## Familiarisation activity guide

This activity comes from the Chapter Two of *Thematic Analysis: A Practical Guide*. The cross-references refer to book content. Any articles cited can be found in the reference list of the book.

We encourage you now to engage in a familiarisation activity for the childfree dataset. Either read the excerpt provided in Chapter Two, or [the full dataset on the companion website](https://study.sagepub.com/thematicanalysis/resource-map#childfree-dataset), and try to engage in the dual processes of immersion and critical questioning.

As well as the generic familiarisation questions we’ve just discussed, you might ask things like:

* What sort of assumptions about adults without children are being made here? And about those with children?
* How are children characterised?
* What purposes are children imagined to serve (e.g. for parents, society, etc)?
* What ideas about parenthood and family are being drawn on?
* What purposes of parenthood are articulated?
* Why might a commenter understand something as positive? Or as negative?
* What makes a particular claimed-experience be possible?
* What moral frameworks do commenters rely on?
* What sorts of assumptions are made about how the world is – or should be – organised?[[1]](#footnote-1)

Take a few notes of the things you’re noticing, so that you have a record of your thinking about the data at this point in time.

1. If you’re a bit stumped by this one, it could be about noting whether commenters assume a heterosexual nuclear family, or that children are raised by two parents, and ‘leave home’ in the late teens/early 20s. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)