

# Shine Brighter 2<sup>de</sup>

## Snapfile 7 Family matters

Extrait p. 75 – Article du site *peabodyawards.com*.

### “The Evolution of Family Sitcoms”

There’s something eternal about the way family, comedy, and television go together. It just seems obvious and inevitable: if audiences are going to watch fictional stories on a small screen in their own home, many of those stories are going to be about families, and they’re going to be funny and insular<sup>1</sup> and expected, with just a dash of<sup>2</sup> surprise to delight viewers.

Because of this, the history of the sitcom is the history of America. The variations that come along tell the story of what’s changing in the zeitgeist<sup>3</sup>, in our conception of family.

The modern memory of early sitcoms begins with I Love Lucy, which began in 1951 and was focused on a married, childfree couple and their friends before stars Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz became parents in real life, forcing the birth of their onscreen son, Little Ricky. [...]

The family began to look a bit more modern in the ‘60s with The Dick Van Dyke Show’s sexy young couple, Rob and Laura Petrie, at its center. [...] But the biggest shift<sup>4</sup> came in the ‘70s with All in the Family, which brought us a working-class white family whose love language was loud, uncomfortable political squabbles<sup>5</sup>.

peabodyawards.com

1. fermées 2. a small amount of 3. esprit de l’époque 4. change 5. arguments

Extrait p. 76 - Article de Melissa Camacho.

### **What's the Story?**

The classic series *Father Knows Best* (1954 -1960) is a situation comedy about the day-to-day antics<sup>1</sup> of the Andersons, a middle-class nuclear family living in the fictitious suburban town of Springfield. Insurance salesman Jim Anderson (Robert Young) heads up the tight-knit<sup>2</sup> gang, which includes his wife Margaret (Jane Wyatt), teenage daughter Betty (Elinor Donahue), his teen son Bud (Billy Gray), and “Kitten,” his precocious youngest daughter Kathy (played by Lauren Chapin).

From making sure that Bud knows how to dance in time for the spring formal<sup>3</sup>, to testing his marriage by teaching Margaret how to drive, Jim helps his family through their ups and downs, and makes the most of every event to teach the family about the best way to handle every situation that comes their way.

Melissa Camacho, *commonsensemedia.org*, 2023

**1.** silly behaviours **2.** united **3.** *bal de printemps*

## Évaluation de la compréhension de l'oral – Guide pédagogique

Extrait de l'article de *mic.com*

### **Family Sitcoms in 2015 Don't Reflect the American Family—And They Haven't for Years**

Everyone knows the show: There's a family. A mom. A dad. Two, maybe three, kids of varying ages. They live in a suburban<sup>1</sup> house together. Dad works. Sometimes, mom does too. Their lives revolve around school and work, but they take place mostly in the shared domestic spaces of the house: the disproportionately large living room, the roomy kitchen. [...]

It bears pointing out that *Modern Family*, in addition to featuring a gay couple, features a mixed-race couple, an even bigger rarity in this particular television genre. According to a Pew Research Center analysis, in 2013, “a record-high 12% of newlyweds married someone of a different race,” a statistic that is nowhere near apparent from the family sitcom landscape which privileges ethnically homogenous families. The ABC show remains a great example of the ways the family sitcom is incrementally moving towards greater diversity.

Yet seven years since its premiere, there has been little to suggest the family sitcom genre as a whole has in any substantive way followed in its footsteps. Television's “modern” families are not as new as they appear: The nuclear family remains the norm.

*mic.com*, 2015

**1.** *de banlieue*