

# Personality — how do you unknowingly

Have you ever had your handwriting analyzed at the State Fair? Are you not finished reading the newspaper until you've read your horoscope? Have you

ever had your palm read?

Divination, or "the practice that seeks to foresee or fortell future events or discover hidden

knowledge," is cussed by some and discussed by others. Is there any truth behind the practice? What do experts say about it? Do you believe?

*First-born  
in-between  
youngest*

by Stephanie Marshall and Holly Powell

Battalion reporters

To a surprising extent, your birth order influences your personality, behavior and relationships with family and friends. According to studies, birth order may even influence which career suits you best.

Whether you are an oldest, middle, youngest or an only child has a factor in how you act toward people and how they act toward you.

Your personality and behavior are determined not only by birth order, but also by heredity and the environment in which you are brought up. Despite these differing outside influences, people who share the same birth order often are similar.

Hazel Markus in *Psychology Today* magazine says birth order is the oldest issue studied in sibling research. In one area of sibling research, results are consistent: the later a child is born into a family, the lower his scores on standardized intelligence tests, compared to his brothers and sisters.

Because of the stability of these findings, researchers are looking at the connection between birth order and other traits and behaviors, including self-esteem, conformity and popularity.

The first-born children often are high achievers. For example, of the original 23 astronauts in the U.S. space program, 21 were oldest or only children.

Researchers have found that first-borns have many advantages over their younger siblings. According to Markus, first children tend to perform better academically, are more likely to go to college, tend to be more responsible and prefer being leaders instead of followers.

In an interview with *Mademoiselle* in 1983, Dr. Robert L. Powers, president of the Amer-

ican Institute of Adlerian Studies in Chicago, and Dr. Bradford Wilson, a clinical psychologist, say the oldest child is better able to follow directions rather than arriving at original solutions.

Only children tend to be more self-assured, good at following directions, tidy, well-organized, conscientious and are perfectionists. But in the social scene, only children have shown not to be as outgoing because they didn't have any siblings with which to interact.

Wilson says the middle child often feels squeezed out and may have the roughest time of all the children. Often times, the middle children are conformists to feel as if they are a part of something.

"Middles," he says, "don't like to make waves."

Because the middle born are sometimes insecure, Wilson says, they often are the most sensitive and their feelings frequently are hurt.

Middle children often are popular among their peers because they are trying to find a place to belong, he says. But they also are creative children.

"The youngest are mercurial, ambitious and the most innovative of any of the birth orders," the *Mademoiselle* article states.

The lives of youngest children generally are dominated by their siblings; therefore, they often are show-offs and charmers.

The article says the siblings of the youngest may be unsure about their feelings toward the youngest and alternately "cherish and dislike him or protect him and tease him." As a result, he grows up alternating between overconfidence and discouragement.

But the youngest children often have success in life and have an instinct for what is fair, Wilson says.

Psychologists Carol Nagy Jacklin and Elenore Maccoby

observed the interaction between mothers and infants in their own homes. Their study discovered that mothers of first-born children are more likely to tell the infants what not to do, while mothers of the latter born offer more warmth and praise.

Markus says the success of the first-born child can be explained first by noting differences in interaction among oldest children and their parents as compared to parental interaction with later borns. Mothers of firstborns are likely to require more mature behavior, and be more over-protective, of their older children than their younger ones.

Markus says mothers may become more at ease about their parenting skills as brothers and sisters are born into the family, and may find it easier to allow later-born children greater freedom.

Sex and the age gap between the siblings also have been shown to modify the effects of birth order.

According to the February 1983 issue of *Mademoiselle*, "A child who is a daughter learns different lessons about life than one who's a son, since in many families, males have special privileges, even as children."

The age gap between siblings is significant if, for example, you had a sibling that was in his teens when you were born and had a sibling that was two years younger, it is probable that you, and not the oldest child, would take on the role of the surrogate parent. This would be a factor in your personality and behavioral growth.

Perhaps understanding what effects birth order can have on your personality and behavior will help you better understand yourself and others. That knowledge could some day help you understand and solve any problems that arise in your relationships...if they develop.

## Colors affect ideas, emotion

by Angel Stokes  
Battalion Staff

for small rooms.

**YELLOW** awakens mental faculties and conquers negativity and nervousness. It also stimulates the digestive process. This is a good color for a study or kitchen — anywhere you want a joyous environment — but it's too restless for a bedroom.

**ORANGE** is considered a balance color because it's a combination of red and yellow. Orange is considered a soul color by yogis. Orange is an excellent color for family rooms and other gathering places because it brings tolerance, understanding and peace.

**GREEN** is the color of nature and promotes a general feeling of well-being, harmony and serenity. Green reduces stress, because it's a combination of happy yellow and tranquil blue. Waiting rooms often are painted in greens because people tend to underestimate the passage of time in a green room.

**VIOLET** is a spiritual and intuitive color — one that relaxes and soothes the nerves and muscles controlling the heart. It should be used in places where intropection is need; not good for a room used for socializing.

**PINK** is a paler shade of red, though it affects the mind more than the body. It is not a color for nervous people or light sleepers because it excites passions. However, pink is the color of love, and it spreads a strong healing influence.

Ever wonder why fast food restaurants use bright colors — red and yellow — or why waiting rooms are green? Because each color of the spectrum radiates a specific wavelength of energy, certain colors affect people in different ways.

Experiments have shown that red lights raise blood pressure and increase excitement and tension, while blue lights lower blood pressure, decrease anxiety and induce relaxation.

Colors have represented ideas, emotions and social standing for centuries. Purple is the color of royalty, white represents virginity and innocence and black represents death or evil. Pink is the favorite color for baby girls and blue for boys.

But the effects of color go beyond what is pleasing to the eye. Colors also have psychological effects on individuals.

**RED** stands for physical strength, courage and sacrifice. Because of its stimulating effect, red can increase the appetite, but also can cause insomnia if used in a bedroom.

**BLUE** is a significant color because of its soothing effect. While blue is good for nervous conditions, it will only make a depressed person more depressed. It also gives a feeling of expansion, so it would be good

### Key to birth days

If you're looking for ways to "reveal" your personality, why not start at the beginning? The day you were born may provide you with a likely, or even humorous, key to your character.

Monday's child is fair of face,  
Tuesday's child is full of grace,

Wednesday's child is full of woe,  
Thursday's child has far to go,  
Friday's child is loving and giving,  
Saturday's child works hard for a living,  
And the child that is born on the Sabbath day  
Is bonny and blithe, and good and gay.

— Author Unknown



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