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READING JUMP Plus 3

Casey Malarcher

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Unit
01

I Love Lucy

WARM-UP

Discuss and answer the questions.

1. What is your favorite kind of television show: comedies, reality shows, cartoons, sports, or something else?
2. When did people first start using televisions?

Vocabulary Preview

Write each word next to its meaning.

resonate | domestic | prior | medium | chaos | ridiculous | rerun

1. _____ to understand and be inspired by someone or something
2. _____ relating to the running of a home or family relationships
3. _____ a way of doing something
4. _____ before
5. _____ complete disorder and disorganization
6. _____ too silly to be believed; deserving of mockery
7. _____ a repeat broadcast of a television show

> I Love Lucy

Before You Read

I Love Lucy was an iconic television show. It featured a female comedian, Lucille Ball, and her husband in real life, Desi Arnaz. Together, they transformed the television industry. Although their show only lasted a few seasons, the episodes continue to be replayed on television today, providing audiences with endless hours of laughs at the expense of one of the funniest women ever on television.



Television was still a new **medium** when *I Love Lucy* began. Television stations had been showing programs in the United States for only a dozen years before *I Love Lucy* started filming in 1951. Although it was only on the air for six seasons, the show had an impact that **resonates** today.

5 Lucille Ball, the show's star, was a pioneer for female comedians. **Prior** to the show's broadcast, physical comedy had only been connected with great male film actors. Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy, and the Marx Brothers all became famous for turning accidental trips and falls into **chaos**. The audience would roar with laughter as these men took physical beatings from animals, people, and other objects. Lucille Ball was one of
10 the first female comedians who allowed herself to be the object of people's laughter. In one famous scene, she is working at a conveyor belt. She is supposed to wrap pieces of chocolate as they go by. The conveyor belt is too fast, however. She stuffs the chocolate in her mouth, in her hat, and in her shirt until she looks **ridiculous**.

15 Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, her husband on the show and in real life, also changed the way that the television business worked. They helped pay for the filming in order to have ownership of the show. Then, companies paid them to show



commercials or advertisements during the show. Lucy and her husband soon discovered that there was a lot of money to be made in **reruns**, as they became television's first millionaires. Nowadays, producers know that there is significant money to be made in reruns and DVD sales.

Most significantly, the show provided a blueprint for many television comedies that followed. The show, which was set inside Lucy's home, focused on **domestic** situations and problems. Many of the most popular sitcoms of all time, such as *All in the Family*, *The Cosby Show*, and *The Simpsons*, followed the lead of *I Love Lucy*. The comedic situations in these shows stemmed from the discomforts of domestic life. *I Love Lucy* can honestly be called the mother of all comedy programs.



- 3 **on the air** being shown on TV
- 23 **blueprint** a structure to follow
- 29 **stem** to originate from

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - a. Women have played important roles in television comedies.
 - b. The *I Love Lucy* show had a big impact on American television.
 - c. The business of making television shows has changed a lot over time.
 - d. The most popular sitcom in history was made by Ball and Arnaz.

2. How long was *I Love Lucy* on the air?
 - a. Six seasons
 - b. Twelve years
 - c. Six years
 - d. Twelve seasons

3. What did Lucille Ball do differently than other female comedians?
 - a. She told jokes at the beginning of the show.
 - b. She got married.
 - c. She made a fool of herself in order to make people laugh.
 - d. She quit stand-up to act in a television series.

4. Where was the setting of *I Love Lucy*?
 - a. In the factory where Lucy worked
 - b. In Lucy's house
 - c. On a television set
 - d. In Desi's office

Answer these questions.

5. What does Lucille Ball have in common with Charlie Chaplin?

6. Why did Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz help pay for filming the *I Love Lucy* show?

7. What are *All in the Family*, *The Cosby Show*, and *The Simpsons* about?

Complete the outline.

after the first | domestic comedies | resonates today | millionaires from
was a pioneer | film stars | focusing on

1 st Paragraph	Thesis	The <i>I Love Lucy</i> show had an impact that _____.
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2 nd Paragraph	Main Idea	Lucille Ball _____ comic actress.
	Detail	Ball used physical comedy like male _____.



3 rd Paragraph	Main Idea	As a business model, <i>I Love Lucy</i> showed that money could be made _____ showing of a program.
	Detail	Ball and Arnaz became _____ reruns.



4 th Paragraph	Main Idea	Popular US sitcoms today are _____ similar to <i>I Love Lucy</i> .
	Detail	Comedies _____ domestic disorders include <i>All in the Family</i> , <i>The Cosby Show</i> , and <i>The Simpsons</i> .

Discuss and answer the questions with your friends.

1. Can you think of any actresses or actors who use physical comedy?
2. Have you ever laughed at someone when they got hurt? What happened to them?
3. What is your favorite program these days? Why do you like it?

Vocabulary Practice

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the box.

blueprint | chaos | domestic | production | medium
pioneer | reruns | resonated | ridiculous | comedy

The *I Love Lucy* show, which was and still is an important show for the

1. _____ of television, started filming in 1951. It immediately

2. _____ with audiences with its familiar 3. _____ situations and family problems that provided the comedy. In addition, Lucille Ball, the show's star, was a 4. _____ of female comedians. She was not afraid to use physical 5. _____ to get laughs. Viewers would roar with laughter when she made herself look 6. _____. The show was not only influential in its focus on the domestic discomforts created by the constant 7. _____ around Lucy. It also influenced the economy of television. The stars paid for the show's 8. _____ for the right to own the show. Ball and Arnaz became millionaires.

Many shows that followed the *I Love Lucy* 9. _____ saw similar success. There is a lot of money to be made from DVDs and 10. _____ nowadays.

