

**Youth Culture Lesson**  
**Finding Teachable Moments in Culture**  
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**Mom's the Word**

How Are You Going to Celebrate Mother's Day?

By Paul Asay

**What Happened:**

"Hi Mom!" Whenever a television camera zooms on an athlete on a football field or sports arena, there's a good chance you might read the guy's lips saying something such as this. They don't typically say "Dad," or "Gramps," or "Sister." On television, moms get the most love.

Everyone has a mother, and most of them turn out to be pretty good—not perfect, mind you. We may feel that ours are too strict, too lenient, too nosy or too critical. They may drive us crazy—just as we probably do to them—but one thing's for sure: We love them, and we wouldn't be where we are today—or anywhere, for that matter—without them.

May 12 is Mother's Day. Though the holiday is less than a century old, there have been days honoring mothers since ancient times. Christian celebrations of moms was unofficially observed on the fourth Sunday of Lent—the Catholic feast day of Jesus' mother, Mary. It was broadened to include all moms in Medieval England.

[source: [MothersDayCelebration.com](http://MothersDayCelebration.com)]

In the United States, Mother's Day as we know it was launched by Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the famous "Battle Hymn of the Republic." The day, as imagined by Howe, wasn't so much a day for honoring mothers as a day for mothers to plead for world peace.

The day's changed quite a bit since then. Instead of mothers pleading for peace, society opted to give mothers themselves a day of peace—along with gifts, cards, flowers and Sunday brunches. After all, moms should get one day a year off, right?

**Talk About It:**

What do you appreciate most about your mother? What are your favorite memories of her? How are you planning to celebrate Mother's Day? Does your family have a special tradition to mark the day?

What makes a good Mom? How does she show the people in her life that she loves them?

A card on Mother's Day is great and all, but most moms probably could be appreciated more the other 364 days of the year. Are there things you could do to make her life easier? Ways you could show her how much you love her?

The Bible is full of mothers. Eve was the very first. Sarah had her first child when she was 90 years old. Jochebed, in order to save her son, Moses, set him in a basket and set

him in the Nile—trusting God to keep him safe. Can you think of other biblical moms? What were their good points? Did they ever fall short?

**What the Bible Says:**

“She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all” (Prov. 31:26-29).

“If a man curses his father or mother, his lamp will be snuffed out in pitch darkness” (Prov. 20:20).

“Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you” (Ex. 20:12).

“Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: ‘We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of carnage for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender to those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs.’”

—Julia Ward Howe, Mother’s Day Proclamation

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