

**Fun Home Parent Guide**  
**Rating: PG-13**  
**Spoilers included in guide!**

**Overview:**

The winner of five 2015 Tony Awards including Best Musical, Fun Home is a musical adapted by Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori from Alison Bechdel's 2006 graphic memoir of the same name. When her father dies unexpectedly, graphic novelist Alison dives deep into her past to tell the story of the volatile, brilliant, one-of-a-kind man whose temperament and secrets defined her family and her life. Moving between past and present, Alison relives her unique childhood playing at the family's Bechdel Funeral Home, her growing understanding of her own sexuality, and the looming, unanswerable questions about her father's hidden desires.

**Death:**

The words "Fun Home" are a euphemism for the Bechdel Funeral Home, run by the father character (Bruce) in the show. The subject is treated factually and without much sentimentality.

There is a scene where the kids play with a casket, and there are descriptions of death, for example, "He fell off a ladder, broke his neck", [they] "wrapped their car around a tree".

The children ponder what happens when someone breaks their neck with some inaccurate kid-like responses.

The children are fairly cavalier about death, having been raised in a funeral home.

**Violence:**

Parents exhibit, at times, neglectful, manipulative and/or bullying behavior. Examples: Bruce says to Small Alison "If I see you without it (a hair barrette) again, I'll wale you". Other times he criticizes her artwork and clothing.

Bruce yells at his kids, and has two raging arguments with his wife.

Bruce throws a painting down the stairs (we don't see this, only the aftermath of it).

**Suicide:**

The possible/probable suicide of Alison's father is discussed many times throughout the show. He dies by stepping in front of a truck. That is portrayed by lighting and the sound of a truck horn.

**Sexuality:**

Several characters in Fun Home are gay. This is discussed at length and throughout the show, and is integral to the story.

Alison says, at one point, that she is asexual.

**Sexual content:**

There is a consensual kiss between two women. After, they tumble into bed and the scene skips ahead in time to them in their (full coverage) underwear. Alison then sings a song (Changing My Major) about her first sexual encounter that includes lyrics such as: "I never lost control due to overwhelming lust", "I'm changing my major to sex with Joan", "Foreign study to Joan's inner thighs, a seminar on Joan's ass in her Levis" - these are the more explicit lyrics in the song.

Bruce has extramarital affairs with men. In one scene it shows him offering a drink to an 18/19-year-old young man and asking him to unbutton his shirt.

Helen speaks about Bruce's male "lovers". She sings a song that includes the lyrics "posing and bragging and fits of rage, and boys, my god, some of them underage".

Bruce offers a car ride to a student of his, a junior in high school. Once in the car, he offers Mark a beer. In the next scene we find out that Bruce is on his way to see a court ordered psychiatrist for "furnishing a malt beverage to a minor."

One of the cartoon captions that Alison contemplates is "Dad goes out. Dad goes...cruising? Dad picks up a hustler?" meaning, that he was, possibly, out finding a man to hook up with.

Bruce sings a song about his childhood, which includes the lyrics "Fourteen years old, in Swensen's barn, It was cold. Lots of boys messed around, you know. For them, it was a game they outgrew, But I always knew".

**Language:**

Swear words – include: damn, hell, bullshit, chrissakes, christ, fucking (as in “who fucking left these here” and “don’t fucking tell me what to do”), dammit, goddammit

When singing lyrics to A Chorus Line, the children sing “shit Richie” and “tits and ass”

Bruce uses the phrase “tough titty” (as in, “too bad, do it anyway”)

Bruce calls his wife a “crazy, stupid bitch”. Helen recounts another time when he called her a “stupid, worthless bitch”.

The word dyke is used frequently, but not as a pejorative.

**Substances:**

Bruce gives sherry to an underage man and beer to a 16 year old boy.

Joan asks if Medium Alison wants to “go smoke a joint”.

Bruce suggests he and Medium Alison go to a bar. Alison reminds him that she’s not 21 yet.

**Other possible triggers:**

The phrase “oh my god” is used in the song “Changing My Major”, “god” and “oh my god” are used many times as an exclamation.

Medium Alison refers to Bruce as “kind of manic” and Helen refers to him working “like a maniac”. It is implied that Bruce may have BPD.