

# Three Identical Strangers

As you watch the entire film, please make notes as to which characteristics and circumstances the triplets shared and which characteristics and circumstances differed from triplet to triplet.

<b>SIMILARITIES</b>		
Bobby Shafran	Eddy Galland	David Kellman
<b>DIFFERENCES</b>		
Bobby Shafran	Eddy Galland	David Kellman
Parental socio-economic class		
Parental education		
Temperament/personality		
Father's parenting style/demeanor		

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1. How old were the three when they met?
2. How did Bobby and Eddy find out about each other?
3. Describe the adoption agency: Louise Wise Services
4. What was the media response to their story?
5. Why were the families of the boys angry after meeting with Louise Wise Services?
6. At what age were the triplets separated and put up for adoption?
7. How did Louise Wise Services justify separating the triplets?
  - a. What did Mort Shafran witness when he walked back in the room?
8. Why did lawyers refuse to take the case of the parents of the triplets?
9. Describe their birth mother's past circumstances and at the time she met her:
10. What did journalist and author Lawrence Wright discover when he found an article entitled, "The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child"?
  - a. What clues were there that the boys were subjects of a secret study/experiment?
11. Who are Paula Bernstein and Elyse Schein?
12. Why do you think the study was never published and why do you think the results were never made public?

13. What motivated Dr. Peter Neubauer?

14. According to Natasha Josephowitz, what conclusions did Dr. Peter Neubauer draw about the relative influence of heredity?

a. How does Natasha Josephowitz explain criticisms of the study?

15. Is the question of when the study took place an acceptable excuse to explain the ethical issues of the study?

16. Why is the ethnicity of the research subjects especially heartbreaking?

17. How might finally knowing each other have shifted the life trajectory of the boys in tragic and unexpected ways?

18. How did Bobby's exit impact Eddy? What behaviors did Eddy exhibit? What was his diagnosis?  
Diathesis stress model (we will discuss)

19. What was the common denominator between the biological parents of some of the multiples in the study?

a. What may have been the research question regarding mental illness and the separated multiples?

20. How did Dr. Neubauer respond to Lawrence Wright's questions?

21. Why can't author Lawrence Wright, David, Eddy and the remaining multiples learn more about their cases/this study?

a. Why did the study seemingly end?

22. What did Dr. Lawrence Perlman assert was the focus of the study and what is the problem with that pretense?

23. What is the experimental design purpose of each triplet having an older sister...all exactly the same age and all adopted?

- a. What type of experiment was this?
- b. Did researchers randomly select the adoptive parents? Why?

24. Natasha Josephwitz and Dr. Neubauer concluded that genetics played a greater role in determining how the boys' lives unfurled; yet David Kellman, David's sister and Eddy Galland's wife contend it was, instead, nurture. Which do you think is the greatest influencer and why?

25. Would you want to know if you were part of a study like this? Why or why not?

26. What is the meaning of the title *Three Identical Strangers*?

27. Ethical issues: Explain how each of these ethical principles was compromised or addressed in these studies:

- a. Informed consent
- b. Avoid deception
- c. Protection of participants
- d. Debriefing
- e. Right to withdraw