Who Shows Up?

Family structures, roles, and the people we choose to trust

SS24.S.9 "Describe the structure and function of family units, including traditional, extended, nuclear, single-parent, and blended families, and describe the roles of parent, child, and spouse within each type..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each family type and circle a role or responsibility described for its members. Number the two reasons someone might turn to a biological or chosen family member.

The Pickup Sheet

1. At a neighborhood center, a signup sheet asks who can pick up students after a late debate meet. The answers reveal that family structure describes who belongs to a household, not how much its members care. In many U.S. discussions, a traditional family means two married parents raising children, though traditions vary across cultures and time. A nuclear family includes two parents and their children living as one household; it may overlap with that traditional model. An extended family also includes relatives such as grandparents, aunts, or cousins in the household or in daily family life. These labels describe arrangements, not rankings.

2. On pickup day, a parent might arrange a ride, while a child might text when the meet ends. In a two-parent traditional or nuclear household, spouses may divide planning and transportation; a child can help by sharing the schedule. In an extended family, a grandparent might drive while parents work, but the adults still agree on responsibilities. A single-parent family has one parent raising a child, so no spouse shares the parenting in that household. A blended family joins partners and children from an earlier relationship of one or both partners; spouses may coordinate pickups with other parents, and children may move between households.

3. The sheet also shows a different distinction: kinship need not depend on household shape. A biological family is connected through birth and genetic ties; a found or chosen family grows from relationships people deliberately build and maintain. A teen might ask a biological aunt for help because she knows the family's medical history. Another might ask a trusted neighbor who has listened through years of hard choices. Either person could offer steady care, and someone may rely on both. If a school requires a legal guardian's signature, however, closeness alone does not give a chosen family member that authority.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How can a traditional family also be nuclear? What makes an extended family different from a nuclear family?

2. Compare how a parent, child, and spouse might handle pickup in a single-parent family and a blended family.

3. How do biological and chosen family differ in how their ties form? What can both provide?

4. For a question about family medical history, why might the teen choose the aunt rather than the trusted neighbor? Give a reason from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Invent a student facing a decision about joining an after-school club. In five or six sentences, name the student's family structure, describe the roles of a parent or caregiver, a child, and a spouse if one is present, then compare what a biological relative and a chosen family member could offer and argue which person the student would ask for advice.

Who Shows Up?

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each family type and circle a role or responsibility described for its members. Number the two reasons someone might turn to a biological or chosen family member. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How can a traditional family also be nuclear? What makes an extended family different from a nuclear family?	**Two married parents raising children in one household fit both the traditional example and the nuclear definition. An extended family also includes relatives such as grandparents, aunts, or cousins in the household or in daily family life.**
2	Compare how a parent, child, and spouse might handle pickup in a single-parent family and a blended family.	**In a single-parent family, the parent arranges care without a spouse sharing parenting in that household, and the child can share the schedule. In a blended family, spouses may coordinate pickups with other parents, while a child may move between households.**
3	How do biological and chosen family differ in how their ties form? What can both provide?	**Biological ties come through birth and genetics; chosen ties grow through deliberately built relationships. Both can provide steady care.**
4	For a question about family medical history, why might the teen choose the aunt rather than the trusted neighbor? Give a reason from the passage.	**The teen might choose the biological aunt because she knows the family's medical history. The neighbor's experience listening to hard choices does not mean the neighbor has that information.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maya lives in a single-parent family with her father, so there is no spouse sharing parenting in their household. Her father helps her plan her time, and Maya, the child, keeps track of her schoolwork. Her biological uncle could explain how the club helped him when he was a student. Her chosen family member, a longtime family friend, knows how much Maya enjoys her current activities. Maya would ask the friend for advice because that knowledge could help her decide whether the new club fits her schedule.

Accept varied responsibilities that fit each family structure without treating one structure as better than another. For the open task, look for a clear comparison and a reasoned choice, not a claim that biological and chosen ties cannot coexist.