

Life Sketch

Anita looked around the classroom at her many friends in this new school. There was Rosalee, who lived with her mom and younger brother in an apartment. They didn't have much money, and Rosalee had to spend most of her time babysitting her brother.

Anita glanced over at her friend Britta. Britta always had the best clothes and extra money to spend. Anita guessed it was because both her parents worked so hard. They were often gone on business trips. Britta's grandmother, who lived with the family, always made Anita feel special whenever she visited.

Josh had become a close friend, too. Anita was glad that her parents had moved next door to Josh and his dad. Josh had moved to the neighborhood three years ago and knew how it felt to try to make new friends.

- 1. In which type of family structure does Rosalee live?**
 - 2. In which type of family does Britta live?**
 - 3. What are the unique qualities of each family structure?**
 - 4. What is common to both Anita and Josh's family situations?**
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Families live differently now than they did years ago, yet they fulfill many of the same functions. Today's family structures are more complex and less traditional than those of the past. In spite of the many challenges they face, the family remains a strong institution.

Today's families are more mobile, moving to better jobs, climates, and opportunities. An increasing divorce rate has resulted in many children living in a family with only one parent. The

number of women working outside the home has increased, too. Such circumstances are the result of economic and social changes in American society.

5. What future changes might we see in families?