

# What Makes a Family of Artists?





# Looking to identify “creativity genes”



## Tested DNA for three of the genetic variations associated with “seek”-related behaviors

- one of the variants scored higher on verbal creativity
- another showed higher scores on figural creativity (the flexible production of ideas)
- finally, the last scored high on numeric creativity

# Why does mental disorder persist in the gene pool?

- Same mutation with positive trait: creativity
- Link between creativity + psychosis = reduced cognitive inhibition
- A lower threshold for entertaining alternative thoughts and realities
- Families with talent accompanied by depression and mental illness



# Families of writers

- Scored on originality, plot development, sophistication
- Strongly familial and also heritable  
(both genetic and within family environments)
- But it must come from somewhere!  
(in cases where big talent comes from humble beginnings)

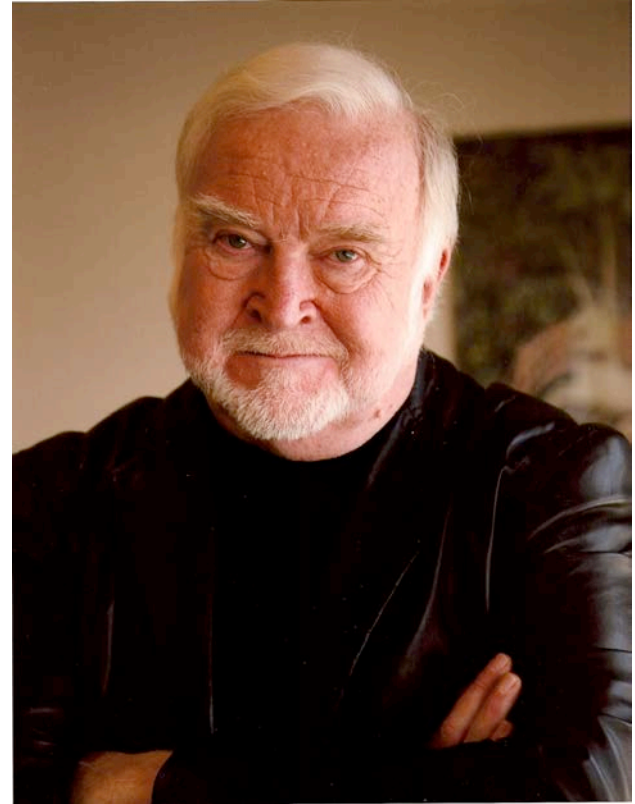




# Creativity Quiz

## **"Creativity," by Mihaly Csikszentmihaly**

- Preparation.
- Incubation
- Insight
- Evaluation
- Elaboration



**Preparation** – becoming immersed in problems and issues that are interesting and that arouse curiosity.

## **1. Finding Problems (Preparation)**

(Questions 6, 9, 11, 14, 15)

*Your score is 20 out of 25*



**Incubation** – allowing ideas to turn around in your mind without thinking about them consciously.

## **2. Gathering and Reflecting on Information (Incubation)**

(Questions 2, 5)

*Your score is 10 out of 10*





**Insight** – experiencing the moment when the problem makes sense, and you understand the fundamental issue.

### **3. Problem Exploration (Insight)**

(Question 3, 7, 12)

*Your score is 15 out of 15* 

**Evaluation** – taking time to make sure that the insight provides sufficient value to outweigh the various costs involved in implementation.

## 4. Generating and Evaluating Ideas (Evaluation)

(Question 4, 13, 16)

Your score is 11 out of 15



**Elaboration** – creating a plan to implement the solution, and following through.

## 5. Implementation (Elaboration)

(Questions 1, 8, 10)

*Your score is 13 out of 15*

