The Goldbergs: Show Summary

The VCR-loving, mixtape-making, spandex-wearing Goldbergs are back! For geeky and movie obsessed youngest child Adam (Sean Giambrone), his wonder years were spent documenting the hilarious and awkward antics of his colorful family. Mom Beverly (Wendi McLendon-Covey) is at her best when she's meddling, matchmaking and bedazzling her way through life, while Dad Murray (Jeff Garlin) parents from the comfort of his recliner in his underpants. Oldest sister Erica (Hayley Orrantia) dreams of being a pop star if she can only overcome her secret love of all things uncool. Then there's middle child Barry (Troy Gentile) who's just as in touch with his emotions as he is with his sick rap skills, which is how he landed Erica's best friend and the hottest girl in school, Lainey (AJ Michalka), as his girlfriend. Rounding out the brood is beloved grandfather Al "Pops" Solomon (George Segal), the wild man of the clan, a shameless Don Juan who enjoys family time with his grandkids almost as much as his weekly massages. This season finds the siblings fighting off huggies, snuggies and nubbies, as they navigate what it means to grow up as a Goldberg.

The Goldbergs: Cast

Role: Beverly Goldberg
Role: Adam Goldberg
-Played by Wendi McLendon-Covey

Role: Barry Goldberg
-Played by Sean Giambrone

Role: Erica Goldberg
-Played by Hayley Orrantia

Role: Albert Solomon
-Played by George Segal

Role: Murray Goldberg
-Played by Jeff Garlin

Role: Geoff Schwartz
-Played by Sam Lerner

The Goldbergs: Reviewed Episode

Title: The Circle of Driving

Season/Episode: The Goldbergs episode (season 1, episode 1)

Television Airing Station: ABC

Synopsis:
The episode starts under the watchful eye of an eleven-year-old boy's video camera, the Goldbergs (a funky family) face the challenges of life in the 80s, including two new teenage drivers and a grandfather who shouldn't be allowed behind the wheel. Barry, the main character, has just turned 16 and cannot wait to drive, and he has hopes that Murray and Beverly bought him a new car for his birthday present. The episode continues with the brothers dealing with father Murray's abusive language, but when firstborn Barry's birthday dream-present, car keys, denied by bossy mother Beverly but offered by grandpa Albert 'Pops', who bought himself a sports car, land with sassy sister Erica, it's too much. Kid brother Adam, Pops' favorite, sees their secret diner meetings threatened in a bizarre sequence of mishaps after Murray tries for once to stand up for actual favorite Barry, while Pops wrecks his car due to poor eyesight.

**Happy Together: Show Summary**

*Happy Together* stars Damon Wayans, Jr. in a comedy about a 30-something happily married couple who begin to reconnect with their younger, cooler selves when a young pop star drawn to their super ordinary suburban life unexpectedly moves in with them. Jake, an accountant, and his dream wife, Claire, a restaurant and bar designer, are very comfortably settled into their marriage, enjoying evenings together on the couch watching TV and scheduling time to change their outgoing voicemail message. Their tame routine gets a makeover when Jake's client, exuberant music superstar Cooper James, arrives on their doorstep looking for refuge from the paparazzi following a high Profile breakup with his girlfriend. Jake and Claire quickly discover there's no way they can keep up with their world-famous houseguest's
effortlessly cool, fast-paced lifestyle. Cooper, however, enjoys Jake and Claire's more relaxed way of life, discovering that a touch of ordinary can be extraordinary for all three of them.

**Happy Together: Cast**

**Role:** Jake  
- Played by Damon Wayans Jr.

**Role:** Claire  
- Played by Amber Stevens West

**Role:** Cooper James  
- Played by Felix Mallard

**Role:** Bonnie  
- Played by Stephanie Weir

**Role:** Gerald  
- Played by Victor Williams

**Role:** Wayne  
- Played by Chris Parnell

**Happy Together: Reviewed Episode**

**Title:** Pilot

**Season/Episode:** Happy Together episode (season 1, episode 1)

**Television Airing Station:** CBS
Synopsis:

- Jake and Claire, the newlywed couple in their thirties, reconnect with their younger, cooler selves when a young pop star is brought into their super-ordinary suburban lifestyle. Cooper James is a renowned popstar seeking a normal living situation without paparazzi bombarding him with every move. The episode is called the “Pilot” due to this being the idea that launched the show to earn its own spot on television.
**Venn Diagram: Compare and Contrast Subject Matter Similarities Among Series’**

**Graphic Organizer: Venn Diagram**

The Goldbergs  
Happy Together

**Left Side**

1. Everyone in the show is blood related that is living in the house.
2. The mother is bossy, and the father is verbally abusive for the time period.
3. The family is all over the place when it comes to a normal routine.
4. The outfits are of that time period influenced by gaudy colors and patterns.

**Middle**

5. Both series revolve around the aspects of a family.
6. Dream of pop stardom occur in both series.
7. The grandparents are equally as embarrassing with their own faults.

**Right Side**

8. Jake and Claire are too nice in a hospitality way.
9. They grow close to Cooper as it is seen in the first episode.
10. They are quite relaxed when it comes to routine.
11. The outfits in the show are cool and casual with the sometimes uproar of an outrageous outfit (thanks to Cooper).
**Compare/Contrast Matrix: Filming Style Among Series’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filming Style</th>
<th>The Goldbergs</th>
<th>Happy Together</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camera Angles</td>
<td>2 shots</td>
<td>4 shots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Cameras</strong></td>
<td>2 cameras</td>
<td>4 cameras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(VHS Camera &amp; Single Camera)</td>
<td>(Multi Camera)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Sets</td>
<td>House Set</td>
<td>Studio sets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Studio Sets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live Audience</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Technology</td>
<td>1980s technology (Cameras, phones, tv, etc,)</td>
<td>Modern day technology (Cameras, phones, tv, etc,)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editing/Editors</td>
<td>Jonathan Corn</td>
<td>Richard Candib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ivan Victor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Peter B. Ellis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kevin Leffler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus</td>
<td>High-definition TV aspect ratio of 16 to 9 or 1.78 to 1</td>
<td>High-definition TV aspect ratio of 16 to 9 or 1.78 to 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Hierarchy Chart: Plot Style Among Series**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plot Style</th>
<th>Episodic Plot</th>
<th>Continuing Plot</th>
<th>Multilayered Plot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Episodic Plot</strong></td>
<td>Made up of a series of chapters or stories linked together by the same character, place, or theme but held apart by their individual plot, purpose, and subtext.</td>
<td>Made up of a series of unfolds in a sequential episode-by-episode fashion that typically follows the main story arc that span entire television seasons or even the entire series.</td>
<td>Made up of series of multilayered characters all within the greater story among framing devices. These are commonly found with storytelling, but they have found their way into movies and television shows.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuing Plot</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multilayered Plot</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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The Goldbergs is an example of this plot due to the general theme of the show as a family working through their problems, yet they maintain their individual purposes.

Happy Together is an example of this plot because the main theme of the show follows the entire series.
**Compare/Contrast Chart: Art of Sitcoms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How the Art of Sitcoms Changed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Past</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity was rarely shown or notarized</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shows use to be on one channel at one specific time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only one camera could have been budgeted when it came to filming the sitcoms, and live audiences did not come around until the present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
References


