

The ADDAMS FAMILY

BOOK by
Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice

MUSIC & LYRICS by
Andrew Lippa

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- THE STORY -

The creepy, kooky Addams family is a tight-knit clan that loves all things dark and eerie. Wednesday confides in her father, Gomez, that she is in love with a "normal" boy named Lucas Beineke and asks him not to tell her mother, Morticia. Gomez has never kept a secret from his wife, but he also can't say no to his darling daughter, which leaves him in a tricky situation. The Addamses prepare to have the Beinekes over for dinner, and Wednesday begs her family to tone down their spooky side for the night. As the two households get to know each other, personalities clash and more secrets spill out, leaving both the Addams and the Beineke families in disarray. Everyone must reconcile their differences and celebrate each other's unique choices if they all want things to be "normal" again.

- THE CHARACTERS -

GOMEZ ADDAMS: A charming, well-dressed man who loves his family

MORTICIA ADDAMS: The bewitching matriarch of the Addams household

WEDNESDAY ADDAMS: The dark-humored teenage daughter who just wants her family to be "normal"

PUGSLEY ADDAMS: The funny, big-hearted baby of the family

GRANDMAMA: Gomez's quirky, spunky 102-year-old mother

UNCLE FESTER: The kooky, energetic narrator of his family's story

LURCH: The Addams' lumbering butler

LUCAS BEINEKE: A hopeful, "average" young man who falls for Wednesday

MAL BEINEKE: The stuffy, cynical head of the Beineke family

ALICE BEINEKE: A devoted suburban mother with a habit of speaking in rhymes

MAKING THE MUSICAL

FROM THE COMIC STRIP TO THE BROADWAY STRIP

In 1938, cartoonist Charles Addams published a one-panel illustration in *The New Yorker* depicting a vacuum salesman pitching his product to a spooky-looking couple in a cobweb-covered manor. The contrast between the everyday and the eerie was a common subject for Addams, who had made a name for himself with his off-kilter humor. This strange couple and their family quickly became a hit among readers, and they made recurring appearances in Addams' cartoons through the 1940s and 50s but remained unnamed.



An illustration of the original Addams family by Charles Addams

In the early 1960s, television producer David Levy came to Charles Addams with a proposal to create a 30-minute sitcom centered around the characters in his comics. There was just one problem: No one knew who they were. Addams worked on fleshing out the identities of his creations, and on September 18, 1964, the world was introduced to the strange and unusual world of Gomez, Morticia, Wednesday, Pugsley, Uncle Fester, and Grandmama—the Addams Family. The show aired for two years, drawing audiences in with its zany humor that celebrated the strange things in life.

Gomez, Morticia and their family were seen in several spin-offs and reboots over the next few decades, but it wasn't until 2007 that they began to journey from screen to stage. Producers Stuart Oken and Roy Furman obtained the stage adaptation rights from the Tee and Charles Addams Foundation, recruiting composer Andrew Lippa to write the songs and the duo of Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice to craft an original story involving the classic characters. Stage veterans Nathan Lane and Bebe Neuwirth joined as Gomez and Morticia, and in 2009 the Broadway-bound **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** headed to Chicago for an out-of-town tryout.



Original Broadway Cast of **THE ADDAMS FAMILY**.
Photo by Sara Krulwich, *The New York Times*

The premiere production of **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** received mixed reviews from critics, prompting the creative team to make some significant adjustments to the show during the short window between their Chicago tryout and the Broadway run. Lippa completely cut and replaced four songs and heavily revised several others while Brickman and Elice worked to tighten up the plot and sharpen the jokes. The new and improved musical adaptation of **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** opened on Broadway in the spring of 2010, but the creepy clan's journey was far from done.

New York critics gave **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** mixed reviews, but the show received plenty of praise from the audiences that filled the theatre eight times a week for over 700 performances. As the show prepared to go out on a national tour, the creative team took another opportunity to revisit the material. Brickman and Elice further tightened the script to emphasize the family's relationships, and Lippa wrote several more new songs. This updated version of **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** received glowing reviews across the globe and has become one of the most-performed shows in the United States every year, thanks to countless school and community productions. The long second life of **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** is a testament to the universal appeal of the quirky characters and their heartwarming story, and it is likely to become a Broadway At Music Circus favorite as well!

THE ADDAMS FAMILY'S FAMILY HISTORY

Since their debut in 1938, the Addams Family has appeared in many forms of popular media. Check out some of these different versions of the dark-humored family that have delighted audiences across generations- which ones have you seen?



1938 - *The New Yorker* Cartoons

Charles Addams featured his then-unnamed family in 58 one-panel cartoons in *The New Yorker* between 1938 and 1988 and also in a book titled *Dear Dead Days: A Family Album*.



1964 - *The Addams Family* (TV series)

This classic live-action sitcom gave the Addams Family their names and introduced the clan's finger-snapping theme song. Most of the cast reunited in 1977 for the TV special *Halloween with the New Addams Family*.



1972 - *Scooby-Doo Meets the Addams Family* (TV episode)

This episode of *The New Scooby-Doo Movies* brought the clan back to animation for a special adventure with the Mystery Inc. gang, which led to a 1973 animated series where the Addamses traveled cross-country in an RV styled like a Victorian mansion.

1991 - *The Addams Family* (Film)

After lying dormant for most of the 1980s, *The Addams Family* moved onto the big screen in this hit live-action film. The 1993 sequel, *Addams Family Values*, introduced Gomez and Morticia's third child, Pubert.



1992 - *The Addams Family: The Animated Series* (TV series)

The success of the 1991 film led to another animated series, which featured the original Gomez, John Astin, returning to voice the character.

1998 - *The New Addams Family* (TV series)

This Canadian series updated the original sitcom format for a more contemporary audience, occasionally even adapting episodes from the 1960s series

2010 - *THE ADDAMS FAMILY* (Musical)

The Addams clan left their mansion for the stage in this popular musical adaptation.



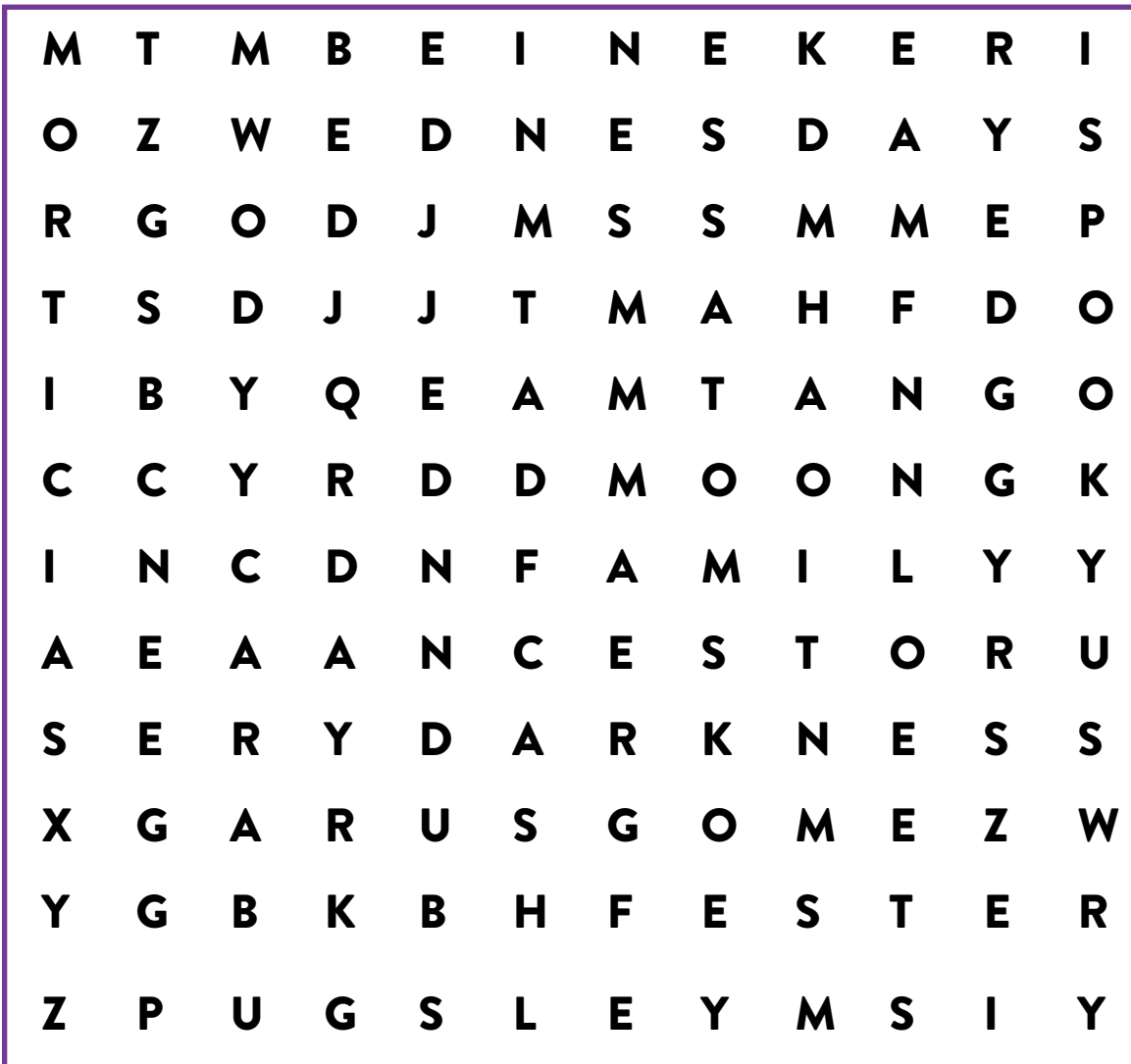
2019 - *The Addams Family* (Animated film)

This computer-animated film introduced the Addams Family to a new generation with a star-studded cast. A sequel followed in 2021.

2022 - *Wednesday* (TV series)

Led by director Tim Burton, this Netflix show follows Wednesday Addams as she investigates a murder mystery at Nevermore Academy, a private school for monsters and outcasts.

WORD SEARCH



- ADDAMS
- ANCESTOR
- BEINEKE
- DARKNESS
- FAMILY
- FESTER
- GOMEZ
- GRANDMAMA
- MOON
- MORTICIA
- PUGSLEY
- SPOOKY
- TANGO
- WEDNESDAY

- THINK ABOUT IT -

- The Addamses and the Beinekes have very different ideas of what “normal” looks like. What does “normal” mean to you? Do you think there is only one definition of “normal,” or can it change?
- Charles Addams and his characters found ways to laugh about things that were traditionally scary, which helped make them less frightening. Why do you think laughing at scary things is so effective? What helps you get past your fears?
- When Rick Elice and Marshall Brickman developed the story for **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** musical, they created an original story inspired by the classic one-panel comics. What is another cartoon or comic you would like to see as a musical? What would the story be like?
- At the end of the show, **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** members have all learned to “move toward the darkness” and embrace the strange parts of their personalities that make them special. What unique character traits do you have that you are proud of? What do you see in your friends and family that you can celebrate?