

Reading Skills Application for

What Psychopaths Teach Us about How to Succeed [Excerpt] by Kevin Dutton

1. Based on the context (how each word is used in the article) and your prior knowledge, define the following words :

- a. Grandiose (pg. 1) _____
- b. Entropy (pg. 2) _____
- c. Spectrum (pg. 2) _____
- d. Psychopathy (pg.2) _____
- e. Moral Dilemma (pg. 3) _____
- f. Empathy (pg. 3) _____
- g. Schizophrenia (pg. 3) _____

2. List three traits of psychopaths and, for each one, give an example of how the trait could be useful to people/society and how it could be dangerous.

TRAIT	USEFUL	DANGEROUS
1.		
2.		
3.		

3.

<u>EVIDENCE</u> (what it says in the article)	<u>INTERPRETATION</u> (paraphrase the evidence in your own words)

<p>“But what if I were to paint you a different picture? What if I were to tell you that the arsonist who burns your house down might also, in a parallel universe, be the hero most likely to brave the flaming timbers of a crumbling, blazing building to seek out, and drag out your loved one?” (pg. 2)</p>		
<p>“The pattern of neural activation in both psychopaths and normal people is well matched on the presentation of impersonal moral dilemmas—but dramatically diverges when things get a bit more personal.” (pg. 4,top)</p>		
<p>“The border between functional and dysfunctional psychopathy depends not on the presence of psychopathic attributes, but rather on their levels and combinations.” (pg. 4, near bottom)</p>		

4. Mark all that are supporting details:

- a. Psychopathic serial killers have a grandiose sense of self-worth and lack remorse.
- b. Surgery is one instance where psychopathic “talent” may prove advantageous.
- c. According to a study analysis, psychopathic attributes were actually more common in business leaders than in so-called disturbed criminals.
- d. The border between functional and dysfunctional psychopathy depends not on the presence of psychopathic attributes, but rather on their levels and combinations.
- e. Psychopathic behavior.

5. Topic: (Choose the topic that you think best fits the article.)

- a. Psychopathic Behavior
- b. Psychopaths Teach Us How to Succeed

Explain your answer choice:

6. Main Idea: (Choose 1—remember Main Idea = topic + author’s overall message)

- a. We can learn a lot from psychopaths because certain aspects of their personalities and intellect are often hallmarks of success.

- b. We can learn a lot from psychopaths because they are fearless, confident, charismatic, ruthless, focused and not necessarily violent.

Explain your answer choice:

7. Write one thing you learned from this article and/or exercise.

The Parable of the Sadhu by Bowen H. McCoy

8. In your own words, write the MAIN IDEA of this story (Main Idea = Topic+ Author's Overall Message):

9. Write two SUPPORTING DETAILS that describe, support, explain, and/or illustrate the Main Idea.

- a. _____
- b. _____

10. Write a **synonym** (I like to use www.thesaurus.com) for each of the following vocabulary words, as they are used in the text:

- a. Anthropologist (pg.1)
- b. Altitude (pg. 1)
- c. Sherpa (pg. 1)
- d. Hypothermia (pg. 2)
- e. Fruitless (pg.2)
- f. Ascent (pg.2)
- g. Superordinate (pg.3)
- h. Ambiguous (pg.3)
- i. Consensus (pg. 4)
- j. Authenticity (pg.5)
- k. Forthcoming (pg. 6)

11. **Summarize** the story in one paragraph (watch the Summarization video)

12. Explain how these two articles are related in one paragraph (5-7 sentences). Give at least one example from **each** article.
