

Reading and Discussion: Eccentricity

How is your personality? Are you creative, original and imaginative? These qualities are important these days, in addition to diligence and responsibility. Here is a magazine article about eccentricity.

Groups

- Read the article and then discuss the questions at the bottom of the page.

FE2 Magazine

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Longer life?

Scientists have found that eccentrics are healthier than normal people and live longer. They don't repress their feelings, and so they suffer less stress. They are happier and their immune systems work more efficiently. They tend to be optimistic people with a sense of humor, childlike curiosity and a desire to make the world a better place. They are also highly creative. Does this sound like you? If it does, then remember that the world needs creative thinkers!

How eccentric are you?

Eccentric people are off-center. They do things that most people think are odd. However, this does not mean that they are illogical or mentally ill. In fact, eccentric people are often geniuses. They see things in new ways. Their creativity and originality allow them to find brilliant solutions to problems and make great leaps of imagination.

There have been many famous eccentrics. William Spooner (1844-1930) was an Oxford professor who used to misplace letters in a sentence. For example: "Go and shake a tower" ("Go

and take a shower"). Oscar Wilde (1854-1900) used to take a lobster for a walk and Sir George Sitwell (1860-1943) had the cows on his estate painted in a blue and white willow pattern. Francis Egerton (1756-1823) was famous for giving dinner parties for dogs and Simeon Ellerton (1702-1799) used to carry stones on his head. Even Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727) stuck a large needle into his eye, while Albert Einstein (1879-1955) filled his pipe with tobacco from cigarette butts he found in the street.

Discussion questions

1. Are you a creative thinker?
2. Are you an optimist?
 - Why? Why not?
3. Do you want to make the world a better place?
 - How can you do this?
 - Do you have any ideas?
4. Do you know an eccentric person?
 - Describe him/her.
5. Why does the world need eccentrics?

* There are more reading passages on the website: <http://www.finchpark.com/KNUFLE/book-2/index.html>