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| 15101520253035 | BEYOND THE SCREEN Daenerys Targaryen might be the first of her name, but she definitely isn’t the last. In the years since the Game of Thrones character first debuted on HBO in 2011, “Daenerys” and “Khaleesi” (the latter being the most famous of Dany’s many titles) have become fairly popular baby names in the U.S. According to the Washington Post, at least 3,500 girls have been given one of those two names — including common misspellings — in the past eight years. In 2018 alone, “Khaleesi” ranked among the 1,000 most popular girl names, with 560 babies receiving the moniker upon birth. (“Daenerys” didn’t make the top 1,000, but 171 newborns got that name in 2018.) Up until Sunday night’s episode of GOT, it was easy to understand what parents see in the character. Daenerys is a strong-willed woman, who literally rises from the ashes to amass an army the likes of which her world has never seen. She’s loyal to those closest to her, wants to do right by her family’s name, and will stop at nothing to achieve her goals. Oh, and have we not mentioned the dragons? Talk about role-model material. But then, things took a bit of a turn. In the series’ penultimate episode, “The Bells,” Daenerys lives up to her father’s legacy as the so-called Mad King and makes the heel turn that many were anticipating, becoming the Mad Queen. Despite the pleas of some of her closest advisers and the screams of people in the streets of King’s Landing, Daenerys decimates the capital city of Westeros despite Cersei’s surrender, riding her dragon and directing it to destroy everything in its path. While she’s raining fire from above, her troops wreak havoc on the ground, slaughtering enemy soldiers who’ve surrendered and innocent civilians in seemingly equal measure. It’s a level of carnage and ruthlessness that we had never quite witnessed on GOT, which is saying something. So, what does all of this mean for the parents who’ve named their daughters after Daenerys? Were they horrified to see their children’s namesake break bad? Do they think her turn to the dark side was “earned”? Are they suddenly feeling any regrets? “I don’t have any regrets,” says Hector Morales Rivera, a technical specialist living in Pennsylvania, who has a 6-year-old daughter named Daenerys. […] Morales Rivera isn’t thrilled about where the Mother of Dragons has ended up. “When I saw the dragon burning innocent civilians and houses with no restraint, I was sad,” he writes in a Twitter DM. “This is not the character I fell in love with.Kyle McGovern, https://www.vulture.com, May 13, 2019 |

1. Introduce the documents.

2. Explain what the series is about and what Daenerys stands for.

3. Comment on the impact the series has on spectators.

4. Why are the parents who named their daughter Khaleesi or Daenerys likely to have regrets?

5. Give your opinion: Should viewers allow themselves to be influenced by a series or its characters?