

## NEWS BREAK

Article: **As focus returns to their work, dads are doing less at home again**

Section: **BUSINESS, C11**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, November 28, 2021** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

***\*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

### Standards:

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1**

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

#### **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2**

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### Objectives:

***Students will discuss typical gender norms in America. They will talk about the roles their parents take at home and in their work. They will share what kind of home/work partnership they want in the future in their own home and family? They will discuss why women still carry the heaviest burden of work, home & child care and how parental roles changed in their homes during the pandemic.***

### Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using only this picture?
- Are there any clues?
- What can you infer?

### Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“But mothers bore the **brunt** of that.”

#### **Brunt Guess:**

#### **Brunt Definition:**

### Comprehension Questions:

1. When the pandemic disrupted everything, it also thrust fathers into the home like never before. It was a moment that looked like it could bring some relief to working moms. Dads had the \_\_\_\_\_ — and the \_\_\_\_\_ — to assume more responsibility.
2. The pandemic, over time, has worsened some \_\_\_\_\_ in American homes.
3. Both moms and dads spent more time looking after their kids as schools went \_\_\_\_\_ and day cares shut down.

4. In 2020, women devoted \_\_\_\_\_ hours more per day than men to child care, compared with \_\_\_\_\_ in 2019, Bureau of Labor Statistics data compiled by Bloomberg News show.
5. The disproportionate burden on mothers ends up eating into what?
6. A crisis with \_\_\_\_\_ has driven a workforce gender gap for decades, but the pandemic took things to another level, costing women globally at least \$800 billion in lost income in 2020, according to Oxfam.
7. In the U.S., roughly 20% of the 7.1 million women aged 25 to 54 that left the labor force during the onset of the COVID-19 recession haven't returned to work as moms struggle to find what?
8. Meanwhile, industries that employ a large number of women — \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are seeing some of the worst impacts of the current labor shortages.
9. The twist here is that working from home made many dads more willing to assume added responsibilities, which could go a long way to close the gender \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Women, because they often work in lower-paying roles, are also more likely to what?
11. The U.S. is one of only seven nations that doesn't provide paid \_\_\_\_\_ leave.

**Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:**

- ***What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?***
- ***At first I thought \_\_\_\_\_, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_?***
- ***What things did you already know from prior experience?***
- ***What do you know about typical gender norms in America?***
- ***What roles do your parents take in your home and in their work? Do they both work outside the home? Do they share in the chores and housework?***
- ***What kind of home/work partnership will you want when you have your own home and family?***
- ***Why do women still carry the heaviest burden of work, home & child care?***
- ***Did parental roles change in your home during the pandemic? If so, what changes occurred?***

*There are also cultural norms that come into play, including traditional notions of men being the “breadwinners” of the family, said Jamie Ladge, an associate professor of management and organizational development at Northeastern University who studies work-life integration.*

- ***Do you think this is a true statement?***
- ***Why have men traditionally been the “breadwinners” of the family?***
- ***Do you think both partners should share equally in work, household duties and child care? Why or why not?***
- ***Does that put on extra stress on men to be breadwinners? Why or why not?***
- ***What kinds of stressors might be on the partner that stays home with the children and does the majority of the household chores & cooking?***

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