

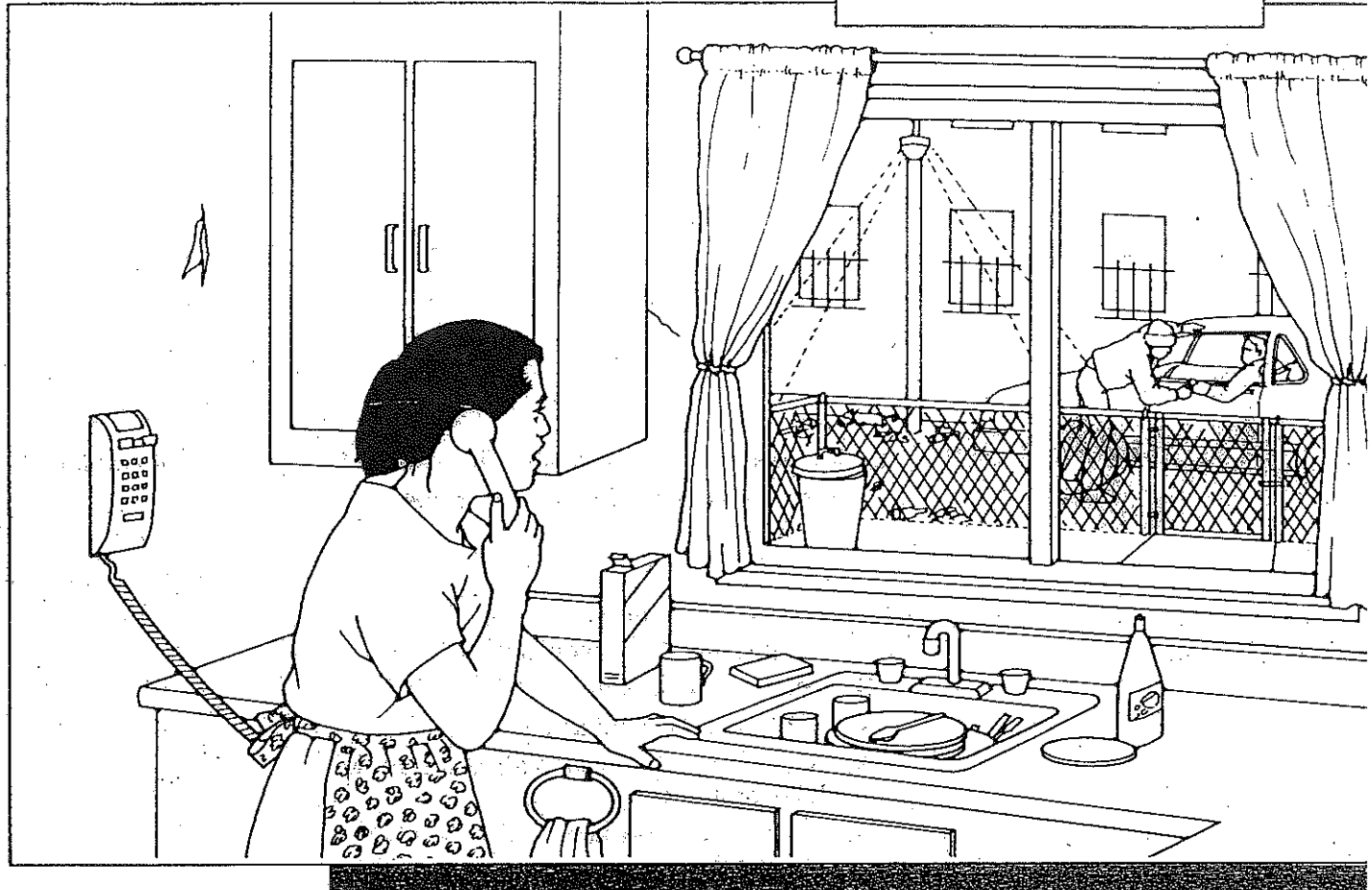
# 3. THE MONTOYAS' PROBLEM

What is the woman doing?

What is the man outside doing?

How does the woman feel?

Who do you think the woman is talking to?



Read the story silently.  
Underline words you don't understand. Your teacher will help you with new words.

Bertha Montoya, her husband and three children live in a dangerous part of town. They are afraid to go out at night because there are so many robberies and other crimes in their neighborhood. They don't have enough money to move to a safer neighborhood.

From her kitchen window, Bertha can see the people and cars that come and go. Last Saturday night Bertha saw a man selling something in the alley behind her apartment. Her teenage son told her that the man was selling drugs. Bertha's husband was at work. Bertha called the police, but they didn't come for a long time, and the people in the alley were gone when the police arrived.

When Bertha's husband came home and heard that she had called the police, he was angry. He told her that this was not their business and she should never call the police again.

## The Montoyas' Problem

1. Where does Bertha Montoya live? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why are the Montoyas afraid to go out at night? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Can the Montoyas move to a better neighborhood? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Bertha see last Saturday night? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who told Bertha was the man was selling? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where was Bertha's husband Saturday night? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did Bertha do? \_\_\_\_\_
8. When did the police come? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Why didn't the police arrest the drug dealers? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Why was Bertha's husband angry? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Does Bertha's husband want her to call the police next time? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss the questions with your teacher and classmates. Talk about your personal experiences. Compare your country and the United States. What is the same? What is different?

1. What are drugs?
2. Is it legal to buy and sell drugs in the United States? In your country?
3. Where do drugs come from?
4. Is it easy or difficult to buy drugs? Are they cheap or expensive?
5. Do young people or old people use drugs more? Are you worried that your children might use drugs?
6. Why do people use drugs?
7. Why do people sell drugs?
8. What can happen to people who use drugs?
9. Where can people with a drug problem get help?
10. If you saw someone selling drugs would you call the police?
11. Did you ever call the police in your country? If not, why not?
12. Have you or a friend ever called the police in the United States? When? Why?
13. Did the police come right away? What did they do?
14. What kind of crime is in your neighborhood in the United States?
15. What kind of crime was in your neighborhood in your country?
16. Do you feel safer in the United States or in your country? Why?
17. Do you think you can do something to stop drug dealers, robberies and crime in your neighborhood? What can you do?