

Famous fictional families

Before you read:

Connect the names and surnames of characters:

Anakin, Luke and Leia

Gilmore

Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy

March

Richard, Emily and Lorelai

Simpson

Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie

Skywalker

The Gilmores are really two families: a rich pair of grandparents from Hartford, and the less wealthy single mother and her daughter in Stars Hollow, Connecticut. They usually meet once a week for Friday dinners. The mother and daughter have a very close relationship and both love junk food, coffee and smart, quick discussions. This is why the comedy-drama series which follows their lives is called the Gilmore Girls. It originally ran from 2000 to 2007, with a four-part miniseries revival in 2016. The seven seasons follow the changing relationships of all the characters.



The Marches are a family from the book series Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. The books follow the events in an American family from Massachusetts in the 19th century. The first two books focus on four sisters and their mother, who are poor but happy, although their father is away in the Civil War. The second two books are about two brothers, children of one of the March sisters. The novels are loosely based on the life of the author, and they are considered autobiographical. The books were so popular that they have inspired several films and many theatre plays.

The Simpsons are a five-member family from the American animated sitcom of the same name. They live in the fictional town of Springfield. The show about their everyday life is a parody of the American culture, society, television, and human life in general. The person who created the Simpsons, Matt Groening, gave them names after his own family members, changing his name to "Bart". The show began in 1989 and it is the longest-running American sitcom. In 2007, the Simpsons also got a film, which earned over \$500 million, and a video game. The final seasons will be released in 2020, when the show is going to reach episode number 700.



The Skywalkers are a family in the Star Wars franchise. They all have strong abilities to use the Force and become Jedi masters. The original trilogy from 1970s and 1980s follows twin siblings who grew up in adoptive families. Their mother died at birth and their father turned to the Dark Side of the Force. The prequel trilogy from 2000s explains how this happened, while the sequel trilogy from 2010s follows their children. The topic of adoption is very important. It is one of the most important moments in the final film, when a character decides to become a member of the Skywalker family although they are not related by blood.

After you read:

- 1) Which family belongs to a film series, an animated series, a TV series, and a book series?
- 2) Which family has the biggest, and which the smallest number of (living) members?
- 3) What are the following numbers connected to: 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 19, 700?
- 4) Which family would you like to be a part of? Why?
- 5) Does your family look like any of the above? How are they similar or different?
- 6) Come up with a family you would like to see on TV, film, game or book.