



10. On p. 393 Arendell uses a roundabout way to discuss empathy (“assume the attitude of the other individual as well as calling it out in the other”). Do you think that women are more empathic than men? Why or why not? With what results for marital interaction?
11. Describe differences between the divorced mother and father with respect to their children for the majority of interviewees.
12. Many of the interviewees spoke of distancing themselves from their children. Why?
13. Why, do you suppose, do ambivalent and negative feelings about the former wife remain intense for over a third of the interviewees (p. 397)?
14. Discuss how the interviewees employed a “rhetoric of rights.”
15. How did the androgynous fathers differ from the majority of fathers?
16. Compare what Cherlin says about the effect of divorce on children with what Coontz says.
17. “Growing up in a single-parent family or a stepfamily is associated with a lower level of well-being and poorer life outcomes than living in a family with two biological parents” (p. 286). What more do we need to know in order to know something useful?
18. What is Cherlin’s critique of Wallerstein’s findings?
19. Amato speaks about “the ongoing, contentious debate over the consequences of marital disruption for adults and children” (p. 191). Characterize this debate.
20. Why would thinking of divorce as a process rather than event be worthwhile?
21. What is “the selection perspective” (p. 196)?
22. What is the evidence supporting the perspective on divorce as a crisis? On seeing it in terms of chronic strain?
23. What are the major mediators of divorce effects?

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