**The Cosby Show – “Back to School”**

**Potential Themes:**

Back to school – Returning to school causes a lot of stress for children and teenagers.

Family – Large families are chaotic.

Fatherhood – It’s the father’s job in a family to fix the problems that his children encounter.

~~(I think that)~~ Returning to school causes a lot of stress for children and teenagers. [blueprint] Firstly, getting ready for school in the morning is stressful for teens and children. Rudy, Cliff’s youngest daughter, was dressed inappropriately for her first day in grade one. Clothing choices can be stressful for children because they will be bullied if they’re dressed oddly. Secondly, going back to school is stressful because teens worry about making a good first impression. In *The Cosby Show*, Vanessa spends a lot of time perfecting how she looks. Appearances are important to teenagers because they want to attract the attention of their peers. Lastly, school is stressful because that’s where children encounter bullies. Rudy is upset when she returns home because she was bullied at school. The fear of rejection and criticism causes a lot of stress and depression in children. Therefore, due to bullies, and the need to make the right impressions, returning to school is a stressful time for teens and children.

~~(I think that)~~ The health of a family is dependant on the father in a household. [blueprint] Firstly, a healthy family trusts one another, and this trust is built through fathers actually listening to their children. This is shown in *The Cosby Show* when Cliff listens to Rudy’s experience with a bully. By listening to his daughter, Cliff builds a healthy relationship so she knows she can bring future problems to him. This openness is a sign of a healthy family. Secondly, fathers should be protective of their children. Cliff Huxtable keeps fixing his daughter, Vanessa’s shirt, to encourage her to dress modestly. Cliff doesn’t want his daughter receiving the wrong kind of attention; thus, this playful encouragement of her modesty is a sign of love. Thirdly, a good father will give his children grace and patience. Cliff gives his son, Theo, patience when he is getting out of bed. Cliff does not yell at his son after repeated attempts to wake him up on the first day of school. Patience is important so his son does not become resentful with his father. Therefore, a healthy family is built on a father’s patience, protectiveness, and communication.

Parents need to cooperate to raise children effectively.

The Cosby Show demonstrates that the proper support from a father will help family members excel in life. A great father will console his children. For example, Cliff Huxtable comforts Rudy when she is bullied at school. Cliff’s comfort makes Rudy want to return to school, which is a necessary daily routine. A dad can also promote good behaviour. Cliff emphasizes the ridiculousness of his children’s behaviour by shouting with his wife, Claire. Correcting the children’s behaviour helps Claire focus on her work. This also teaches the children to behave appropriately in the household…

[It is the responsibility of the D-Block class to finish this paragraph for homework]

**C-Block Class**

Topics: Clothes, **Family Values**, Fatherhood, School

Potential Theme Statements:

Families aren’t perfect

Family is the most important thing in life

**The most important family values are trust, love, and communication.**

The most important family values are trust, love, and communication, as proven by *The Cosby Show*. Trust is necessary for children to mature into responsible adults. The father, Cliff, demonstrates this trust when he allows his daughter Denise to go out with her friends without expressing any concern. This fact is emphasized because the characters say that “this is a historic moment” for them. Therefore, Cliff’s trust allows Denise to mature. Love is also an essential element to a happy, healthy family. Cliff shows his love to Vanessa through his concern about her modesty and the way that she dresses. In the show,