



Handout - *Leave It to Beaver* and *I Love Lucy*

Leave It to Beaver and *I Love Lucy* were two popular television shows in the 1950s. While both depict families in the 1950s and represent the theme of conformity of the time period, to an extent *I Love Lucy* challenges the idea of conformity during this time period. Use guided research below to compare and contrast the two shows to learn more about television in the 1950s.

Step 1: With your partner, decide which show you would like to research: *Leave it to Beaver* or *I Love Lucy*

Step 2: Conduct research on your chosen show with the questions below to guide your research (use images, video clips, show summaries, reviews and articles for your research).

Step 3: Ask your partner the below questions about the show they researched. Circle the show they researched, and provide their answers. Then repeat the process. (For example, the person who researched *I Love Lucy* should ask questions to their partner about *Leave it to Beaver*, then the the person who researched *Leave it to Beaver* should ask questions to their partner about *I Love Lucy*.)

Leave it to Beaver/*I Love Lucy*

1. What is the show about?

2. Describe the main characters in the show.

Characteristics:

Jobs:

Social Class:

Ethnicities:

Gender Roles:



Step 4: After filling in each question, discuss the following questions together:

1. In what ways do *Leave it to Beaver* and *I Love Lucy* represent the conformity of the 1950s?
2. In what ways do *Leave it to Beaver* and *I Love Lucy* challenge the conformity of the 1950s?
3. In what ways are both shows similar?
4. In what ways are they different?