

Film activate:

Parenting apart

1



Mrs. Doubtfire



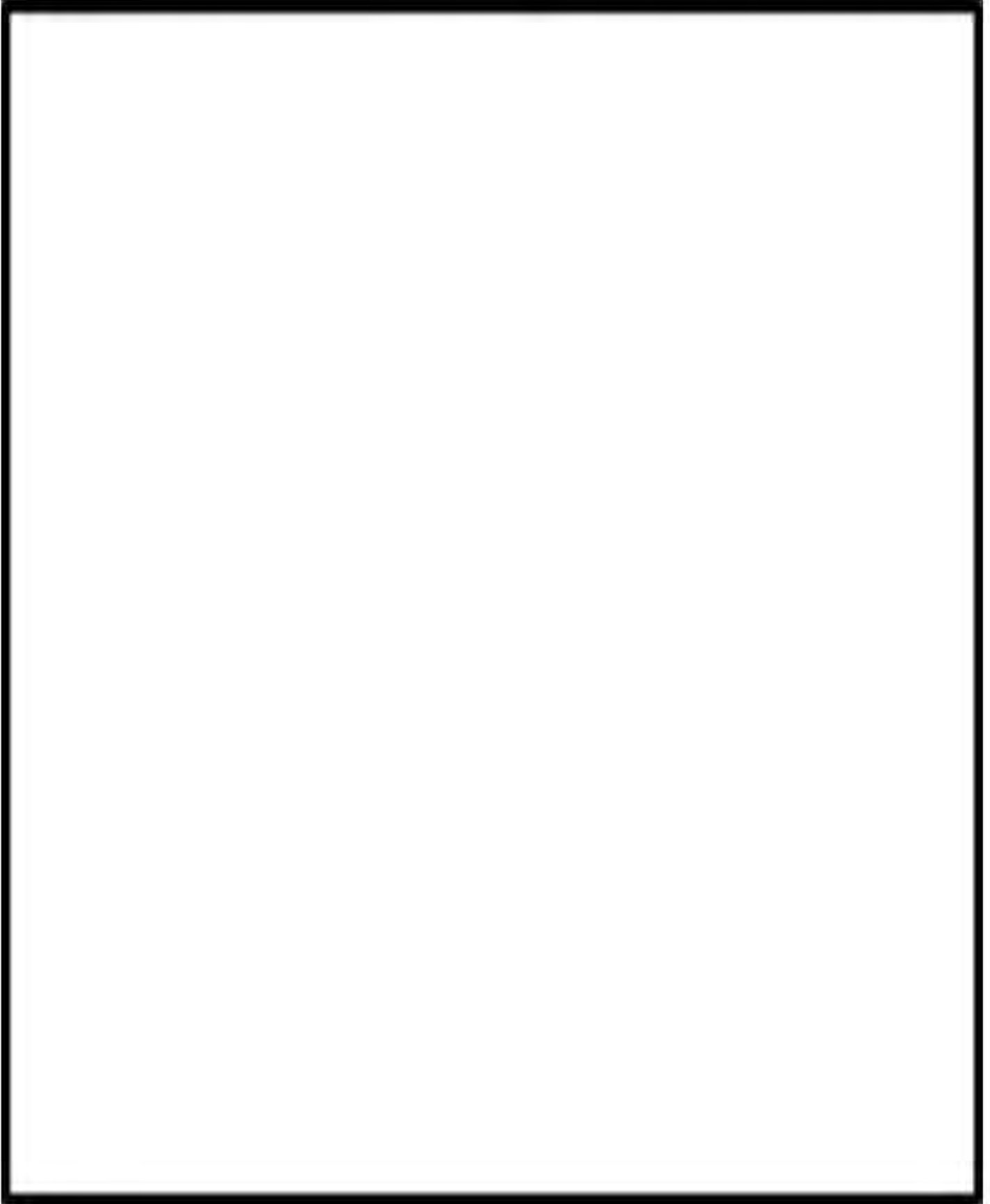
In this comedy, Daniel changes the phone number in the newspaper ad to be able to be closer to his kids as the housekeeper at the kids' mom house. It will be their secret. Interview a relative to find out a time when they needed to keep something from a loved one. Stress that the secret need not be something big and should be something the loved one now knows about. For example, when Mom bought an expensive dress that she didn't want Dad to know about. Ask how they dealt with the secret and write about how you would have dealt with it in the same situation.

Their secret is:

I would have done:

2 Divorce is the main reason Daniel disguises as Mrs. Doubtfire. Divorce is not easy on parents, children, or even extended family. Just like the characters in this film, it can trigger feelings of anger and frustration. In this film, we get a sense of compassion for both of the parents. "When I'm not with Daniel," Miranda admits to Mrs. Doubtfire, "I'm better. And I'm sure he's better without me, too." Being apart made them both better parents. Miranda does not feel as if she's picking up Daniel's slack, and in turn, Daniel does not feel like a useless parent. What examples of good parenting behavior did you see in Miranda and in Mrs. Doubtfire? List them below:

3 How would you react if somebody close to you pretends to be someone they are not? Is this ever justified? If you have to step out of your comfortable self to be someone else, what character would you step into? Write or draw your answer below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thick black border, intended for the student to write or draw their answer to the question above.