

Teen’s homebody parents prefer to lead a quiet life

DEAR ABBY: Neither of my parents do anything for fun. When Dad comes home from work, he either reads the newspaper or takes a nap. If Mom has free time after finishing the housework or running errands, she watches the news on TV or goes to bed early.

I never thought it was unusual because it has been this way since I was growing up. But once I was in high school, I started hearing classmates talk about their parents’ friends or hobbies and I realized my parents are different. They don’t even listen to music or read books.

When I want to go out with friends, my parents act annoyed and wonder why I want to go out instead of staying at home. Are there other people out there like this, or are my folks unusual? — **MYSTIFIED IN MAINE**

DEAR MYSTIFIED: At the end of a busy day, many people want to simply unwind rather than look for things to do. Reading the newspaper, napping or watching the television news are some of the ways they do that. While your parents may be more introverted than those of your classmates, I don’t think they are particularly unusual.

The question you should ask yourself is, “Is their relationship working for them?” And if the answer is yes, be glad. What’s natural



DEAR ABBY

for some families isn’t for everyone, and neither is their idea of what’s fun.

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 15-year-old girl and my favorite teacher, “Mr. Brown,” is going to another state with some other teachers to start a new school. I’ll miss him dearly because he is funny and charismatic.

We have an average student-teacher relationship, but I still would like to stay in contact with him and see how he’s doing. Is there any way I can maintain our relationship and contact him on my own to show that I miss him? — **TEEN IN NEW HAVEN**

DEAR TEEN: If he hasn’t already left your district, I suppose you could tell him he has been your favorite teacher and ask for his email address. He may be willing to share it with you, but if he and the other teachers are starting a new school, you can bet they are going to be extremely busy and focused on that – so he may not be able to respond

as often as you might wish.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were invited to a friend’s house for dinner. When I asked her if I could bring anything, the hostess handed me a cookbook and said she had marked two items I should make and bring. When I looked at them, I was shocked.

She was asking me to bake bread and make a salad. The bread had many ingredients, and I have never made bread from scratch. I don’t even own a stand mixer. The salad recipe was also complicated.

Was I unreasonable to decline the invitation? The ingredients alone were going to cost me at least \$30, and the stress was more than I was willing to take on. — **AGHAST IN ARIZONA**

DEAR AGHAST: I think you cut off your nose to spite your face. All you had to do was level with your hostess and tell her you had never baked bread and didn’t have the necessary equipment -- and that you were prepared to make her a SIMPLE salad. What was she going to do, disinvite you?

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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	9		6	5		2
2		8		1	7	6
6		1		5		9
		7	2		9	4
9		4		3		5
3		5		4		2
	1		9		8	
					4	

Instructions for play: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

That’s all there is to it. There’s no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. It’s fun. It’s challenging. It’s addictive!

Solving time is typically from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on your skill and experience. The solution for today’s puzzle will be published in Saturday’s paper. Or you can go to www.sudoku.com to find the solution.

4	1	3	8	2	5	7	6	9
2	7	5	3	6	9	8	1	4
8	6	9	1	4	7	5	3	2
3	4	7	2	9	6	1	8	5
5	8	6	7	1	4	2	9	3
1	9	2	5	8	3	4	7	6
7	5	4	6	3	8	9	2	1
9	3	1	4	7	2	6	5	8
6	2	8	9	5	1	3	4	7

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you have had little luck regarding relationships of late. Rather than focus on what hasn’t gone your way, change your perspective and focus on the good things.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you can be pretty stubborn when it comes to something that matters dearly to you. No matter your feelings, try to behave in a diplomatic manner.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, be a shoulder to cry on for a beloved friend or family member this week. Everything will ultimately work out for the best, but your loved one needs support this week.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Be mindful of what you say and do this week, Cancer. Your head may be telling you to speak up, but your heart is telling you to stay quiet for a little while longer.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, enjoy the noisiness around you this week. This extra hop in your step is refreshing and encourages you to make some bold moves that will pay off in the long run.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, address an issue with a clear head this week. Your advice has been solicited, and you know how to help, but some subtlety is a good thing in this situation.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, adopt an analytical approach to solve a puzzling situation at work this week. This way of looking at things is just what you need to find the right solution.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Your imagination is ready to run wild this week, Scorpio. Enjoy this burst of creative energy and put it to good use. Encourage others to participate as well.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Your mind is racing a mile a minute this week, Sagittarius. Things may be progressing so fast you can’t even finish one idea before moving on to the next one.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, express yourself when asked for your honest opinion this week. Keeping things close to the vest is not what people want to see, so don’t hesitate to offer your insight.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Trust your intuition in a sticky situation, Aquarius. Panicking will only make the situation more complicated, so allow your instincts to take over.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

The time has come for you make your move, Pisces. You’re fully capable of making this transition and more than ready to do so.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 20
Omar Epps, Actor (41)

JULY 21
Robin Williams, Actor (63)

JULY 22
Don Henley, Singer (67)

JULY 23
Stephanie Seymour, Model (46)

JULY 24
Kristin Chenoweth, Actress (46)

JULY 25
Geoffrey Zakarian, Chef (55)

JULY 26
Sandra Bullock, Actress (50)

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 At hand

1 Maggie’s sister
5 Cracked
9 Major mistake
10 High as a kite
12 Debussy work
13 Heartburn
14 Disarrayed
16 Photographer Goldin
17 Got together
18 Doubter
20 Cute
22 Tops
23 Concerning
25 High point

DOWN 44 Gunpowder holders

1 Car from a repair shop
2 Con
3 Appear
4 Collars
5 Degrade
6 Drinking spree
7 Like
8 Keep
9 Bowl game sight
11 Tango or twist

N	A	P	L	E	S		A	S	I	F
O	L	E	A	R			P	U	C	E
V	E	R	M	I	N		O	M	E	N
			B	E	C	A	L	M		
T	A	G	S		C	L	I	P	S	
E	M	U		B	A	R	O	N	E	T
M	O	M		L	I	E		G	N	U
P	U	M	M	E	L	S		U	N	D
T	R	I	O	S		A	P	E	S	
			N	U	T	M	E	G		
R	A	G	S		A	R	A	B	I	A
O	N	U	S		S	I	T	A	R	S
T	Y	P	E		S	C	E	N	E	S

Previous Puzzle

- 15 2012 Bond film
- 19 Audition goal
- 21 Curbside cry
- 24 Just for kicks
- 25 Sailor’s cry
- 26 “Nine to Five” singer
- 27 Audience cry
- 29 Abhorring
- 30 Makes law
- 31 Stable mothers
- 33 “See ya!”
- 37 Turn
- 39 Ethan’s “Gattaca” co-star

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
9							10			11
12							13			
14					15			16		
17				18				19		
20			21				22			
			23			24				
25	26	27			28			29	30	31
32				33				34		
35				36				37		
38			39			40				
41						42				
	43					44				

7-19

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Sports figure

1 Laundry pair
6 Tire tracks
10 Hiking route
11 Deplete
13 Sold for
14 Divine nourishment
15 Greek vowel
16 Cry loudly
18 Museum topic
19 Melted cheese dish
22 Victor at Manassas
23 Different
24 George-town team
27 Statement of belief
28 Prayer ender
29 Stroller user
30 Long-eared pet
35 Under the weather
36 Fruitcake bit
37 Blend
38 Lab work
40 Tolerate
42 Barrel piece
43 Supply the food for

DOWN 45 Secret meeting

1 Scatter
2 Make a speech
3 Barge setting
4 Model buy
5 Spills clumsily
6 Cuban dance
7 Much of N. Amer.
8 Well-founded
9 Eastern sight

P	A	S	T		T	A	P	E	S	
S	T	O	O	P		I	R	I	S	H
H	O	R	N	E		D	I	C	T	A
A	N	T		S	P	E	A	K	E	R
W	E	A	K	E	R		L	E	E	
			A	T	O	M		E	M	S
	P	I	T	A		O	L	D	S	
M	I	N		S	A	L	E			
E	A	T		B	E	A	K	E	R	
S	N	E	A	K	E	R		E	L	I
H	O	R	S	E		A	L	A	M	O
E	L	I	T	E		T	E	N	E	T
D	A	M	O	N		O	U	R	S	

Previous Puzzle

- 12 Touched lightly
- 17 Mine material
- 20 Informal talk
- 21 Bed on board
- 24 Customs dishes
- 26 Loudly scolds
- 27 Get in touch with
- 29 Greek consonant
- 31 Detail map
- 32 Friendship bus
- 33 Takes the bear
- 34 Bring to bear
- 39 Dam org.
- 41 Saloon

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10							11			12
13							14			
15				16	17			18		
19			20				21			
			22			23				
24	25	26			27					
28				29						
30				31				32	33	34
35				36				37		
38			39			40	41			
42						43				
	44					45				

7-21

Daily Cryptoquote – Here’s how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

SKN KWXKNGS FBGGWMDN GSCXN
WL UBTC D RYDSYTN WG HKNL
HN TNRBXLWIN SKCS HN
BYXKS SB RBLSTBD BYT
SKBYXKSG. — RKCTDNG OCTHWL

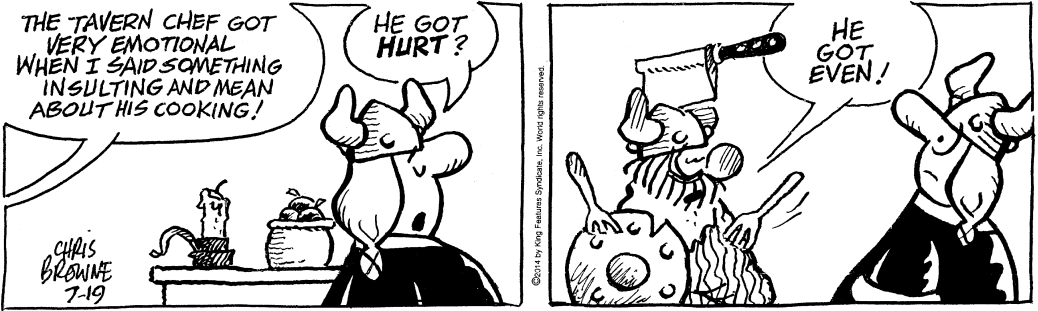
Previous Cryptoquote: I HOPE OUR WISDOM WILL GROW WITH OUR POWER, AND TEACH US, THAT THE LESS WE USE OUR POWER THE GREATER IT WILL BE. – Thomas Jefferson

COMICS

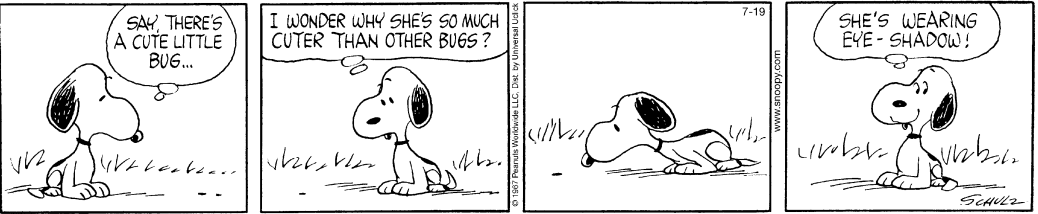
Tundra



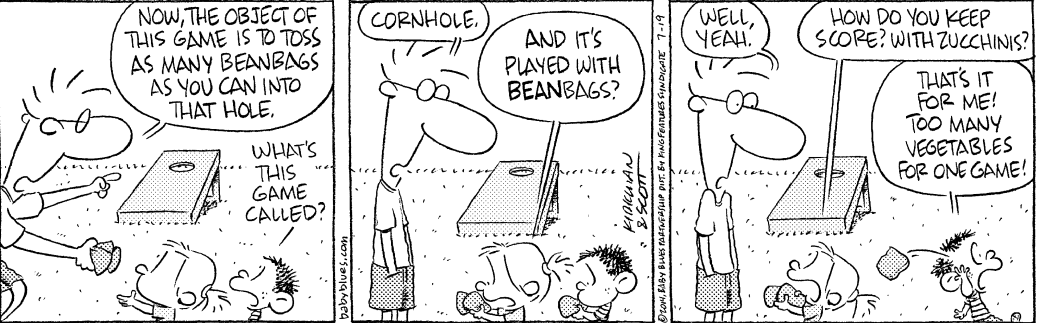
Hagar the Horrible



Peanuts



Baby Blues



Dilbert

