Level 3
This level is suitable for students who have been learning English for at least three years and up to four years. It corresponds with the Common European Framework level B1. Suitable for users of TEAM magazine.

SYNOPSIS
Ryan Atwood is sixteen. A good kid with a troubled family background, Ryan is on probation, living with his attorney, Sandy Cohen, and his wife, Kirsten. He strikes up an unlikely friendship with their son, Seth.

When Sandy arranges for Ryan to go to a group home, Seth helps Ryan run away and camp out in an unfinished model home. Seth and Ryan are spotted by the girl next door, Marissa, who is let in on the secret. Marissa thinks her dad is in trouble and confides in Ryan. Marissa and Ryan’s secrets bring the two close.

Suspicious, Marissa’s boyfriend, Luke, and his friends follow Marissa to the model home and pick a fight with Ryan. During the fight, a fire is started. The model home burns down and Luke and Ryan are arrested.

Luke is quickly released and Kirsten, concerned about Ryan’s safety, brings him home from Juvie. Ryan hopes he can now stay with the Cohens, but has a shock when his mom shows up. Dawn wants to start over, but at Vegas Night she gets very drunk and leaves without saying goodbye. The Cohens become Ryan’s guardians and things are looking up.

Seth is delighted when Summer Roberts reluctantly agrees to be his partner at the debutante ball. On the night of the ball, however, Summer dumps him, and Seth dances with Anna, a new girl from Pittsburg.

Glossary
Go to ‘New Words’ at the end of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home.

Casual language
Introduce the informal expressions used in The Gamble (see Vocabulary Builder on page 3 of this resource). Put them into context. Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Book exercises
Show students the Self-Study Activities on pages 54–56. These are divided into sections. They complete some exercises before they read a section, and some after.

Feedback
Have class feedback sessions each week. Talk and ask about the story so far. Get students to ask each other questions.

Fact Files
After the story, there are three Fact Files. Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. (See ideas on page 4.)

What did they think?
Get everyone to do a written or verbal review of The Gamble. Compare opinions. Did you like it? Let us know at: readers@link2English.com.
THE GAMBLE - EXTRA

People and places

1 Who …
   a) is an attorney? Sandy
   b) is worried about her dad? (
   c) didn’t want Ryan to stay? (n
   d) is Marissa’s best friend? (n
   e) is having trouble at work? (n
   f) has more than one girlfriend? (n
   g) is not a very good mom? (n
   h) has just arrived in Newport?

Chapter 1: Seth’s plan

1 Order the events.
   a) Marissa drives Ryan and Seth to the model home.
   b) Seth tells Ryan he has a plan.
   c) Marissa tells Ryan she is worried about her dad.
   e) Ryan decides to run away.
   f) Ryan tells Marissa his mom has disappeared.
   g) Ryan meets Marissa while he’s waiting for Seth.
   h) Summer phones Marissa.

2 Use these words to complete the questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Why</th>
<th>What kind</th>
<th>How long</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

   a) ………………… came to Marissa’s house to see her dad?
   b) ………………… did Marissa go after she left the model home?
   c) ………………… can’t Ryan phone his dad?
   d) ………………… have Marissa and Luke been together?
   e) ………………… of music do Seth and Marissa like?

Now answer the questions.

Chapter 2: The fight

1 Complete the sentences using the words in the box.

   acting asks buys go going have knows look

   a) Seth, Ryan and Marissa ………… go ………… down to the pier on their bikes.
   b) Ryan is thinking about ………… to Austin.
   c) Ryan ………… he can’t stay in the model home forever.
   d) Seth and Ryan ………… a fight with Luke in the diner.
   e) Jimmy ………… Kirsten for money.
   f) Seth ………… a bus ticket for Ryan on the Internet.
   g) Seth and Sandy ………… for Ryan.
   h) Summer tells Marissa that she has been ………… strangely.

Chapter 3: The fire

1 Answer the questions.
   a) Did Marissa tell Summer about Ryan?
   b) Why did Marissa leave Holly’s party?
   c) Why didn’t Ryan kiss Marissa?
   d) Who followed Marissa to the model home?
   e) Why did Seth pretend to look for Ryan?
   f) How did the fire in the model home start?
   g) Did Luke leave Ryan upstairs?
   h) Who said the fire was his fault?
   i) What happened when Ryan and Luke went back to the Cohens?

Chapter 4: A surprise visitor

1 What do you think?
   a) Will Ryan stay with the Cohens?
   b) Does Ryan really believe Luke is good for Marissa?
   c) Why doesn’t Julie like Ryan?
   d) Why is Ryan angry that the Newpsies ignore him?
   e) Who does Marissa want to be with – Ryan or Luke?
   f) Will Dawn change?

Chapter 5: Vegas Night

1 At Vegas night, who …
   a) isn’t talking to his wife? Jimmy
   b) gets very drunk?
   c) spends the evening with Summer?
   d) can’t remember Seth’s name?
   e) lies?
   f) plays blackjack?
   g) kisses Marissa?
   h) leaves early?

Chapter 6: ‘Two handsome young men …’

1 Order the events.
   a) Ryan tells Marissa he’s staying.
   b) Summer tells Marissa she wants to dance with Ryan.
   c) Sandy and Kirsten become Ryan’s guardians.
   d) Luke tells Ryan to stay away from Marissa.
   e) Kirsten, Seth and Ryan go to the Country Club.
   f) Ryan tries on a tuxedo.

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Chapter 7: Dancing, not fighting
1 Are the sentences true or false?
   a) Ryan loves dancing. [ ]
   b) Marissa asks Ryan to dance with Summer. [ ]
   c) Marissa tries to teach Ryan how to dance. [ ]
   d) Ryan wants to go to Holly’s party. [ ]
   e) At the party, Marissa starts talking to Ryan. [ ]
   f) Seth hits Luke. [ ]

2 Answer the questions.
   a) Why isn’t Summer happy?
   b) Why is Seth happy?
   c) Why does Seth want to go to Holly’s party?
   d) Why does Luke hit Ryan?
   e) Why doesn’t Ryan hit Luke?

Chapter 8: Dance partners
1 Complete the sentences with the names of the characters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anna</th>
<th>Julie</th>
<th>Luke</th>
<th>Marissa</th>
<th>Ryan</th>
<th>Seth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
   a) Marissa tells …………………… that she had a fight with Luke.
   b) Julie thinks Marissa’s future isn’t safe with …………………….
   c) Ryan tells …………………… that he’s not going to Cotillion.
   d) Ryan knows that …………………… is cheating on Marissa.
   e) Seth thinks …………………… looks amazing in her Cotillion dress.
   f) Ryan becomes ……………………..’s dance partner.

2 Talk to a partner.
   a) Which of the young people in The Gamble do you most like?
   b) Which of the young people is most similar to you?

Chapter 9: The debutante dance
1 Who says or thinks these things?
   a) ‘Will things ever be the same again?’ …………………….
   b) ‘I’m going sailing for the rest of the summer … to Tahiti.’ …………………….
   c) ‘Be a man!’ …………………….
   d) ‘Listen, you can be my partner again.’ …………………….
   e) ‘Maybe some day we can be more than just friends.’ …………………….
   f) ‘Sorry, I’ve already got a partner.’ …………………….
   g) ‘Why won’t you talk to me?’ …………………….

FINAL TASKS
1 Writing. Choose one of the characters from the story. Write a page of their diary for the days just before the debutante ball.
2 Speaking. Work in pairs. Choose one of the photos in the book. Describe what is happening. Say why it’s important in the story and what happens before and after.
ON SET WITH THE OC (pages 56–7)
Quiz
The whole class reads the Fact File. In pairs, students prepare 5–10 questions about the information, for example: Who plays Luke in the series? Where is The OC filmed? How long does it take to film an episode of The OC? Put pairs together to make small groups and quiz each other.

MISCHA BARTON (pages 58–9)
Interview
The students work in pairs. One student is a journalist and the other is Mischa Barton. The students prepare questions and answers, based on the information in the Fact File. Example questions could be: Why do you think Marissa is attracted to Ryan? Are you similar to Marissa in any way? Journalists carry out their interviews.

DEBUTANTE BALLS (pages 60–1)
Discussion
Write the phrase ‘coming of age’ on the board. Explain that debutante balls and the quinceañera are different ways of celebrating the coming of age. Point out that in different countries the official age of becoming an adult varies and that different cultures celebrate it in different ways. Divide the class into small groups. Each group discusses what age they think is appropriate to celebrate becoming an adult. They plan their ideal coming of age celebration. Ask groups to share their opinions with the whole class.

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP
If you plan to show the programmes in class, watch them yourself first to check they are suitable for your class. Identify good places to pause. The dialogue is fast and slangy with American accents so students shouldn’t be disheartened if they find it difficult to follow at first.

What happens next?
Freeze-frame a scene just before a dramatic moment. Students say what is about to happen and what has just happened.

What are they saying?
When students are familiar with the story, choose a dramatic scene (e.g. Holly’s party). Play the scene without sound. Ask students to suggest what the characters are saying. Then students work in pairs or small groups and write the dialogue for the scene and then act it out. Finally the whole class watches the scene with sound. Compare the original dialogue with students’ dialogues.

TV series versus the book
Sometimes the book version is slightly different from the TV programme – ask students to identify and discuss the differences.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 54–56)
1 a) got drunk  b) probation  c) water polo  d) cheating on e) attorney  f) guardian
2 a) stunned  b) diner  c) suspicious  d) pier  e) embarrassed
4 a) Trey  b) Sandy  c) Seth  d) Marissa  e) Ryan  f) Jimmy  g) Summer  h) Ryan  i) Luke  j) Seth
5 a) ignored  b) glared  c) handcuffed  d) hugged
6 a) ii,  b) iv,  c) i,  d) v,  e) iii

Vocabulary Builder
1 1. candles  2. charity  3. sleeping bag  4. embarrassed
   5. suspicious  6. unconscious
2 1. hummed = hugged  2. door = diner  3. scary = stunned
   4. drank = drunk  5. glasses = glared

Casual language
1. Right …  2. right  3. dude  4. geek  5. What’s up?