

Definition Defense

Before examining how judgments regarding the quality of the intellectually disabled are rooted in societal prejudices, it is necessary to define the term "quality." According to the *Collins English Dictionary*, "quality" can mean "the basic character or nature of something," or a "degree or standard of excellence, especially a high standard ("Quality" 2, 4), while *Merriam Webster* further defines it as "a distinguishing attribute" ("Quality" 4a).

Any definition of the word "quality" implies the notion of value or judgment. Like the Rorschach test Charlie takes in *Flowers for Algernon*, interpretations of quality are based on the biases and perceptions of the observer. Professor Nemur and Dr. Strauss impose their values when they look at Charlie as an experimental object rather than a person. Applying their high "standard of excellence," which values I.Q. scores and academic achievement, they decide that the quality of Charlie's life is substandard ("Quality" 4). Similarly, the scientists at Johns Hopkins believe that their experimental treatment will improve the quality of life for individuals with Down Syndrome.

Most people recognize an individual with Down Syndrome by certain "distinguishing attributes," such as flat facial features or eyes that slant upward ("Quality" 4a). These qualities of individuals with Down Syndrome are easily recognizable, but purely superficial. Family members and friends of people with Down Syndrome instead base their interpretation of "the basic character or nature" of such individuals on their personal knowledge and observations. ("Quality" 2)

While outsiders may judge the quality of their lives as substandard or "less than," friends and relatives of people with Down Syndrome believe that it is intrinsic to who they are as human beings and is not something to be "cured."

Definition Defense: Volatile

~~I have made my stance that~~ Race is a volatile determining factor of success. But first it is essential that we grasp what volatile actually means as well as the significance of the word.

Typically, in everyday use "volatile" means to be easily changed, ^{conjunction adverb} however, *The Free Dictionary* states that "Volatile" can mean to "vary often and widely," and "inconsistent; fickle," ("Volatile" 2.a, 2.b). Whereas *Dictionary.com* defines "volatile" as simply, "Changeable" ("Volatile" 3).

We can see that a common theme for "volatile" is change. This makes it simple. ^{otherwise it's a run-on} Race is but a determining factor of success that is subject to change. "Volatile" shows that something is rarely the same one time, yet is used still as a unique factor. This is supported by the definition that volatile means "Tending to vary often or widely," ("volatile" 2.a). Race does not provide the same circumstances for everyone, as ^{one} everybody is born diversely and of course there are a wide variety of different races, ^{No. race} but yet, is still a factor of success.] Fragment.

Even if there are people born into the same race, ~~big~~ differences still arise. For example, let us say that there is a Black child born into a lower class home with a single parent, in contrast ^{with} to a Black child that is born into an upper-class home with two parents. Same race, different circumstances. This inconsistency is addressed in the definition of "Volatile" that says "inconsistent; fickle" ("volatile" 2.b). Race is a factor that can be controlled. There are people that can let themselves be subjected to racist comments and stereotypes, ^{compound sentence} and there are those who bring themselves forward to break boundaries to obtain success. This brings me to the definition of "Volatile", "Changeable" ("Volatile" 3). This definition implies control over ourselves and our success yet modern society still has the notion that we cannot "Change our stars."

Not familiar with that cliché

Demonstrate can mean many different things, as most words tend to do. In this instance, demonstrate means to "display openly and publicly," "prove the value," and to "show or express a feeling or one's actions". (citation here). All these definitions have some element of being public, and making your thoughts or ideas heard.

To "display openly and publicly" in this subject makes sure that the relationship is known. Public relationships, for instance celebrities, have a much larger influence by being out in the open, and making an impact. Contrasting, quiet, down-to-earth relationships that don't flaunt their status on Facebook or other places would have less of a following, and would not impact other's judgments and expectations.

To "prove the value" of something represents going out of one's way to make a point, and by doing that, people would only show the things that helped them prove the point. For instance, if Johnny Nolan was talking to his friends at the Waiter's Union, and was explaining the wonderful relationship he had with his wife and children, he would leave out the parts about him coming home drunk, and disappointing his family, in order to prove his point.

"Showing and expressing a feeling by one's actions" gives the impression of inflicting your opinion on others. By doing this, it becomes inescapable to believe anything otherwise without going against popular belief and seeming "weird," "different," or any other label that people tend to put on free thinkers. "Demonstration" is essentially the placing of an idea or thought on others, and making it a social norm that must be respected, even if it originated as the belief of a singular person or a small group, just as factors have altered the majority of peoples views on what healthy relationships are.

~~In the thesis~~, the word illustrates is used to describe the relationship between A and actual cases of demonic possession. ^{As} The connotation of the word is generally associated with art or artistic impression; however, ^{Oxford Dictionaries} it can also mean "to explain or make clear by using examples" (1) and "serves as an example of" (2) ^{"illustrate"} (Oxford Dictionaries). Additionally, ^{according to Free Dictionary.com} it can mean "to clarify by serving as an example of" (3) ^{"illustrate"} (Free Dictionary.com).

Words that your analysis could expand upon.

All of the definitions of the word illustrate use it as a means of showing an example. In

Everyday, the author uses an example of demonic possession in the novel by creating a protagonist, A, as a textbook example of demonic possession (^{"illustrate"} definition 2). In order to fully develop a character you must define their traits and personality. ^{is character} A is defined by ~~the characteristics~~ of his actions in the novel, which include acting as a demon. These characteristics allow him to serve as an example (definition 3) of demonic possession. Along with being an example of demonic possession, he also is an example of the people that he inhabits. Since he is not the person, he uses aspects of their lives, ^{such as their} surroundings, interactions with peers, to develop the person and ~~fulfill the example of the person or serve as an example or~~ placeholder for the person. ^{conjunctive adverb} However, as the storyline progresses, he becomes less of an example of the person and more of an example of a demon. This progression ~~is~~ clarifies his own personality by being the example of himself (definition 1). ^{I know what you're trying to say, but a little vague}

The last definition is "to explain or make clear by using examples." ^(citation) Since A ~~is the example of~~ demonic possession, he is ^sclarifying the characteristics of demonic possession in the sense that he is acting as one, therefore he is an example of one. As previously mentioned, as the the story continues he

becomes more of an example of himself, also proving definition 1.

The word illustrate, and all of its definitions, allow for a clear and more accurate description of how A is similar to cases of demonic possession and how he acts like the person he is inhabiting to serve as an example of the person in order to perform his role correctly, though he acts less and less like the person as the story continues.