

Media Coursework

Stereotypical means to label or categorise something for its characteristics.

A stereotypical family would be a functional family, that could include two parents (mother and father), two or three children (containing both male and female children) and maybe a family pet. The family would probably eat their evening meals together everyday, which the mother has prepared. The family would have a faith (probably Christian) and they would attend church together on Sunday mornings.

The father would almost certainly have a steady, full time and fairly well paid job, whilst the mother would have a part-time job or even no job at all as she would have to attend to the children. Both parents would love and care for there children and each other and t hat would provide a support system.

However media families are designed for a specific purpose, to entertain. Media families would be stereotypical to point

I.e. number of family members, and even a steady job.

They usually have some sutle differences such as all of all children are one gender or a low income.

Media families such as families in Britain's biggest soaps always have problems that are waiting to be exposed in a dramatic storyline.

If media families were fully functional and stereotypical they would be boring. As they are designed to attract viewers, they would fail because people like drama and exciting families they fit into exciting storylines and takes peoples minds off of their own problems.

A functional family is one that supports each other through good and bad experiences. These families are particularly interesting as they often have what we would consider to be major problems and always eventually return to there normal lifestyles.

The Simpson's are a dysfunctional family. There are many reasons for me saying this not least because they often do irrational things without consulting the rest of the family. This deception would not be expected from a fully functional and stereotypical family. They are mildly stereotypical as they are two parents and two children and the father (Homer) of the Simpson family have a steady and seemingly well -paid job at the local nuclear power plant.

However on the whole they are not a stereotypical family. This is proved as on many occasions where the most immature member of the family is Homer (the father), which often results in the children having to

take a more parental role to assist Marge (the mother) in running the family.

Marge has a different and unique relationship with each of her children. She has many concerns about the future of her son Bart. It think she is worried that he is getting into way to much trouble both inside and outside of school.

She has a more adult relationship with her daughter Lisa. They often have conversations with each other as if they were two adults. Lisa loves her mum and sometimes wishes she would put her foot down and punish or prevent the bad behaviour of her brother.

Marge is very protective of Maggie. She takes her nearly everywhere she goes and is adamant that she will not let Maggie grow up and become more distant from her as her other children did.

Homer does not have a single stereotypical relationship with any member of his family. He has a competitive relationship with Bart, he never acknowledges Lisa's achievements and he sometimes forgets that Maggie exists.

Homers relationship with Marge is often like a mother child relationship, where homer is the child and Marge is the mother, but at critical times it shows that they love each other.

Bart and Lisa's relationship can vary from time to time. This relationship has to be the most typical in the family. Sometimes the love and provide support for each other and at other times they loath each other.

I can't think of one single stereotypical character in the Simpsons. There are lots of characters but all of them have non-stereotypical ways

E.g. a doctor who laughs at everything, even medical conditions, a school grounds keeper that has a strong Scottish accent, who has a split personality and transforms into a macho super-hero and a policeman that lets prisoners out as long as they promise to return in the morning.

The Simpsons is similar to other animated programs

E.g. king of the hill. Where the program focuses on the c haracters of one main family and their friends. King of the hill also focuses on dysfunctional families.

The Simpsons as a program is by no stretch of the imagination is based on stereotypical lifestyle. Most episodes use rubber band reality, they are not realistic and rarely do you see a person injured or suffer the full realistic consequences of an injury.

E.g. if somebody breaks their leg, you would expect them to be resting with a cast over the break for at least a couple of months, however in the Simpson's this will not happen. The person will continue with their lifestyle immediately.

The Simpson's is a humorous and enjoyable animated show. It has a lot of humour including physical and social comedy. It has physical comedy such as people getting hurt in usual ways. It also has social humour

I.e. black comedy.

The Simpson's is designed in such a way that it can reach out and capture a large, wide and varied audience.

Younger people are attracted to it because they can relate to the children in "the Simpsons". Adults can enjoy the comedy in "The simpsons". Also adults can react to the black humour contained by "the simpsons"(you would not expect a young child to understand this).