

Marcia Aldrich

Tests

Midway Community College "Where *Your* Future Looks Bright!"

Teacher: Dr. Joy
Sociology 101
Exam #1: Family Structure

Name: Jude Jems

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1. In the past unit you read about family structure. What are some of the defining characteristics of the American family?

Jude, do you mean expensive?
It starts with a big explosive wedding, sit-down dinner, usually chicken, everyone invited, even people no one likes or ever sees, six months of planning, debt. It ends in divorce, the division of wedding gifts and children, and more debt. In between there is conflict, unhappiness, enforced boredom, the occasional kiss, many hours of intimate television watching, children who feel unwanted, parents who feel trapped, all standing on the front stoop in their Sunday best. The American family is generally incommunicative, activity-directed, oblivious of feelings, and requires a great deal of maintenance.

2. Define patriarchy.

This isn't from your textbook
(It's when the father names the children and everyone else, breakfasts with male cronies before work, has a female secretary he calls by her first name which is usually something like Lucille) and even if it isn't Lucille, he calls her Lucille, buzzes Lucille for coffee all morning, reminds his wife to buy a Christmas present for Lucille, and pick up his shirts at the laundry, lunches at the club with a business acquaintance, plays golf on Wednesday afternoons with doctors, lawyers and judges, gets his hair cut every two weeks, checks out the waitresses at breakfast and lunch every day, forgets when he's out to dinner with his wife to stop checking out the waitresses, has an argument with his wife about checking out the waitresses and always gets the last word. Tends to discard wife when she is used up and gets a newer model.

3. What roles does the mother typically play within the family?

What are they?
The mother is often ill, bed-ridden, suffers headaches, migraines, backaches, muscle spasms, bloating, weeping spells, she has a tendency to talk to herself, often rehearsing a list of grievances or imagining voices in the wallpaper, periodically she becomes agitated and easily irritated, she spends a good deal of time looking into the mirror and being unhappy with what she sees, her hands are reddened from scrubbing dishes and potatoes, even though she wears blue plastic gloves, she is known to enjoy flowers and the higher things of life such as music, painting, and poetry though her access to said higher things is sometimes limited. She is seen commonly holding a handbag of rather large proportions. Typically she is in charge of food. This has been deeply historically problematic because it places her in close proximity to calories which she is typically trying to avoid and which her husband says she consumes too many of. Often she is seen poised with a wistful expression at the window over the sink washing dishes. In arguments with the father, her sons take her side and don't like how she is belittled although they will belittle their own wives when they marry. Her daughter feels ashamed of her and cannot understand how they could be related. No matter where she stands or what she says, you can't get rid of her.

What is the significance of the name Lucille?

What does she see? Elaborate

Do you mean literally?

4. The family as a system has changed drastically in the past fifty years. Give examples of these changes.

Now families have split apart like pomegranate seeds. It is unclear what fruit the present family will bear. It's a bit like the apple tree. When settlers arrived in the new world they brought with them and planted many varieties of apple trees and apple orchards flourished. Many of these are extinct now and their names unknown. I believe this is what will happen eventually to the American family. Children move away from their growing-up places and never come back. People don't like the old places, old people, old towns, old houses. They want new better places to live. When you get old, you most likely will be put into a home where no one will visit you or say your name. Now the American family has a shiny new exterior, without blemishes or bruises, but inside there's a worm. *How are families like apple trees? Focus needed*

5. Discuss some of the processes of socialization by which values and attitudes are passed from generation to generation within the family.

I'm not sure. Long exposure, coercion, familiarity, lack of imagination, curse of the gods, genetic coding, karma, twinkies. You do what you know even if it isn't good or healthy or pleasant or right. For example, you prepare stuffing because that's what your mother served and her mother before that even though you don't particularly like sausage stuffing and it's unhealthy and hard to make. You do what has been done. In that way families are like caskets, housing the past. In that way families are like spring preserving the living. It can go either way. Sometimes someone breaks the chain. Someone will step outside the family or introduce some new and usually disturbing element. Sometimes someone will kill themselves and bring an end to the generations.

6. Using terms and concepts derived from the readings in your text, design a healthy family environment.

The mother and father would speak tenderly to one another; they would at all times try to understand each other. They would not leap to conclusions, rush to anger, use outside voices, call each other names, throw hard objects, or behave in ways unbecoming to adults and parents. They would remember their vows; they would remember they are parents and not behave in ways shameful to their children. They would not ruin the pleasures of the other; they would have interests in common. They would not set one child against the other; they would not push their children out of doors or down stairs. They would join hands at the river and say each other's names. They would wade into the water, hand over hand, and feel the current running past, running through, running blue.

Jude, this is unacceptable. What is the significance of the color blue? The blue plastic gloves of the mother, the river running blue. I can find no mention of the color blue in your textbook. For that matter, I can't find many of your answers aren't from your textbook. I don't know where you got these answers. You don't seem to have focused on the class reading—you need to work on attending to the subject at hand and ~~speaking in a more common language~~ use the terms from your textbook in the future. I'd also think about taking your next exam on a full stomach.

This is not in your textbook

This seems a little bleak