Opening the Black Box of Family Life: Surprise!

William Graziano

Abstract

Originally published in Contemporary Psychology: APA Review of Books, 1995, Vol 40(6), 528–530. Review of “Divergent Realities: The Emotional Lives of Mothers, Fathers, and Adolescents” (see record 1994–97963–000). Families are so important to human development in children, and to the feelings of well-being and happiness in many adults, that what little available data exists about the importance of family, appears as little islands in a vast sea of the unknown. Larson and Richards maintain a consistent focus on the substantive processes of family life, with regular enrichment of general conclusions with specific case descriptions to illustrate. The authors provide details of methodology and measurement, but in appendices at the end of the book. The result, according to Graziano, is an uncommonly stimulating, readable book, especially considering the strong factual content of the material. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2006 APA, all rights reserved)
Opening the Black Box. (‘Here you are!’ © Rafal Biernat, 2013). OPENING THE BLACK BOX by RACHEL STEVENSON. – Shirley Jackson’s ‘The Lottery’, first published in 1948 in The New Yorker, is rich in meaning, imbued, like so many of her stories, with symbolism and metaphor. But it takes careful reading of the figurative language to extract an explanation of, and from, the text. We know that Tessie would not rebel if another person had picked the black spot (she is uncomplaining before her family is chosen), but it is the power of the majority that results in her death. Without simile, metaphor, allusions, or symbolism within the text, this story would be a mere macabre tale.