

The Addams Family is a group of fictional characters created by American cartoonist Charles Addams. Addams Family characters include Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Lurch, Grandmama, Wednesday, Pugsley, and the Thing. The Addamses are a satirical inversion of the ideal American family; an eccentric, wealthy clan who delight in the macabre and are unaware that people find them bizarre or frightening. They originally appeared as a series of single panel cartoons, published in *The New Yorker* between 1938 and Addams's 1988 death. Addams's original cartoons were one-panel gags. The characters were undeveloped and unnamed until later versions. They have since been adapted to other media, including television series, films, video games, and a musical. They live in a gloomy mansion adjacent to a cemetery and a swamp at 0001 Cemetery Lane. Although they share bizarre interests, the Addamses are not evil. They are a close-knit extended family. Morticia is an exemplary mother, and she and Gomez remain passionate towards each other. She calls him "Bubele", to which he responds by kissing her arms, behavior Morticia can also provoke by speaking a few words in French (the meaning is not important — any French will do). The parents are supportive of their children. The family is friendly and hospitable to visitors, in some cases willing to donate large sums of money to causes, despite the visitors' horror at the Addams's peculiar lifestyle. The family also has an unusual group of family pets, including a lion named Kitty Kat and several giant spiders.

The Mansion In the 1960s television series, the house was given an address: 0001 Cemetery Lane. Instead of being a dilapidated house, it was now practically a museum, filled with odd statues, trophies, and other interesting knick-knacks. The house also sported a playroom with medieval racks, nailbeds, iron maidens, and stockades for "relaxing" in.

The paranormal nature of the family - The exact nature of the Addamses is never established. They all seemed to share a bond with the occult and supernatural. Uncle Fester was often portrayed as something of a mad scientist, and Grandmama as witch or a fortune-teller, but these activities don't really explain the Addams's seemingly immortal state. Much of the food they live on is inedible or outright deadly to normal humans, and they take an interest in painful activities like walking across minefields or having a sharp pendulum cut them in half.

In the 1960s television series, virtually every member of the family demonstrated some uniquely inhuman trait:

- Morticia was able to light candles with the touch of a fingertip – it is hinted that she may be a vampire but this is never stated clearly.
- Gomez was remarkably athletic, his cigar lights the instant he drew it out of his breast pocket and extinguished when replaced, and he could perform complicated calculations in his.
- Fester generated both electricity and magnetism, and powered a lightbulb in his mouth as a party piece. Also, he could play gramophone records with his finger instead of a needle and his mouth instead of a speaker. Additionally, he suffered from a severe migraine that can be cured by clamping his head in a vise, and apparently caused no harm upon him. He also liked to recharge in his electric chair.
- Grandmama, in addition to being able to whip up potions of varying effects, could fly on a broom.
- Pugsley was able to hang from tree branches by his teeth, a trait that is only referred to and not seen. He was also depicted as being able to survive any mortal injuries including his sister's attempts to kill him. He was also a bit more normal (personality-wise) than the rest of the Addams clan.
- Six-year-old Wednesday was strong enough to bring her father down with a judo hold, and able to survive any mortal injuries inflicted upon her by Pugsley.
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- Lurch, a Frankenstein's Monster look-alike, had superhuman strength.
- Thing, who was only seen as a hand reaching out of various boxes around the mansion, could apparently travel from box to box almost instantaneously.
- Cousin It is a 3 foot creature covered with hair from head to toe, wears a bowler hat and speaks only in gibberish.

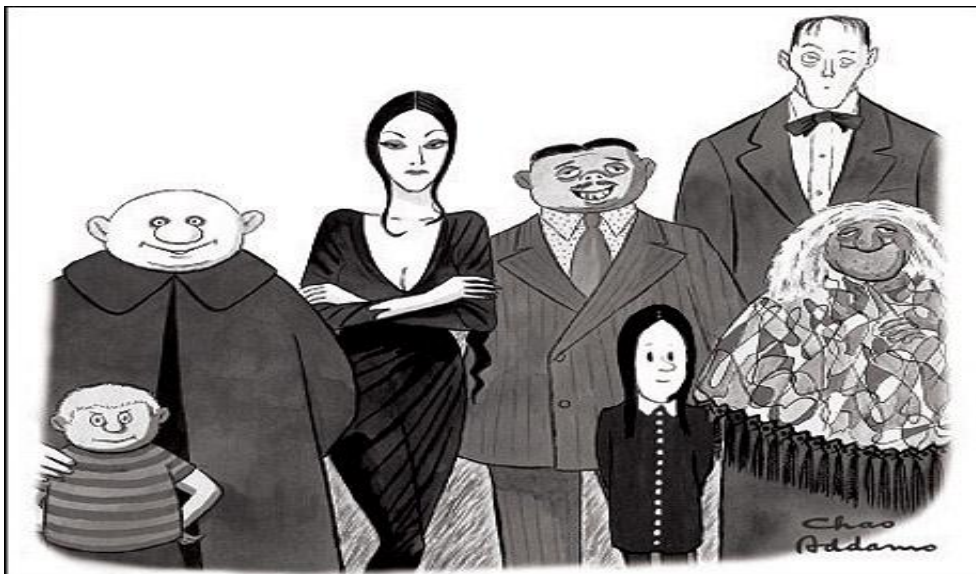
None of these traits were considered unusual by any others in the family, but treated simply as individual talents that anyone might possess. All took pleasure in enduring such experiences as lying on a bed of nails, being stretched on a rack, and so forth.

The Addams Family (1964–1966)

In 1964, the ABC-TV network created The Addams Family television series based on Addams's cartoon characters. The series was shot in black-and-white and aired for two seasons in 64 half-hour episodes (September 18, 1964 – September 2, 1966). The television series featured a memorable theme song, written and arranged by longtime Hollywood composer Vic Mizzy. The song's arrangement was dominated by a harpsichord, and featured finger-snaps as percussive accompaniment. Actor Ted Cassidy, in his "Lurch" voice, punctuated the lyrics with words like "neat", "sweet", and "petite".

[edit] *Addams Family Values (1993)* Upon the last film's success, a sequel followed: *Addams Family Values* (released on November 19, 1993, with worldwide distribution by Paramount). Loosened content restrictions allowed the films to use far more grotesque humor that strove to keep the original spirit of the Addams cartoons (in fact, several gags were lifted straight from the single panel cartoons). The two movies used the same cast, except for Grandmama, played by Judith Malina in the first film and Carol Kane in the second. A script for a third film was prepared in 1994, but was abandoned after the sudden death of actor Raúl Juliá.

The Addams Family (2010) In May 2007, it was announced that a musical inspired by The Addams Family was being developed for the Broadway stage. The musical opened in previews at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on Broadway on March 8, 2010, with an official opening on April 8,^[22] after an out-of-town tryout in Chicago at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts from November 13, 2009 to January 10, 2010.



**They're creepy and they're kooky,
Mysterious and spooky,
They're altogether ooky,
The Addams Family.**

**Their house is a museum.
When people come to see 'em
They really are a screa-um.
The Addams Family.**

Neat - Sweet - Petite

**So get a witch's shawl on.
A broomstick you can crawl on.
We're gonna pay a call on
The Addams Family.**

