor pad" but then Austin went through the courts to adopt Boswell. Seb is worried that Austin will try to adopt him next.



**Boswell**

Boswell is a teenage rebel who was adopted and brought up by Otto. He and Seb have recently renovated Otto’s house to create their own rooms in the search for independence. Boswell would like to knock down his walls and make a large “bachelor pad” with Seb, but Austin has recently adopted him.

# https://p.gr-assets.com/540x540/fit/hostedimages/1388459331/7840328.jpg

# Bella

Bella is a child; the youngest and weakest member of the house. The child looks to Brian for protection from her ‘frightening’ neighbors. She always tries to stay out of arguments whenever they occur.

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**Key:**

1: Brian

2. Francis

3. Geri

4. Austin

5. Russell

6. Otto

7. Seb

8. Boswell

9. Walk-in Closet

10. Bella

**Bismarck’s House**

Name:

**Cast of Characters**

Brian

Frances

Geri

Austin

Russell

Otto

Seb

Bella

1. ***Who hates who, and why?***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Who hates who? | Why do they hate each other? |
|  |  |
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1. ***What are the housemates likely to argue about?***

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| --- | --- |
|  | Who Argues over this? Why? |
| Walk-in cupboard |  |
| Bella’s Room |  |
| Garden |  |

1. ***If a big argument broke out and the house was split into two groups, who do you think would be in each group?***

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| People in Group A | Why they are in group A | People in Group B | Why they are in group B |
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