

If the Family Were a Boat

If the family were a container, it would be a nest, an enduring nest, loosely woven, expansive and open. If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange, a circle of sections, held together but separable—each segment distinct. If the family were a boat, it would be a canoe that makes no progress unless everyone paddles. If the family were a sport, it would be baseball: a long, slow game that is never over until the last one is out. If the family were a building, it would be an old but solid structure that contains human history, and appeals to those who see the carved mouldings under all the plaster, the wide plank floors under the linoleum, the possibilities.



adapted from Letty Cottin Pogrebin

This piece of writing describes the idea of *family* by comparing it with something else. It is a technique that encourages us to think more deeply about the subject and to see it from different angles. What do you think the writer is saying about ‘family’ in these sentences?

If the family were a container, it would be a nest . . .

If the family were a fruit, it would be an orange . . .

If the family were a boat it would be a canoe . . .

Try your hand at describing a family using this same technique. Be sure to say **what kind** of movie, or meal, or song the family would be and give a reason why.



If a family were a *movie*, it would be:



If a family were a *meal*, it would be:



If a family were a *song*, it would be:
