

"Secret of the Wild Child" – Video Transcript

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/transcripts/2112gchild.html>

"Secret of the Wild Child" – Video Quizz

Question 1. When and in which place was Genie seen for the first time?

Question 2. Describe the conditions under which this wild child had been held.

Question 3. Where did they take Genie once she was discovered?

Question 4. What particular question of importance to science and society (and to this course!) was it thought that the careful study of Genie might be able to answer?

Question 5. Explain the connection that Susan Curtiss had with the case.

Question 6. Describe Genie's general appearance and behaviour just after her "discovery."

Question 7. Describe Genie's apparent linguistic abilities at the time of her "discovery." What explanation is given for the state of her language?

Question 8. Who was (is) James Kent? What personal characteristics did Genie have that captivated her caregivers?

Question 9. What was (is) Jay Shurley's special interest in Genie? According to Shurley, how long does it take for the effects of solitary confinement to appear in most people?

Question 10. How did Shurley interpret the presence of "sleep spindles" in Genie's brain activity during sleep?

Question 11. What further information about Genie's family came to light after the beginning of her treatment?

Question 12. What was James Kent's idea about how to get Genie to learn and to

develop socially? Did this idea seem to be working?

Question 13. What is the date of Genie's first utterance? Figure out how old she was then. What was her passive vocabulary at that point?

The Wild Boy of Aveyron as a precedent:

Question 14. What year was Victor, the "Wild Boy of Aveyron," discovered? What country is Aveyron in? What was his behaviour and appearance like? What did his appearance indicate about how long he had lived in the wild?

Question 15. How old was Victor guessed to be when he was discovered? What was Victor's language like?

Question 16. What peculiar response to temperature did the local physician report in Victor? What does Harlan Lane conclude about responses to temperature on the basis of this observation?

Question 17. What major question was being debated in the intellectual atmosphere of the time? What answers had been proposed and rejected? What is "the forbidden experiment"?

Question 18. Who was Jean-Marc Itard in relation to Victor?

Question 19. What role did David Rigler have in the research project to study Genie?

Question 20. What proposal had Eric Lenneberg made regarding the capacity for language acquisition?

What name is given to this idea in the tape?

The _____ Hypothesis.

Question 21. In what ways did Genie's vocabulary differ from that of a small child?

Question 22. At this point in the project, what was Curtiss' view about the likelihood of Genie's acquiring a language and what were the implications for the existence of a Critical Period?

Question 23. Did Victor respond well to Itard's methods of teaching language? How did Itard test Victor's ability to go beyond memorisation -- that is, to use language (more or less) "creatively"?

Question 24. How did Victor's case conclude? Did he ever learn to talk? When did he die?

Back to Genie.

Question 25. What central question continued to "plague" the Genie Team? What was Jay Shurley's position on this question and what was his evidence for this position? What was Susan Curtiss' position on the question and what was her evidence for her position?

Question 26. When did NIMH drop their funding of the Genie Project? When did the Riglers end their foster-parent relationship with Genie?

Question 27. Give an example of a statement in the tape that Genie produced. What general Stage of child language acquisition (Babbling, One-word, Two-word, Telegraphic) does this statement represent? Give an example of a question that Genie produced in the tape.

Question 28. When did the language study end? How many years was this past Genie's first exposure to language on a regular basis -- that is, after her "discovery"? How old was Genie at this time? In summary, according to Curtiss, what was Genie "good at" and what was she not "good at"?