

Research Question: How well does the Gilman family get along?

Part D: Analysis

It seems based on the evidence that all four members of the Gilman family get along pretty well. Poppa Gilman and Brian are both described as “non-confrontational” and Momma Gilman and Matt are described as “sensitive” which would make one believe that the family rarely fights. Poppa Gilman is clean and very organized which would lead one to believe that he does all the cleaning of the house and since Momma Gilman doesn’t clean this would make her very happy. Based on the evidence it seems that all the boys love sports and are pretty good at them. Since Momma Gilman doesn’t seem to mind staying home the boys are probably given plenty of time to go play!

Yet, some of the evidence could be questionable- particularly the statements that some family members made. Momma Gilman is quoted as saying, “I’m always the last to know everything” and is very controlling so this might be a cause for argument with the three boys. And since Scott is a lawyer, does this mean he can argue well. But it also says that Poppa Gilman is a great listener and non-confrontational so maybe he is able to end an argument quickly? Matt and Brian are both athletic but because Matt is “too competitive and loses his temper” Brian may choose to not participate in athletics with his brother. And it is stated that Brian is modest about his athletic talents. Does this mean that he is better than Matt? Or does it mean that they do play sports well together since Matt is competitive but Brian being modest doesn’t seem to mind? For all three men, there

are statements made about being with their children or grandchildren. Do they spend all their time with the kids and less time with Momma Gilman? Or is she included? Does this cause an argument or add to her feeling of being left out? Or because she is ok with staying home does this subject surrounding spending time with grandkids not come up? If any of the evidence is questionable, it makes it more difficult for an outsider to truly determine how well this family gets along.

Even if some of the evidence is biased, it's more likely that there is some truth in all of it. In that case, perhaps the similar personalities and interests in this family contribute to their sense of unity as a family. Their similar traits in terms of sensitivity and non-confrontational personalities may make this family work in unison. Or is the theory that opposites attract a reason for one to believe that this family is too much alike to get along?