



STUDY GUIDE

THE SEXIEST MAN ALIVE

KEY TERMS: iconic
archetypal dad

suburban
responsible

adult
masculine

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: Complete this section <i>during</i> the video. Include definitions and key terms.	CUE COLUMN: Complete this section <i>after</i> the video.
<p>What image has American culture been rebelling against since the 1950's?</p> <p>What does Ward Cleaver accept?</p> <p>What are the best things that will probably happen to most adult men?</p>	<p>What makes Ward Cleaver the model man?</p> <p>What makes men like Ward Cleaver so important to society?</p>

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

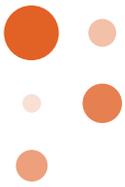
- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Geraghty points out that, “A loud corner of American culture has been rebelling against the image of the 1950s since, oh... the 1950s. Most of that scorn has been directed at the Ozzie-and-Harriet image of American suburban bliss, specifically ‘dad.’” What do you think compels some people to rebel against the image of a 1950’s era, idealized father figure? Does that sort of figure appeal to you as a model? Why or why not?
- When describing Ward Cleaver Mr. Geraghty states, “And there’s a lot he’s simply outgrown. He never had any interest in perpetuating his own adolescence. He’s a grown-up who accepts marriage and fatherhood as the life of an adult.” Why do you think that many adult men are now lacking this mindset of adulthood? What do you think the consequences of adult men refusing to ‘grow up’ might be?
- Mr. Geraghty then points out that, “Like all human beings who have ever lived and whoever will live, these men [archetypal dads] had flaws. But in the end, they were solid and dependable. If you had to summarize them in one word, that word would be “responsible.” Maybe they seem like such throwbacks now because so much of our culture has so thoroughly embraced irresponsibility.” What do you think Mr. Geraghty means when he postulates that much of our culture has ‘embraced irresponsibility?’ Do you agree that much of our culture has embraced irresponsibility? Why or why not?
- Later in the video Mr. Geraghty explains, “...ask women what they really want in a man— or at least all those women who have grown out of their adolescent fascination with bad boys... they’ll describe most if not all of his traits: Reliable, Trustworthy, Smart, Confident, but not smug, Funny and capable of laughing at himself, Successful at work, but not a workaholic, Likes children, but is not a child, Devoted to his family. It’s an indisputably masculine figure. And make no mistake, that’s what most women want and what all children need.” Do you agree with Mr. Geraghty’s claim? Why or why not? How would you describe that man that most women want?
- Toward the end of the video, Mr. Geraghty shares with us that, “Our culture snickers at Ward Cleaver types, but it is propagating a falsehood when it paints them as stifled, miserable, hollowed-out men, yearning for their carefree bachelor days and regretting their commitments. What leaves a man depressed and hollow inside is not attachments, but the lack of them... Getting married, being a father, working your way to a owning a home: these are probably the best things that will ever happen to most of us.” Why do you think that Mr. Geraghty considers such grown-up responsibilities to be ‘the best things that will ever happen to most of us?’ What do you think prevents young men these days from either wanting these adult conditions or prevents them from actually attaining such attachments?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: The Perpetually Adolescent Male

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Feminism, marriage and the perpetually adolescent male,” then answer the questions that follow.

- How many men aged 20-54 are unmarried? What are younger men occupying themselves with instead of jobs, wives, and families? What has happened to the percentage of unmarried males ages 20 to 54 who are not in the labor force?
- What are the author’s main points and conclusions? Do you agree with her? Why or why not?
- Does this article support the points made in the video? If not, why not? If so, which specific points are supportive?



QUIZ

THE SEXIEST MAN ALIVE

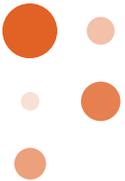
- 1. What would happen if today's men modeled Ward Cleaver?**
 - a. Race relations would fall apart.
 - b. Women would lose their jobs.
 - c. America and the world would be better places.
 - d. The video game industry would flourish.

- 2. If you had to summarize TV dads from the 1950s in one word, that word would be "_____."**
 - a. boring
 - b. lazy
 - c. workaholic
 - d. responsible

- 3. If all the Ward Cleavers of the world disappeared tomorrow, what would happen?**
 - a. The video game industry would collapse.
 - b. Civilization would collapse.
 - c. The United States would collapse.
 - d. Nothing.

- 4. Which of the following are probably the best things that will ever happen to most of us?**
 - a. Getting married.
 - b. Being a father.
 - c. Owning a home.
 - d. All of the above.

- 5. In the rejection of that stereotypical 1950s suburban dad image, we threw some metaphorical babies out with the bathwater.**
 - a. True
 - b. False



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/3/janice-shaw-crouse-feminism-marriage-and-perpetual/>

Feminism, marriage and the perpetually adolescent male



“Far too many young men have failed to make a normal progression into adult roles of responsibility and self-sufficiency, roles generally associated with marriage and fatherhood,” writes Janice Shaw Crouse. (AP Photo/The Quincy Herald-Whig, Michael Kipley)

By [Janice Shaw Crouse](#) - - Tuesday, February 3, 2015

The effects of the ‘60s sexual revolution and subsequent rise of feminism on marriage, unwed childbearing, and single motherhood have been chronicled at length.

But additional attention needs to be paid to the impact of feminism on a large segment of the male population: Far too many young men have failed to make a normal progression into adult roles of responsibility and self-sufficiency, roles generally associated with marriage and fatherhood.

My research indicates that from a low of just over 19 percent in 1966, the proportion of all men ages 20 to 54 who are unmarried is now more than one-half.

Among younger men 20 to 34, more than 70 percent are now unmarried, compared with just under 30 percent in this age group in the mid-1960s at the onset of the sexual revolution.

To hard-core radical feminists, this may represent a positive development—not a bug but a feature, as we say in the computer age.

But to the millions of children growing up in fatherless homes aching for a connection to their biological father, it's another story altogether, a lonely painful story.

Even liberal scholars have pretty much given up trying to paper over the exorbitant costs and consequences of raising children without a father.

Moreover, while today's mothers are grateful that their daughters have fewer obstacles to achieving their full potential, they are, nevertheless, concerned about the risks and threats their sons face in an educational system and work-a-day world that devalues masculinity and is slanted against males.

It goes without saying that male-female relationships can be risky; from potential false charges of rape to no-fault divorce, the risks — financial and otherwise — of male/female interactions have become very high indeed.

Thus, year by year more and more younger men whose biological age should normally predispose them to take up the responsibilities of job, wife and family — activities which build society — are occupying themselves with computer games, pornography, hook-ups and otherwise wasting their potential to contribute and help build a future.

The percentage of unmarried males ages 20 to 54 who are not in the labor force has also more than doubled in the last 15 years.

The growth in this trend of young males forfeiting the opportunity/responsibility to contribute to society and living a parasitic existence (along with the associated increases in unwed childbearing and single-mother households) cannot be sustained indefinitely, and must at some point reach an upper limit as the weight of the unproductive becomes too much for society to sustain.

Maureen Dowd noted ten years ago, "Feminism died in 1998 when Hillary allowed henchlings and Democrats to demonize Monica as an unbalanced stalker, and when Gloria Steinem defended Mr. Clinton against Kathleen Willey and Paula Jones ..." Hillary's perennial quest for the White House will test whether or not Glenn Reynolds has it right when he looks for a pulse and concludes that "Now the corpse is just twitching."

It remains to be seen whether either one of them has it completely right.

Even if rigor mortis has not fully set in, there is much to indicate that feminism as an ideological movement is a spent force.

Judging from the popularity of the ABC reality show, "The Bachelor," it seems man-hating is going out of style and now has limited appeal for women in general, its relevance shrinking primarily to its redoubt in the women's studies programs in American universities.

That doesn't, however, mean the bitter consequences of feminism's corrosive values and myths aren't going to be around for a long, long time due to policies and laws — like no-fault divorce and the Violence Against Women Act's mandated campus rape adjudication protocols — that were put in place during feminism's heyday.

Is there any way forward out of the morals-free morass we have let envelop us in the name of being nonjudgmental?

If, after many generations of totalitarian rule, Communist China and Russia can experience extensive sociocultural and spiritual stirrings, if revival can sweep Africa to the point that Anglicans in the United

States are reorganizing under the authority of African bishops, then perhaps, just perhaps it will happen here.

If movie goers are enthralled by the idea of the heroic male depicted in “American Sniper” putting everything on the line to be protector of family and country, and if the most popular advertisements of the Super Bowl this year celebrate fatherhood (Nissan, Toyota and Dove), then there really is a glimmer of hope for America to return to its traditional values.