



Of Weirdoes and Eccentrics Study Guide

Use Separate Paper, Please!

Read the essay in Riverside Reader, Page 165, then work on the response questions.

1. The essay opens with a “blocked” comparison – contrast of an eccentric and a weirdo. In chart, web or other form [your choice], illustrate the structure of each paragraph, giving main point and two or three supporting details used to develop the point. Cover how they contrast in both writing structure and content.
2. Write out the etymology of weirdo and eccentric (use a dictionary, obviously!)
3. In the first paragraph on 167, the author uses a series of sentences which illustrate parallelism. Copy these sentences.
4. The author alludes to several well-known people – Jerry Lee Lewis, Howard Hughes, Elvis Presley, Babe Ruth, Sir Thomas More, etc. Select one of these you are familiar with and briefly-but-clearly explain why you agree he or she was eccentric. (Use your own knowledge, not the authors, to build the case.)
5. Defend or demolish the logic inherent in the this quote from the essay:

If geniuses are out of the ordinary and psychopaths are out of the ordinary, then geniuses are psychopaths and vice versa...

6. Agree or disagree, citing an example if possible: ***...many a criminal assures himself that he will ultimately be redeemed by the celebrity he covets.***
7. Explain and elaborate on: ***The eccentric is strange because he cares too little about society, the weirdo because he cares too much.***
8. The essay ends as it began – with comparing and contrasting. This time, it is two societies – British and Japanese. In a chart, web or method of your choice, show the structure of the paragraphs, again using main point and supporting detail. Comment on both actual writing technique and content.

Grading will be by 4-point short answer scale.