As a class, we are about to look at several slides used in the old Rorschach tests. Many professionals feel that the Rorschach is outdated, inaccurate, and meaningless. This is designed to be fun and engaging for you, and you should, in no way, consider your responses to the test as “good” or “bad.”
The Rorschach Test

**Directions:** On each of the following slides, I will pause the presentation to allow you time to respond. Take a close look at the images and then take a moment to write about what you see.
The Rorschach Test

This activity is not designed to tell you what you are like or not like, but to be an entertaining way to begin “Flowers for Algernon”. No one will be forced to share what s/he writes with the class.
Plate I

The first blot is easy. How fast you answer is taken as an indication of how well you cope with new situations. The best reaction is to give one of the most common responses immediately. Good answers are bat, butterfly, moth, and (in center of blot) a female figure. Mask, jack-o'-lantern, and animal face are common responses too, but in some interpretation schemes they suggest paranoia. If you don't give more than one answer for Plate I, many psychologists will drop a hint--tell you to look closer.
They say it is important to see this blot as two human figures usually females or clowns. If you don't, it's seen as a sign that you may have trouble relating to people. You may give other responses as well, such as cave entrance (the triangular white space between the two figures) and butterfly (bottom center).
Plate IV

Black ink. A roughly triangular blot, point up, with the two lower corner regions resembling boots or pet.

Plate IV is considered the "father card." At first glance, it is a difficult blot to see as a single image. The "boots" are fairly conspicuous; between them is the apparent head of a dog or Chinese dragon. Many subjects see the blot as an animal skin. After a few seconds, though, most can see it as a standing figure seen from below. The boots become the feet, enlarged because of the unusual perspective. The arms and head, at the top, are smaller. Common descriptions are bear, gorilla, or man in a heavy coat. Bad descriptions are monster or attacking bear or gorilla-Rorschach theorists equate your description of the figure with your perception of male authority figures.
Plate V

*Black ink. A simple, bat-like shape.*

Rorschach himself thought this was the easiest blot to interpret. It is a bat or a butterfly, period. You don't want to mention anything else. Seeing the projections on the ends of the bat wings as crocodile heads is thought to signify hostility.
Plate VII

Black ink. A U-shaped blot, each side of the U resembling a female figure in a narrow-waisted dress.

This blot is supposed to reveal how you feel about your mother. Virtually everyone sees two girls or women. Deprecating descriptions of the figures—"witches," "gossips," "girls fighting," "spinsters"—indicate poor maternal relations. Seeing the blot as thunderclouds instead of female figures suggests anxiety to some psychologists.
Plate VIII

*Pink, blue, gray, and orange ink. An almost circular array of interconnected forms--a gray triangle (point up) at top, a pair of blue rectangles in the center, a pink and orange splotch at bottom, and two pink "animal" shapes forming the right and left sides of the circle.*

The first full-color card is easy. It is important that you see the four-legged animals- lions, pigs, bears, etc. - on the sides of the blot. They're one of the most common responses on the test. Other good responses are tree (gray triangle at top), butterfly (pink and orange area at bottom), and rib cage or anatomy chart (skeletal pattern in center between blue rectangles and gray triangles). The entire configuration can be seen as a Christmas tree with ornaments (reaching). Children tend to like this blot and say a lot about it-the bright colors and animal shapes make it more interesting to them.
There aren't many good answers here. If you're going to throw up your hands and plead a mental block, this is the place to do it. The colors clash, apparently by Rorschach's design. Good answers are a fire with smoke, an explosion, a map, or a flower. If you turn the card ninety degrees, you can make out a man's head in the at bottom. (The man is identified as Mark Twain, Santa Claus, or Teddy Roosevelt.) A bad response is to describe the orange areas at top as monsters or men fighting---a sign of poor social development. You want to give fewer responses to this blot.
Plate X

Pink, blue, gray, green, yellow, and orange ink. A loose assortment of brightly colored shapes, the most chaotic of the plates.

The unspoken purpose of this last blot is to test your organizational ability. Plate X is full of colorful odds and ends easy to identify---blue spiders, gray crabs, paired orange maple seeds, green caterpillars, a light-green rabbit's head, yellow and orange fried eggs---and you're expected to list them. But the psychologist will also be looking for a comprehensive answer, and there are typically two good holistic answers: sea life and a view through a microscope.