

Name: _____

Date: _____

Reading

GENDER ROLES

Whose job is it to take out the trash?

1. Have you ever heard of the terms *pink jobs* and *blue jobs*? It wasn't long ago when men and women held **traditional** roles at home and in the workplace. Women were the **primary** caregivers and **homemakers** and men were the sole **breadwinners**. Wars and women's rights changed how average households are run. When traditions go out the window, gender roles are the first thing to go.
2. In many parts of the world, households are now **dual income**. Two adults share the bills and the **chores**. Women go back to work after having children. They are educated and hold careers similar to their **spouses**. Children are raised by a village of helpers. This includes childcare workers, extended family, and community services. The **nuclear** family isn't the norm anymore. Single-parent families are more and more common. Some families are run by two men or two women. Many people opt to stay single.
3. Was life easier when gender roles were specific? That depends on who you ask. A woman may say no. She had to do all of the work at home and never got a break from the children. A man may say no too. He was out of the home for most of the day. All of the **pressure** to support the family was on him. What would the children say if you asked them?
4. As humans, we are always looking for a **happy medium**. We want what we don't have and we have what others want. This is one personality trait that women and men share. Who takes out the trash in your family?

"My father always defined my gender to my brothers. He'd say, 'This is your sister; you must take care of her.'"

—Sandra Cisneros, author

I. READ THE TEXT AND MATCH EACH PARAGRAPH TO A TITLE.

- () *Modern Families.*
- () *Defined Roles or Not?*
- () *Gender Roles in the Past.*
- () _____.

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II. Reading comprehension.

- A) What are pink and blue jobs?
- B) What role do men have in households where women primarily look after the children?
- C) What does the reading say about the traditional nuclear family?
- D) According to the author, was life easier when gender roles were more specific?

III. Using *Context Clues*, find the following words in the text and match to their meanings.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. traditional | a) having two adults in a family that both contribute financially |
| _____ 2. primary | b) based on old-fashioned ideas |
| _____ 3. homemaker | c) a duty that needs to be done to keep a household clean and functioning |
| _____ 4. breadwinner | d) a person who looks after the household duties such as cleaning and shopping |
| _____ 5. dual income | e) main |
| _____ 6. chore | f) the person who earns the money for the family |
| _____ 7. nuclear | g) referring to a mother, father, and their children living together |
| _____ 8. spouse | h) stress |
| _____ 9. pressure | i) a balanced option that satisfies everyone |
| _____ 10. happy medium | j) a husband or wife |
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IV. Past Continuous and Simple Past.

I _____ (walk) my dog Max. We _____ (see) an old abandoned building, then Max _____ (run) into the house. I _____ (call) out to him, but he _____ (not come back). I _____ (go) towards the house and _____ (walk) through the open door. I _____ (call) Max's name when I _____ (hear) a crash from one of the rooms. He _____ (dig up) bones in the garden... he _____ (dig) in a pet cemetery.

V. Put the verbs into the correct form (present perfect simple).

1. I _____ (not / work) today.
 2. We _____ (buy) a new lamp.
 3. We _____ (not / plan) our holiday yet.
 4. Where _____ (be / you) ?
 5. He _____ (write) five letters.
 6. She _____ (not / see) him for a long time.
 7. _____ (be / you) at school?
- School _____ (not / start) yet.

VI. WRITING:

Write your opinion in a paragraph (OREO). Choose one from the following topics.

-Traditional families are disappearing.

-Types of families.

-Importance of *blue jobs* and *pink jobs*.

-Gender Roles in your country.