

English 2201
The Literary Essay

Show Me a Teacher... And I'll Show You a Nutcase!

by Ray Guy

(1) They're not normal human beings. How can they be? Twenty or thirty youngsters on their hands, five days a week, and not so much as a sub machine gun to protect themselves with. I've only got 2 underfoot myself -- and they are the smallest kind, but there's nights and nights, I lie awake waiting for my last marble to drop.

(2) Yet, you'll get people who will coolly and deliberately choose of their own free will to take in ten times that number of the precious little brutes first thing after breakfast.

(3) I'd sooner be in Hell with a broken back. The mere thought of it gives me a dull pain at the back of my eyes. Teachers must be cracked!

(4) Safe to say, I'm not overly fond of kiddies. I couldn't even stomach myself until I was well out of knee pants. I was always wanting to grow up fast so's I could tear the legs off my own teddy bear.

(5) Children are one of nature's biggest blunders. They should never be born until they're at least 21 years old. This might be a bit rough on mothers, but think of the savings on Pampers, school blazers, and bail. They're noisy, unhygienic, and have disgusting habits. When was the last time you saw a child who did not have its fingers up its nostril or some other orifice? They're always doing something calculated to make adults queasy. If your budgie, for instance gets out of line, you can always rap him sharply on the beak with a lead pencil. If your puppies make insolent faces at you, you can tie little sacks over their heads. If your horse kicks you, you can take away his shoes and hide them.

(6) But there's little you can do about child abuse. They can abuse you from the age of 3 months on, and under British Law, your hands are completely tied. Even a six month old infant, for instance can snatch your third pair of glasses in a row and smash them against the stove without the slightest fear of either jail or the gallows.

(7) Contrary to the evil propaganda put about by the church and other authorities, children make the lousiest pets in the world.

(8) It would be less wear and tear on the nerves to keep a spider about the house the size of a soup plate. At least you can be sure it wouldn't grow up to steal hubcaps, although I suppose the School Tax Authority would still find a way to stick you for it.

(9) I know at least one couple who tried to cut expenses by claiming their child was really a pet monkey. He looked the part too. The reared him entirely on bananas and peanut butter and dressed him only in a little red jacket in January.

(10) As the years went past and welfare officers started snooping and asking questions, they explained that it was a Norwegian tail-less monkey. They'd managed to teach it three amusing tricks, two of which were not lewd. All the same, there was always a feeling of suspicion among

the neighbors and the imaginative couple were greatly relieved when their offspring finally left home.

(11) That, of course is one extreme case. Most of us elect to bear the disgrace and admit that our children are indeed human beings. For the first twenty years, they do nothing but eat and sleep and try to prove you wrong.

(12) In the earliest years their favorite diet is cat food, bathwater, and used matches.

(13) You must still buy them the expensive muck in small crocks and cans however, because they need the stuff to smear over their heads and make their hair grow.

(14) They are disgustingly runny at both ends. It takes years of patience and electro-therapy to get them on the potty. Then if you try to flush, they bite you on the leg and scream, "No! No! No! That's mine!"

(15) When they get bigger they break out in spots, dial direct to downtown Tokyo, and smashed the very last of your wedding presents by the time they're 12.

(16) It's a heavy price to pay just to have the scattered person tell you the little dears resemble their uncle.

(17) People make the mistake of reading childcare books only after they've got a youngster. A glance through beforehand beats the Pill to pieces. They've got gruesome chapter headings, like, "The Onerous Ones", "The Terrible Twos", "The Troublesome Threes" and "The Fearsome Fours," and so forth, right up to, "The Institutionalizing Eighteens".

(18) You don't have to be a genius to take the hint. Trot off to Walmart and get yourself a hamster instead.

(19) So what if it never learns to crayon you a birthday card? With the money you save on tranquilizers, you can buy yourself a whole gross of them... in Paris! And another thing, hamsters never stick puffed rice in their ears.

(20) Teachers therefore must all be nut cases.

The only person with more screws loose than an average teacher, is the person who was a parent and then decided to become a teacher.

(21) There are too many teachers to put them all in the appropriate hospital, so the least the rest of us can do is chip in and give them all a medal; the M.G.B.... More Guts than Brains.

Suggested time: 45 minutes

To be completed on loose leaf paper and stapled to the back of this worksheet. Be sure to write your name on all sheets.

In a well-developed multi-paragraph essay, explain how Ray Guy makes effective use of any three (3) of the following devices/techniques in revealing his theme:

- Punctuation
 - Colloquialism
 - Satire
 - Parallelism
 - Narrative
 - Hyperbole
 - Understatement
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Remember the rubric for this analytical essay:

Intro (3)	Definition (.5) Author/title (.5) Thesis statement (1) Examples (1)
Body Paragraphs (3 @ 6 =18)	Topic Sentence (1) General Statement (1) Specific Evidence (3) Tie-Back (1)
Conclusion (2)	Closing by Return (2)
Spelling, grammar, vocabulary, mechanics (2)	