

# Teen gets a distant feeling from closest family members

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm 14 and for as long as I can remember, my family has never really been "together." We exist with each other physically, but have never connected in a loving way. I can't remember my father ever smiling at my mom or being happy. There seems to be an undercurrent of hostility or resentment in our relationships with each other. The lack of love in our house is palpable.

I wonder sometimes what it's like to eat dinner together at night, and what it's like to see parents kiss because they love each other -- not a stressed, distant, obligated contact.

I finally asked my mother, "Why don't you ever hug me?" Her answer was, "Because I can't remember the last time you tried to hug ME."

I'm crying as I write this. Why doesn't my mother understand that kindness is necessary and should not be conditional? —**TROUBLED GIRL IN FLORIDA**

**DEAR TROUBLED GIRL:** Your mother may have been raised in a loveless home and not know how to easily demonstrate affection. Or her marriage to your father could be so unhappy that she has shut down.

You are a perceptive girl, and it is understandable that you are "troubled." But the only person who can answer the question you have asked me is your mother, who appears to need to receive kindness and affection before she will be able to give it. Make an effort to hug her



DEAR ABBY

more and the situation may improve. How very sad.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 33-year-old man who has screwed up his marriage. I stupidly had a fling with my wife's 16-year-old cousin and got in trouble for it. I never lied about it because I knew it was wrong, and I am deeply sorry for it. It happened more than a year ago. I ended up serving time in jail.

I love my wife. She is my best friend. We have no kids, just some great dogs and horses. We were very close until I went to jail, and the last day I was in there I got served with divorce papers.

I can't blame her for how she feels. She says she loves me but she's too hurt to continue. I love her and I'm devastated that I can't fix this.

I have known her for 20 years and she means so much to me. I want to save our marriage, and for the last year I have expressed repeatedly how sorry I am. Any advice? — **SORRY IN TENNESSEE**

**DEAR SORRY:** Tell your wife (if the divorce isn't final) that you are willing to do anything to save your

marriage, and ask her if she would be willing to go to couple's counseling with you.

Under the circumstances, her feelings are entirely understandable. If there is any love for you left in her heart, counseling may help to get your relationship back on track. However, if she refuses, you will have to accept her decision and go on with your life, having learned a very expensive lesson.

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 23-year-old gay male who is interested in doing drag. Due to being unable to find work, I am hoping I can turn performing in drag into a source of income. I am not afraid to perform in front of crowds of people, so this could be a good idea. Do you think it is? — **POTENTIAL SUPERSTAR IN PHILADELPHIA**

**DEAR POTENTIAL SUPERSTAR:** It's not a bad idea. Your next step is to audition to see if you have the ability and the looks to succeed.

While drag is a narrow niche of show business, some performers have had successful careers in that area -- and you might, too. You'll never know if you don't give it a try. I wish you luck.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## su | do | ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

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

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](http://www.sudoku.com) to find the solution.

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

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Someone you just met can help you to make the most of a difficult situation, Aries. It shouldn't take too long for you to get back on track and into a groove.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, make sure you assert yourself more in an important meeting this week. Asserting yourself can help you get ahead at work. Otherwise, you may get overlooked.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, take the initiative regarding a big project this week. Others might want to take the lead, but trust your instincts and take the bull by the horns.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, take time this week to finish all of those little projects that have fallen by the wayside. Take advantage of some free time to catch up and clear your slate.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Negotiations will be especially rewarding this week, Leo. Your suggestions are readily accepted, and you do not have to persuade others much at all.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, nothing is free in life, so don't get fooled when someone promises that you will get something without having to work for it. It's in your best interest to keep working hard.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, you have strong opinions, so don't be afraid to have your voice heard. People will be receptive to your views, even if they border on the philosophical.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, focus makes it easier for you to resist temptation, but this week you may find that it's very difficult to maintain your focus. Do your best to stay focused.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, don't worry about a nagging suspicion that you will receive bad news this week. Keep yourself busy so you aren't sit around worrying unnecessarily.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Someone new to your social situation has you feeling a little suspicious, Capricorn. You're not sure if you can trust him or her just yet. New facts will come to light this week.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, take some time this week to further hone some unique abilities that set you apart from others in your group of friends. You will soon be able to showcase your skills.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, there are a lot of curious people around who want to learn about what you're doing. Let them in to get some external perspective.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JULY 7  
Ringo Starr, Drummer (73)

JULY 8  
Milo Ventimiglia, Actor (36)

JULY 9  
Jimmy Smits, Actor (58)

JULY 10  
Sofia Vergara, Actress (41)

JULY 11  
Richie Sambora, Musician (54)

JULY 12  
Jordyn Wieber, Athlete (18)

JULY 13  
Harrison Ford, Actor (71)

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**  
1 Cookie bit  
6 Disconcert

### DOWN

1 Tie  
2 Singer  
3 Like some salons  
4 Church service  
5 Fan setting  
6 Justice Fortas  
7 Outlaw  
8 Country music?  
9 Ranch group  
10 Move it  
16 Band aides  
20 Sermon deliverers  
21 Casserole bit  
24 Me, to Michel  
25 Darius' kingdom  
26 Contacts in a way  
27 Corps member

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								
30										
32										
35			36	37		38				
39							40			
41							42			

7-6

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**  
1 Anthony Quinn role  
6 "Awesome!"  
11 Disney mermaid  
12 Knightley of "Atonement"  
13 Old British coin  
14 Slangy denial  
15 Field crop  
17 Raised trains  
18 Open ocean  
22 Rocker Clapton  
23 Disney septet  
27 Babbled  
29 Sprightly  
30 Tooth layer  
32 Fencing sword  
33 Horn sound  
35 Smart-phone program  
38 Forest grazer  
39 Partridge's cousin  
41 Trashy mags  
45 Bring together  
46 Deplete  
47 Book of maps

### DOWN

1 Turn sharply  
2 Hockey's Bobby  
3 Carnival city  
4 Search for shells  
5 Choir singers  
6 Battle site of 1945  
7 Spell  
8 Carafe contents  
9 Spoken  
10 Methods  
16 Checkers side  
18 On this spot  
19 Turkey neighbor  
20 Gershon of "Bound"  
21 Western shrub  
24 Ready for picking  
25 Run off  
26 Ooze  
28 Sewing kit items  
31 Golfer Trevino  
34 Invigorate  
35 Blue hue  
36 Fourth-down play  
37 Sandbox toy  
40 "Give — rest!"  
42 Zodiac cat  
43 Play on words  
44 Secret agent

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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						46			
47						48			

7-8

Daily Cryptoquote – Here's how to work it:

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is L O N G F E L L O W

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.

### CRYPTOQUOTE

O U Q G Z M H U Z M O Y L T M P T M

Y L T C E U A X H T R O U Q Z A V

S A V S Z A V H Y U Y Z I V Y L V

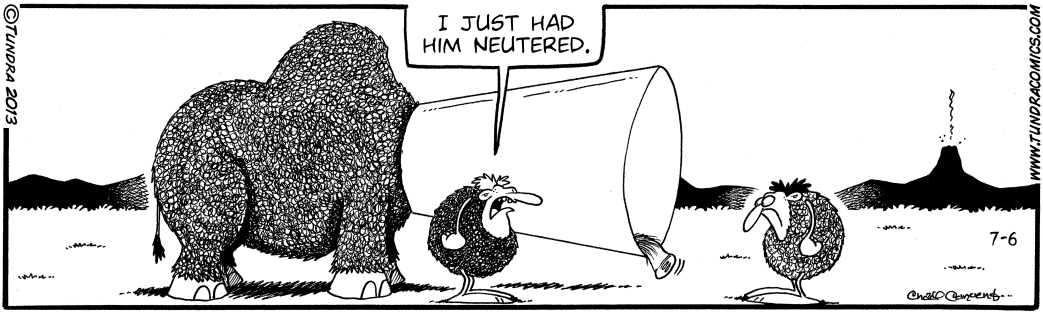
G U M C V J Q V M G V C . — E .

C U K V A C V Y K Z Q P L Z K

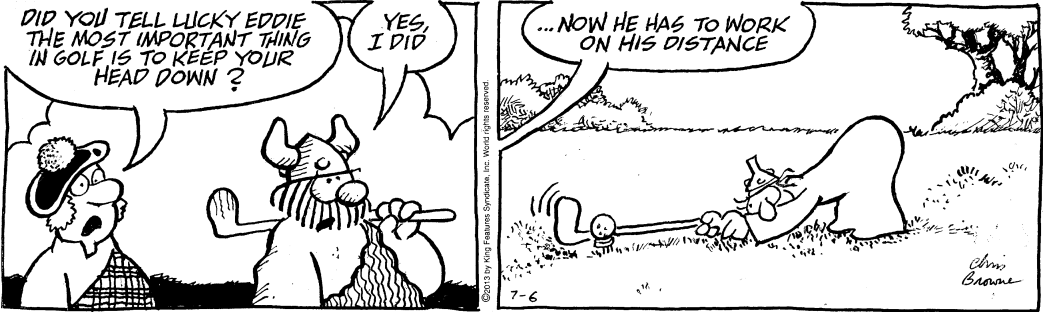
Previous Cryptoquote: DON'T LOOK BACK. SOMETHING MIGHT BE GAINING ON YOU. – Leroy "Satchel" Paige

## COMICS

### Tundra



### Hagar the Horrible



### Peanuts



### Baby Blues



### Dilbert

