



# Curiosity

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Liberal Arts Division Meeting  
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# A Curious Pursuit

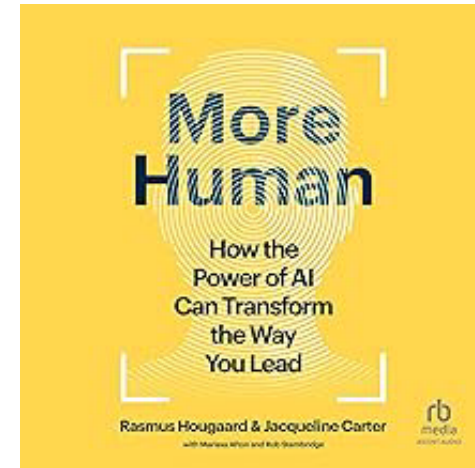
- Researchers define curiosity as “. . . a stable tendency to **pursue novel and intellectually stimulating activities** across various contexts” (qtd. in Zhiting et al. 225).
- Curiosity is also defined as “. . . a **desire to learn, experience, or explore** new information or environments” (Kashdan et al.).

The 3 stages of curiosity



# Situational Curiosity

- In *More Human*, Hougaard et al. suggest that we try to “... **see a situation with fresh eyes** ...” by “... not letting assumptions and preconceptions” color our perspectives (89).
- Instead, we should “... **bring curiosity to the situation**” (Hougaard et al. 89).



What would happen  
if you were to  
replace judgment  
with curiosity?

# Political Curiosity

- Kashdan, et al. note "... political curiosity is associated with indicators of **positive political conversation**, such as having goals to learn and a lesser desire to be socially distant from people with different views" (1).
- In other words, if we are curious why our friend see things differently in American politics, that **curiosity can personally benefit us**, in some cases.



# AI Use and Curiosity

A study of university students revealed "A higher level of general curiosity was associated with **greater self-efficacy** for the use of AI" (Schutte and Liu 1).

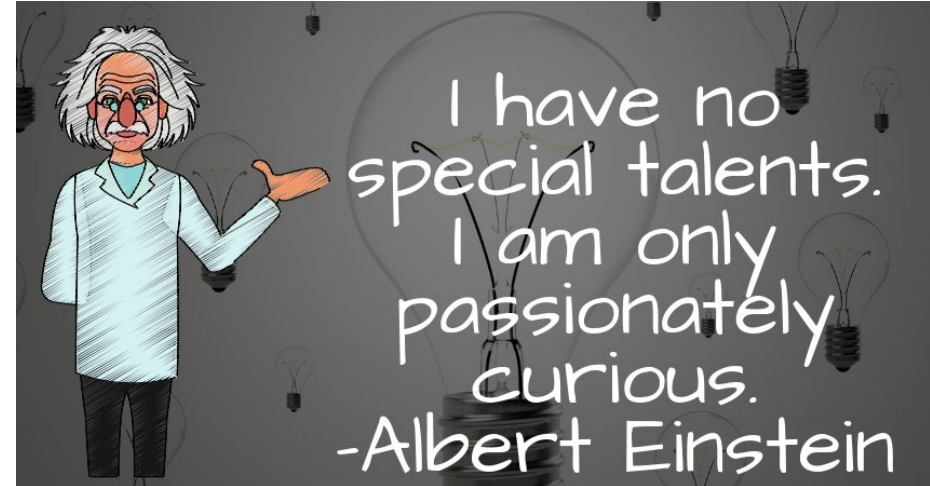
Stated differently, curious students are more likely to **successfully navigate the use AI** through belief in their own ability to use the tool effectively.



# Curiosity and Aging

Some scientists suggest “Maintaining curiosity in older age may be a key predictor of successful aging” (Whatley et al.)

Whatley et al. further explain “Curiosity declines with age. However, there is evidence suggesting that state curiosity – a situational feeling of curiosity in response to information – may increase with age.”



# Morbid Curiosity

Surprisingly, research indicates “horror fans may actually score higher on measures of empathy and compassion (Scrivner).

Further, “Central to these motivations is the personality trait of morbid curiosity, which is linked to better emotional regulation and resilience (Scrivner).

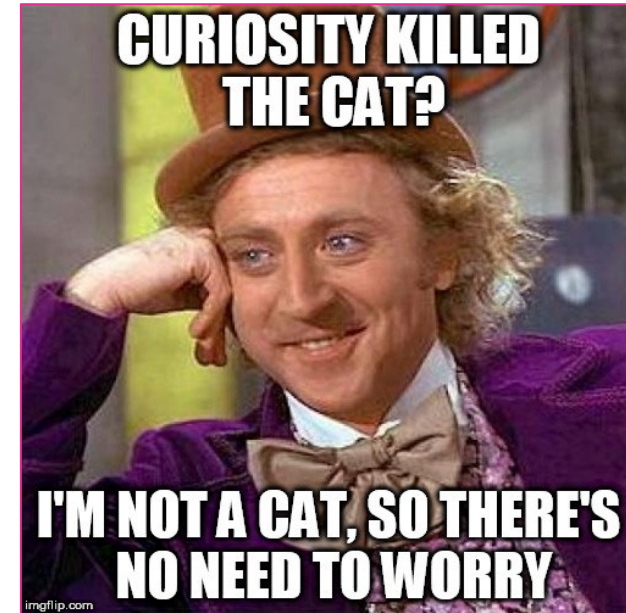
DO YOU LIKE  
SCARY MOVIES?



# Measures of Curiosity

**There are scores of curiosity tests and measures:**

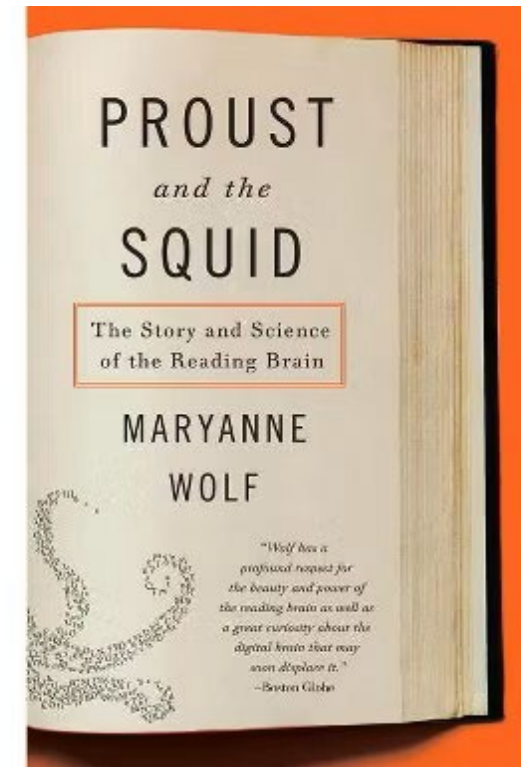
- Science curiosity
- Intellectual curiosity
- Workplace curiosity
- Empathic curiosity
- Diversive curiosity (the desire for novelty and variety)
- Five Dimensional Curiosity Scale (Kashdan et al., “The Five Dimensional”).



# Reading and Curiosity

Researchers suggest “Intellectual curiosity and personal interest are both believed to spark information seeking and facilitate learning” (Schumacher et al.)

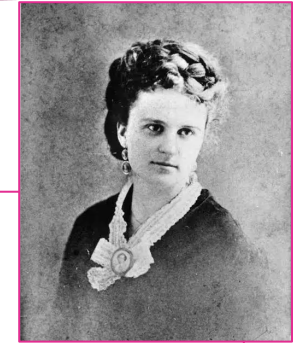
In *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*, Wolf contends that through reading “. . . we are **no longer limited** by the confines of our own thinking” and “. . . our original boundaries are challenged, teased, expanding sense of ‘other’ changes who we are, and most importantly, what we imagine we can be” (8).



# Quick, Critical Reading Strategies

## “The Story of an Hour” by Kate Chopin

- 1) **Predict** the content of the reading based on the **title, author’s name, and year published** (Caverly et al. 190).
- 2) **Mine the story for details** by highlighting as you read.
  - Specifically, **highlight any emotions that the main character, Mrs. Louise Mallard, expresses** throughout the story (Swan and Schaeffer).



### *“The Story of An Hour”*

*By Kate Chopin (1894)*

Knowing that Mrs. Mallard was afflicted with a heart trouble, great care was taken to break to her as gently as possible the news of her husband's death.

It was her sister Josephine who told her, in broken sentences; veiled hints that revealed in half concealing. Her husband's friend Richards was there, too, near her. It was he who had been in the newspaper office when intelligence of the railroad disaster was received, with Brently Mallard's name leading the list of "killed." He had only taken the time to assure himself of its truth by a second telegram, and had hastened to forestall any less careful, less tender friend in bearing the sad message.

She did not hear the story as many women have heard the same, with a paralyzed inability to accept its significance. She wept at once, with sudden, wild abandonment, in her sister's arms. When the storm of grief had spent itself she went away to her room alone. She would have no one follow her.

There stood, facing the open window, a comfortable, roomy armchair. Into this she sank, pressed down by a physical exhaustion that haunted her body and seemed to reach into her soul.

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Thank you for  
your time and  
attention!

