

**An Annotated Bibliography of Supplementary Readings for Instructors of English
at El Camino College: English 1A, Between Generations Topics**

Boomerangers: Adult Children Living with Parents

Bonker, Dawn. "Boomerangers in '09: 'No end in sight' worries can stress out
the family when adult kids return home." *Los Angeles Times*. ProQuest.
Web. 14 Aug. 2011.

Taking an opposing viewpoint from other commentators on the subject, Dawn Bonker examines the economic crisis in the United States as a primary reason for adult children returning to their parents' homes. She quotes David Palmiter Jr., Professor and Director of the Psychological Services at Marywood University in Pennsylvania, who cautions both parents and children of the necessity of "walking an emotional tightrope." If parents become overly concerned with the adult child's inability to find employment, he recommends their full-time volunteer work or their considering a return to graduate school as stop-gap measures or substitutes for employment. Palmiter also stresses the need to have frequent and open dialogue concerning the return to the nest.

Hart, Betsy. "Twixters: Young adults need to grow up." *Daily Breeze*. Saturday, 29
Jan. 2005. A19. Print.

Noted columnist and commentator, Betsy Hart opines on the cultural phenomenon of the "Twixter," or the young adult—employed and often financially capable of self-support—choosing to remain at home rather than be on their own and independent. The Twixters are generally of the age group of eighteen to twenty-five years of age; the older members are often college educated and graduates from institutions of higher learning. She focuses on a group of young women and men, aged twenty-four to twenty-seven, who habitually change jobs if they are boring or unfulfilling, and who have no real desire to settle, via marriage and the concomitant issues regarding this state. Hart maintains that in allowing this situation of "irresponsibility" to occur, we are preventing them from being truly connected and committed, both to their respective communities and to the larger world.

Gardner, Marilyn. "Adult children back in the nest." *Christian Science Monitor*. 24 Feb.
2009. ProQuest National Newspaper Core. ProQuest. Web. 14 Aug. 2011.

Marilyn Gardner takes a somewhat sympathetic view of adults returning to the homes of their parents: "Pink slips proliferate, and foreclosures multiply." The grim economy has necessitated the adult children's return; foreclosures cause the "Boomerangers" to yearn, not for a home of their own, but for a room—with which they often share with their own children. She urges those families confronted by this unwanted situation to exercise, "patience," "caring," and "compromise," in order to avoid an overly tense household.

Boomerangers 2

Hira, Nadira A. "You Raised Them, Now Manage Them." (cover story). *Fortune*

INternational (Europe) 155.9 (2007): 26. *MasterFile Premier*. Ebsco.

Web. 3 Aug. 2011.

In an interesting look at "Generation Y'ers," Nadira Hira profiles this group—emphasizing their considerable differences from their "Baby Boomer" parents. She selects several "representative" individuals to dramatize her portrait. All are educated, employed in profitable positions (several are accountants for large firms) and "self-absorbed." One young man, Joshua Butler, an accountant, is given time off by his firm so that he can pursue his avocation of body building. Several Y'ers live with their parents, and none are married. According to Hira, all were made to feel "special" by their parents who barraged them with constant affirmation for the slightest accomplishment. Nadira, a budding editor, places herself in this group.

Jefferson, Aisha I. "Escaping the Boomerang Life." *Black Enterprise* 40.11 (2011):

99 *MasterFile Premier*. Ebsco. Web. 5 Aug. 2011.

In a painful contrast—regarding the Boomerang life—to Hira's depiction of the privileged condition of her own counterparts, Aisha Jefferson examines the disastrous circumstances surrounding many returning adult children—and their own families—to the nest. Thirty-seven year old Tondalah Stroud and her forty-six year old husband, beset with medical bills, a car payment, credit card debt, and a onerous mortgage on a house that has lost much of its initial value, have returned to her parents' house, along with their nine-year old son and their two dogs. The objective of this return is to pay off debts (after leasing their house) and then starting anew. Despite her parents' indifference, they make token payments to them for the two rooms they inhabit. They have paid off a card and are saving money each month. The Strouds hope to move out in about a year and a half.

Singletary, Michelle. "When helping an adult child financially isn't really helping." *The*

Washington Post 10 Dec. 2009. *ProQuest National Newspaper Core*. ProQuest.

Web. 14 Aug. 2011.

Michelle Singletary examines yet another type of the boomeranger in her article dealing with a fifty-year old mother who has lost her job after sixteen years and who is suffering great financial duress—enhanced by her twenty-two year old son, who—although he makes thirty thousand dollars a year—demands that his mother foot all of his out of state tuition and housing, via a one-hundred and twenty-five thousand dollar loan. Not surprisingly, Singletary advises the distressed mother to "cut him off."

Boomerangers 3

Turcotte, Martin. "Parents with adult children living at home." *Canadian Social Trends*

80 (2006): 2. *MasterFile Premier*. Ebsco. Web. 14 Aug. 2011.

Martin Turcotte posits that that general view of "adult children remaining at home" is an indication of failure is both incorrect and far too nebulous. Using multivariate statistical analysis, he factors in several criteria in his detailed analysis: Among these are cultural background, geographical residence, and parental levels of education. For example, young adults with Asian-born or South American-born parents are much more likely to remain in the home until than their North American counterparts. Rural residents are also more apt to remain in the home with parents. And finally, level of parental education, Turcotte concludes, as an indicator of adult children living in the same household, is virtually insignificant.

_____. "Staying at home longer to become homeowners." *Canadian Social Trends* 84

(2007):32. *MasterFile Premier*. Ebsco. Web. 5 Aug. 2011.

Once again, Martin Turcotte explores the phenomenon of adult children remaining in the home at an "advanced age." In this article, he examines the desire for homeownership as a motive living with parents. Turcotte concludes—via statistical analysis of representative age groups—that those who remain in the home until the age of twenty-five are no more likely to own a home in their thirties than their counterparts who left home earlier. In arriving at this hypothesis, he explores a number of social factors and offers some useful information in the area of tables—a good example of a social science article.