

Family Dramas

Family dynamics, particularly during challenging times, is a topic often explored in literature and on film. In the activity below, you will analyze an example of a family drama and discuss how it portrays family relationships, changes, and crises.

How do the family members meet each other's physical, mental/emotional, and social needs?	Parents work hard to meet family's needs.	Siblings listen to each other's problems.
How do they demonstrate good communication skills, respect, trust, love, and responsibility?	The family has discussions at the dinner table.	They share hugs, encouragements, and comforting words.
What do they do to adapt to changes and difficulties?	Everyone works to solve the problem.	Family members make sacrifices.
What strategies do they use to avoid or deal with violence, abuse, or neglect?	The family accesses community resources.	They discuss violence prevention strategies.

ACTIVITY

Select or recall a book you have read or a movie you have seen that centers on a family undergoing a change or crisis. Use the chart above as a model to help you analyze the ways in which the book or movie reflects the lessons about family relationships discussed in this chapter. Jot down examples from the book or movie that answer the questions.

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS

Write a two-page analysis of the family drama you read or watched. Evaluate how the book or movie presents the dynamics of family relationships. Consider whether family dramas reinforce positive models of family interactions, and whether the book or movie you selected lives up to that challenge.