

File 5 p. 58 • How my American Dream is different from my parents'

Gen Z (ages 7—23)

"I think that for my parents' generation the American Dream guaranteed having a house, children, and a long-term career. I think of the American Dream as having a nation that works for everyone from all social and economic backgrounds."

23-year-old product designer from Minneapolis

Millennials (ages 24–37)

"My parents wanted to have a steady job in the city, have a nice house and some kids, and eventually retire¹ on the lake in New Hampshire. I don't want to have children or get married soon. We're in like \$70,000 of student loan debt² total. How are we supposed to save up³ for a ceremony, a down payment on a house, all that stuff? I feel people my age haven't been given the economic opportunities our parents have. My American Dream is paying off my student loans."

25-year-old marketing associate from Newton, Massachusetts

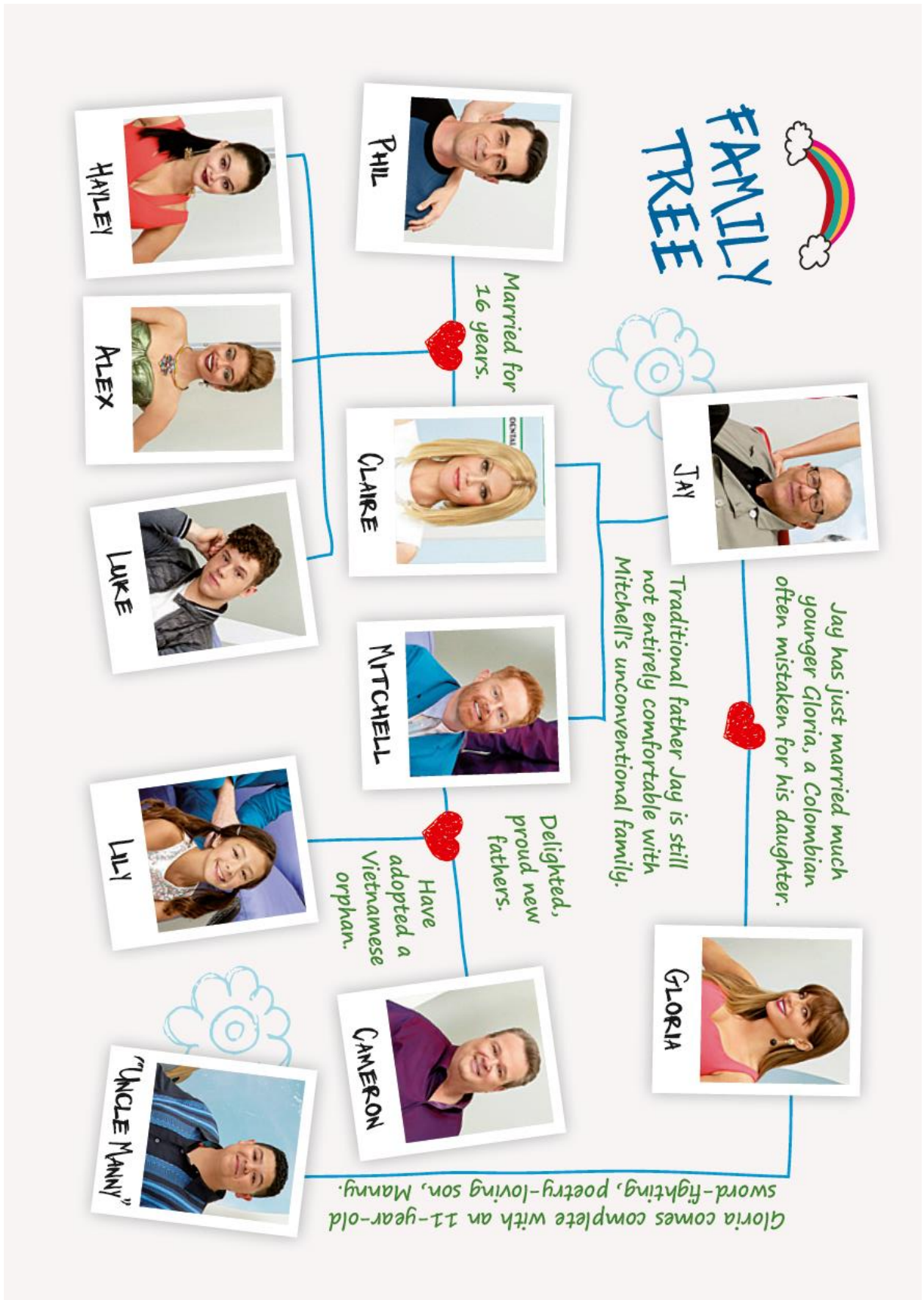
Gen X (ages 38–56)

"I believe the American Dream today is to simply survive. I cannot afford⁴ to raise children and care for my parents at the same time."

38-year-old business analyst from Washington, D.C.

<https://fastcompany.com>

1. prendre sa retraite
2. endettement lié à un prêt étudiant
3. économiser
4. have enough money



“This is really nice,” their dad said, looking around Pound Hall 913 and setting a laundry basket full of shoes and books on Cath’s mattress¹.

“It’s not nice, Dad,” Cath said, standing bored by the door. “It’s like a hospital room, but smaller. And without a TV.”

“You’ve got a great view of the campus,” he said.

Wren wandered over to the window. “My room faces a parking lot.”

“How do you know?” Cath asked.

“Google Earth.”

Wren couldn’t wait for all this college stuff to start. She and her roommate – *Courtney* – had been talking for weeks. Courtney was from Omaha, too. The two of them had already met and gone shopping for dorm-room stuff together. Cath had followed them and tried not to pout² while they picked out posters and matching desk lamps.

Cath’s dad came back from the windows and put an arm around her shoulders. “It’s gonna be okay,” he said. She nodded³. “I know.”

“Okay,” he said, clapping. “Next stop, Schramm Hall. Second stop, pizza buffet. Third stop, my sad and empty nest.”

“No pizza,” Wren said. “Sorry Dad. Courtney and I are going to the freshman⁴ barbecue tonight.” She shot her eyes at Cath. “Cath should go, too.”

“Yes pizza,” Cath said defiantly.

Her dad smiled. “Your sister’s right, Cath. You should go. Meet new people.”

“All I’m going to do for the next nine months is meet new people. Today I choose pizza buffet.”

Wren rolled her eyes.

“All right,” their dad said, patting Cath on the shoulder. “Next stop, Schramm Hall.

Ladies?” He opened the door.

Cath didn't move. "You can come back for me after you drop her off⁵," she said, watching her sister. "I want to start unpacking."

Wren didn't argue, just stepped out into the hall. "I'll talk to you tomorrow," she said, not quite turning a look at Cath.

"Sure," Cath said.

Adapted from Rainbow Rowell, *Fangirl*, 2013

1. *matelas*
2. *faire la moue*
3. *faire oui de la tête*
4. first-year student
5. *déposer*

File 5 p. 61 • The pros and the cons of multigenerational living

“It’s bad for two reasons. One, for the economy. Because millennials are living with their parents longer, they are postponing¹ making those big decisions that include house ownership, getting married, having children, other things which are a boon² to the economy. But also in terms of character, it is in taking these lessons, in which you learn from taking risks, failing³, messing up⁴, that you learn when you get up on your own and to deal with it without having mum and dad to go back to. —Kirsten

“They get the type of jobs that don’t pay enough to actually pay the bills. This economy is crushing them. I actually have a dear friend who lives with her parents and she’s used it to build a house-cleaning business. It’s booming. And I think that the other positive side of it is her relationship with her parents is great, she’s got that multigenerational input⁵, family wisdom, family strength, and that’s really an important thing for the body politic to understand.”—Gillian

Fox News Live

1. *remettre à plus tard* 2. something helpful 3. not succeed
4. make mistakes 5. *apport*

File 5 p. 67 • Not a “Modern Family” at all

ABC’s hit series *Modern Family* has returned to the air for its second season.

It’s the “modern” elements of the *Modern Family* that you’re supposed to notice right away. The family patriarch, Jay, has divorced his children’s mother and is married to a much younger Colombian woman named Gloria. Gloria has her own son from a previous marriage, Manny. Jay’s own children – Claire and Mitchell – are grown and have households of their own. Claire is married with three children. Mitchell, who is gay, lives with his partner Cameron and their adopted Vietnamese daughter, Lily.

And yet I’m struck¹, over and over again, by how unmodern – or at least how atypical, by contemporary American standards – this family is. To begin with, the entire family lives in the same town. There’s a lot of “day-to-day grandparenting,” precisely the kind of grandparenting that few American children ever experience.

Moreover, in each of the (very well-appointed²) households there is at least one parent who stays home with the children. This is in stark contrast to the contemporary reality, in which families with one “stay-at-home” parent are a distinct minority.

Even if we regard the family on “*Modern Family*” merely as an ideal, we have to recognize that it is an ideal that is becoming out-of-reach³ for more of us all the time.

www.frontporchrepublic.com, 2010

1. *frappé* 2. *bien équipées* 3. *hors d’atteinte*