

# Famous Mothers Trivia

This activity includes 30 questions about real and fictional famous mothers with answers and additional information for discussion.

1. What physicist and mother helped discover radium and polonium and won two Nobel Prizes—one for Physics in 1903 and one for Chemistry in 1911?

**Answer:** Marie Curie. She had two successful daughters, Irène and Ève Curie. Irène Joliot-Curie went on to win the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1935 for her work on the synthesis of new radioactive elements. Ève Curie became a concert pianist, journalist, and diplomat. She also published a biography about her mother titled *Madame Curie*.



2. Who is the star of the *I Love Lucy* show, who famously depicted her pregnancy on the show over the course of seven episodes?

**Answer:** Lucille Ball. It was the first time an actress who was actually pregnant openly portrayed “her condition” on television. They even timed the birth of the fictional child, Little Ricky, with her real one, Desi Arnaz Jr. Approximately 44 million people tuned in to watch the “Lucy Goes to the Hospital” episode.

3. Who is Carrie Fisher’s famous mother?

**Answer:** Debbie Reynolds. Debbie Reynolds is known for her extensive movie career, which includes *Singin’ in the Rain*. **Fun fact:** Debbie and Carrie were also both Girl Scouts, and Debbie was Carrie’s troop leader.

4. In the movie *Gone with the Wind*, who is the mother of Bonnie Blue Butler?

**Answer:** Scarlett O’Hara. Rhett Butler is the father. Unfortunately, Rhett is not always pleased with Scarlett’s mothering and at one point famously says, “A cat’s a better mother than you are.”

5. What mother of four is the longest-reigning queen of England?

**Answer:** Queen Elizabeth II. Her full name is Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Mountbatten-Windsor. Can you name her four royal children? (Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward)

6. Who is the matriarch on *The Brady Bunch* television show?

**Answer:** Carol Brady. In the show, Carol is the mother of three daughters when she marries widower Mike Brady, who has three sons. Can you name all the children as well? (Marsha, Jan, Cindy, Greg, Peter, and Bobby)

7. Who went to the cupboard to fetch her poor dog a bone?

**Answer:** Old Mother Hubbard. According to the children’s nursery rhyme, Old Mother Hubbard found no bones in the cupboard.

8. What famous mother was the first woman to serve as a justice on the Supreme Court?

**Answer:** Sandra Day O'Connor. She was an Arizona state senator prior to being nominated for the Supreme Court by Ronald Reagan in 1981. She received unanimous Senate approval for the position. She served on the court for 24 years before retiring. She is a breast cancer survivor, author of several books, and proud mother of three sons: Brian, Scott, and Jay.

9. In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, who is the mother of Pammy Buchanan? Hint: She is Gatsby's love interest.

**Answer:** Daisy. Many believe the character of Daisy Buchanan was loosely based on F. Scott Fitzgerald's wife, Zelda.

10. Mary Wollstonecraft wrote several books, including her most famous, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, which advocated for education reform. Can you name her daughter who authored the famous novel *Frankenstein*?

**Answer:** Mary Shelley. Unfortunately, Mary Wollstonecraft passed away a mere 10 days after giving birth to Mary.

11. What comic strip mom was married to Hiram Flagston—also known as Hi—with whom she had four children: Chip, Ditto, Dot, and baby Trixie?

**Answer:** Lois. The comic strip *Hi and Lois* was initially created in 1954 by writer Mort Walker and artist Dik Browne. By 1983, it had been published in over 1,000 newspapers. The comic strip lives on today and is written by Mort's sons, Brian and Greg, and illustrated by Dik's son, Chance.

12. What author, poet, civil rights activist, and mother wrote the famous autobiographical novel *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*?

**Answer:** Maya Angelou. She has also received the National Medal of Arts and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. At the age of 16, she gave birth to her only son, Guy Johnson.

13. In Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, what do the March girls call their mother?

**Answer:** Marmee. Some believe that the pronunciation is not "MARmee" but "MAHmee" because New Englanders often pronounce "ar" as "ah." Her real name in the novel is Margaret March. Can you remember her four daughters' names? (Jo, Meg, Amy, and Beth)

14. What musical, which was first produced in 1959, centered around an overbearing stage mother named Rose and her daughters June and Louise?

**Answer:** *Gypsy*. Louise grows up and becomes a successful burlesque star called Gypsy Rose Lee. The musical is in part based on the memoir of the famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee.

15. What is the name of the matriarch from *The Addams Family*?

**Answer:** Morticia Addams. Morticia is the wife of Gomez Addams and mother of Wednesday and Pugsley. The family first appeared in 1938 in a comic strip in *The New Yorker* magazine.

16. Who was the mother of the sixth president of the United States? **Hint:** She was also the wife of the second president of the United States.

**Answer:** Abigail Adams. Abigail Adams advocated for women's rights and education as well as an end to slavery. She was the mother of six children, four of whom lived to adulthood: Abigail (b. 1765), John Quincy (b. 1767), Charles (b. 1770), and Thomas (b. 1772).

17. Who is the mother of Elroy and Judy Jetson in the 1960s cartoon television show *The Jetsons*?

**Answer:** Jane Jetson. She is married to George Jetson, and they live in the future, where flying cars and technological appliances help her maintain the household.

18. What famous mother was the first and only woman to be elected prime minister of India?

**Answer:** Indira Gandhi. Through her hard work, India became self-sufficient in food and grain production. It was also through her leadership that India won the war with Pakistan and the country of Bangladesh was created. She was the proud mother of two sons, Rajiv and Sanjay.

19. Who was the last ruler of the Macedonian dynasty in Egypt and had one son with Julius Caesar and three more children with Mark Antony?

**Answer:** Cleopatra. Her only daughter, Cleopatra Selene, went on to become the Queen of Mauretania.

20. Who starred on *The Dick Van Dyke Show* as wife and mother Laura Petrie and then went on to have her own show? **Hint:** In her show, she played a single gal named Mary Richards.

**Answer:** Mary Tyler Moore. Along with her successful acting career, Mary Tyler Moore became a mother in 1956 when she gave birth to her son, Richard Meeker.

21. What famous actress, singer, and mother starred in the movie *The Wizard of Oz* and *Meet Me in St. Louis*?

**Answer:** Judy Garland. On the set of *Meet Me in St. Louis*, Garland met her second husband, director Vincent Minnelli. They went on to have a daughter in 1946.

22. What is the name of Judy Garland's famous daughter who later became an actress herself and starred in the movie *Cabaret*?

**Answer:** Liza Minnelli. Minnelli's first on-screen movie experience was with her mother and Van Johnson when she was only a few years old. The movie was *In the Good Old Summertime*, which came out in 1949.

23. What comic strip mom is married to Dagwood Bumstead and has two teenage children, Alexander and Cookie?

**Answer:** Blondie. A great mom, loving wife, and business owner (Blondie's Catering Service), Blondie is the whole package. Chic Young created *Blondie* in 1930. Young's son, Dean, continued the comic after his death in 1973.

24. What famous abolitionist was born into slavery, escaped to freedom with her infant daughter in 1826, and later won a court case freeing one of her sons from slavery as well?

**Answer:** Sojourner Truth. She also delivered a famous speech titled “Ain’t I a Woman?” at the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention and was the first African American woman to win a court case against a white man when he illegally sold her five-year-old son.

25. Who is Richie and Joanie Cunningham’s mother on the television show *Happy Days*?

**Answer:** Marion Cunningham. For 255 episodes between 1974 and 1984, Marion Ross played the mother on *Happy Days*.

26. What is Jesus’ mother’s name?

**Answer:** Mary. She is also referred to as St. Mary or the Virgin Mary.

27. What television matriarch has a husband named Ozzie and two sons, Ricky and David?

**Answer:** Harriet. *The Adventures of Ozzie & Harriet* started as a radio show in 1944. The television show of the same name ran from 1952 to 1966 and continued to center around the Nelson family.

28. Who married Prince Charles of England and had two sons named William and Harry?

**Answer:** Diana Spencer, also known as Princess Diana. Princess Diana was an altruistic woman who devoted much of her life working with various charities that helped the homeless, children, and those with HIV and AIDS. She was also a very loving mother to her two sons.

29. In *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, what is the name of Tom Wingfield’s mother, who often romanticizes her youth as a southern belle?

**Answer:** Amanda Wingfield. Throughout the play, Amanda reminisces about her gentleman callers of the past and frets over her daughter Laura’s prospects of finding a suitable husband.

30. What famous actress and mother starred in the movies *Breakfast at Tiffany’s* and *Roman Holiday*?

**Answer:** Audrey Hepburn. Audrey Hepburn later became a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF in the late 1980s, working to raise awareness for children in need. She received a special posthumous Academy Award for her humanitarian work. Her children, Sean Ferrer and Luca Dotti, created the Audrey Hepburn Society at UNICEF so that her efforts would be continued.

