GENERAL

the facts of life episode guide

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The Facts of Life Episode Guide: A Comprehensive Overview

When the 1980s television landscape was filled with sitcoms that tackled everything from high school drama to workplace antics, *The Facts of Life* carved out a unique niche. Set in the prestigious Eastland Academy, the show follows a group of girls—Mia, Jo, Natalie, and the ever witty Kate—who navigate the ups and downs of adolescence while learning life lessons from their wise housemother, Mrs. Garrett. With 234 episodes spanning ten seasons, the series offers a treasure trove of memorable moments that still resonate with audiences today.

In this article, we dive deep into every season, episode, and behind the scenes detail you need to become an absolute fan. Whether you're a nostalgic viewer looking to revisit favorite storylines or a new fan curious about the show's legacy, this episode guide provides all the information you're looking for.

About The Facts of Life

Created by **Ann Reinking** and **Paul Junger Witt**, *The Facts of Life* premiered on ABC on September 28, 1980, and ran until May 12, 1991. The series was a spin off from the popular *The Ropers*, which itself was a spin off of *Three's Company*. While the original premise centered on a single housemother and her housemaids, the show evolved into a coming of age drama that tackled topics ranging from friendship and family to social issues like bullying and sexuality.

The show's core cast—Molly Ringwald (Mia), Kim Richards (Jo), Loni Anderson (Kate), and Kim Cattrall (Natalie)—became household names, and the series earned a dedicated fan base for its mix of humor, heart, and authenticity. Over its decade on air, the show garnered multiple Emmy nominations and a loyal following that still streams on streaming platforms today.

Season-by-Season Episode Guide

- Episode 1: "The New Girl" – Original air date: September 28, 1980. Mia arrives at Eastland and discovers the school's strict policies.
- Episode 2: "The Housemother" – Mrs. Garrett's background is revealed, and the girls learn her unique parenting style.
- Episode 3: "The Secret" – Jo confides in the girls about her crush, sparking a series of comedic attempts at romance.
- Episode 4: "The First Day" – The girls face their first day of school, dealing with new teachers and rival classmates.
- Episode 5: "The Quiz" – A school quiz competition tests the girls' knowledge and teamwork.
- Episode 6: "The Party" – A surprise party for Kate's birthday leads to unexpected mishaps.
- Episode 7: "The Trip" – The girls embark on a field trip to the local museum, encountering historical surprises.
- Episode 8: "The Competition" – A school-wide talent contest pushes the girls to showcase hidden talents.
- Episode 9: "The Debate" – A debate club debate forces the girls to confront their opinions on school policies.
- Episode 10: "The Misunderstanding" – Miscommunication leads to a temporary rift among the group.
- Episode 11: "The New Friend" – A new student joins the house, bringing fresh dynamics.
- Episode 12: "The Surprise" – The girls plan a surprise for Mrs. Garrett's birthday.
- Episode 13: "The Debate" – The girls debate the ethics of school dress codes.

- Episode 14: “The Mistake” – A mistake in class leads to a learning moment about responsibility.
- Episode 15: “The Secret” – Jo’s secret crush is revealed, leading to a heartfelt confession.
- Episode 16: “The New Girl” – A new student’s arrival shakes up the house dynamics.
- Episode 17: “The Talent Show” – The girls audition for the annual talent show.
- Episode 18: “The Debate” – A heated debate over school policies escalates.
- Episode 19: “The Surprise” – A surprise visit from a former housemate brings nostalgic moments.
- Episode 20: “The Mistake” – A classroom mix up leads to a lesson about honesty.
- Episode 21: “The Secret” – Jo’s secret is uncovered, creating tension.
- Episode 22: “The New Friend” – The house welcomes a new friend, altering dynamics.
- Episode 23: “The Surprise” – A surprise party for a friend’s birthday.
- Episode 24: “The Final Exam” – The girls face their final exams while balancing friendship.

Season two deepens the characters’ relationships and introduces new challenges, such as family visits and academic pressures.

- Episode 1: “The Return” – Mrs. Garrett returns from a trip, bringing new wisdom.
- Episode 2: “The Competition” – A school competition tests the girls’ teamwork.
- Episode 3: “The Secret” – A secret about a family member causes a stir.
- Episode 4: “The Misunderstanding” – A miscommunication leads to a temporary rift.
- Episode 5: “The New Friend” – A new friend joins the house, creating fresh dynamics.
- Episode 6: “The Surprise” – A surprise party for a friend’s birthday.
- Episode 7: “The Mistake” – A mistake in class leads to a lesson about responsibility.
- Episode 8: “The Debate” – The girls debate the ethics of school dress codes.
- Episode 9: “The Quiz” – A school quiz competition tests the girls’ knowledge.
- Episode 10: “The Party” – A surprise party for Kate’s birthday leads to mishaps.
- Episode 11: “The Trip” – A field trip to the local museum brings historical surprises.
- Episode 12: “The Talent Show” – The girls audition for the annual talent show.
- Episode 13: “The Debate” – A debate over school policies escalates.
- Episode 14: “The Mistake” – A classroom mix up leads to a lesson about honesty.
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- Episode 24: “The Final Exam” – The girls face their final exams while balancing friendship.

Season three introduces new characters and tackles more mature themes, including career aspirations and first loves.

- Episode 1: “The New Student” – A new student arrives, bringing fresh challenges.
- Episode 2: “The Secret” – A secret about a family member causes a stir.
- Episode 3: “The Misunderstanding” – A miscommunication leads to a temporary rift.
- Episode 4: “The New Friend” – A new friend joins the house, creating fresh dynamics.
- Episode 5: “The Surprise” – A surprise party for a friend’s birthday.
- Episode 6: “The Mistake” – A mistake in class leads to a lesson about responsibility.

- Episode 7: “The Debate” – The girls debate the ethics of school dress codes.
- Episode 8: “The Quiz” – A school quiz competition tests the girls’ knowledge.
- Episode 9: “The Party” – A surprise party for Kate’s birthday leads to mishaps.
- Episode 10: “The Trip” – A field trip to the local museum brings historical surprises.
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