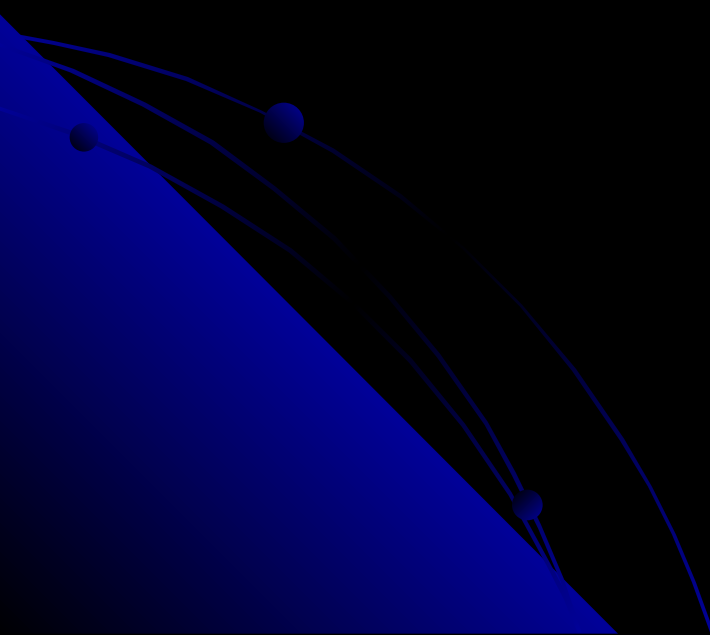


Myths about the gifted and talented

- From *The Gifted Kids' Survival Guide* (1983)

Myth # 1

- **Gifted kids have it made and will succeed in life *no matter what.***



Isn't it preposterous to think that just because someone is gifted, life is going to be handed to them on a silver platter? Let's get serious! Everyone needs help and encouragement to make the most of themselves.

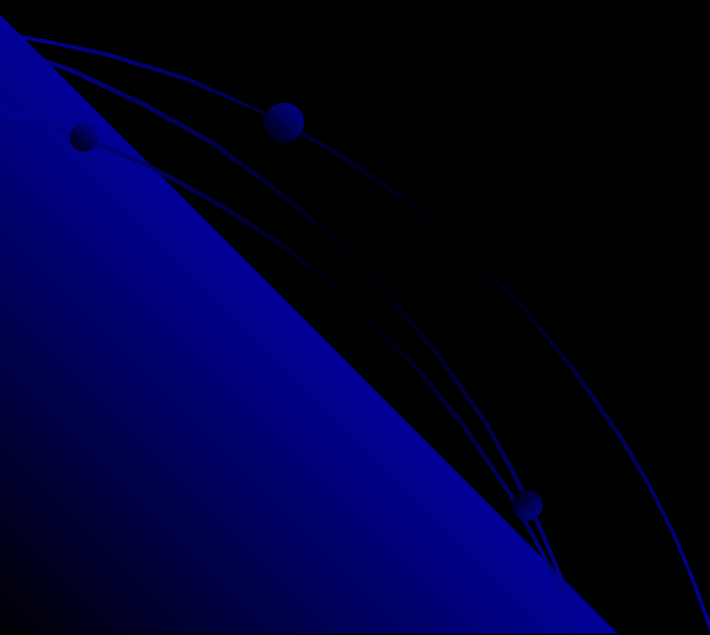
Myth # 2

- **Gifted kids like school, always get good grades and greet each new school day with enthusiasm.**

Most schools aren't set up for gifted students. Schools are geared for average learners. Yet you're expected to stay there and cope. Several studies show that as many as 20 percent of our high school dropout population is gifted. What a waste.

Myth # 3

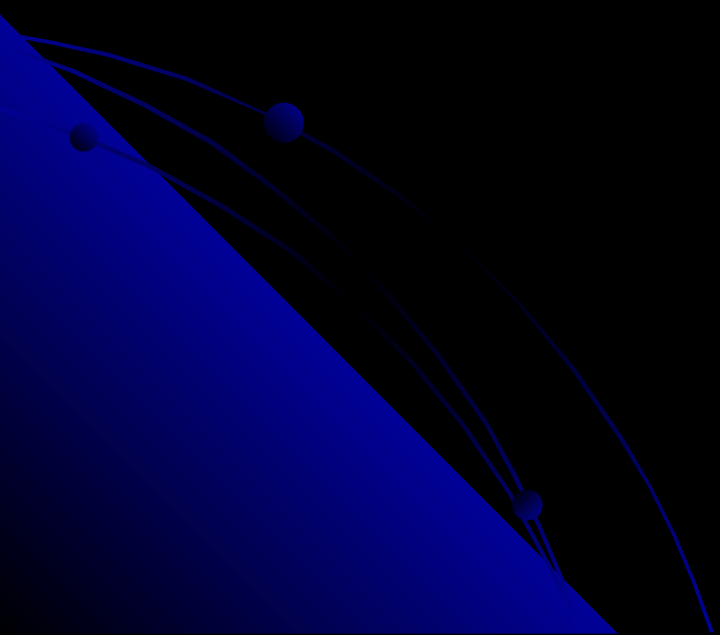
- **Gifted students only come from white, middle to upper class families.**



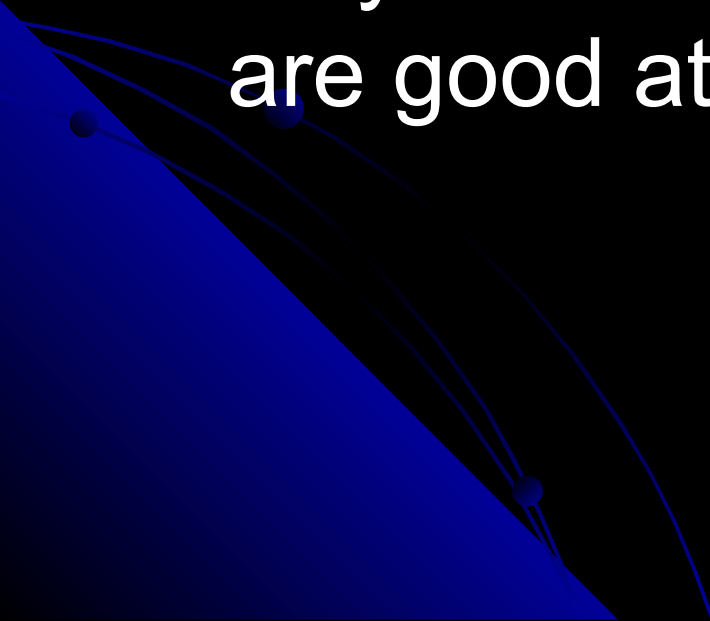
It might be easy to conclude that gifted students come only from white, middle-class homes because the system often excludes people from minority cultures or those who have handicaps. In reality, gifted students come from all ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. They're also found among the handicapped and learning disabled.

Myth # 4

- **Gifted students are good at *everything*.**

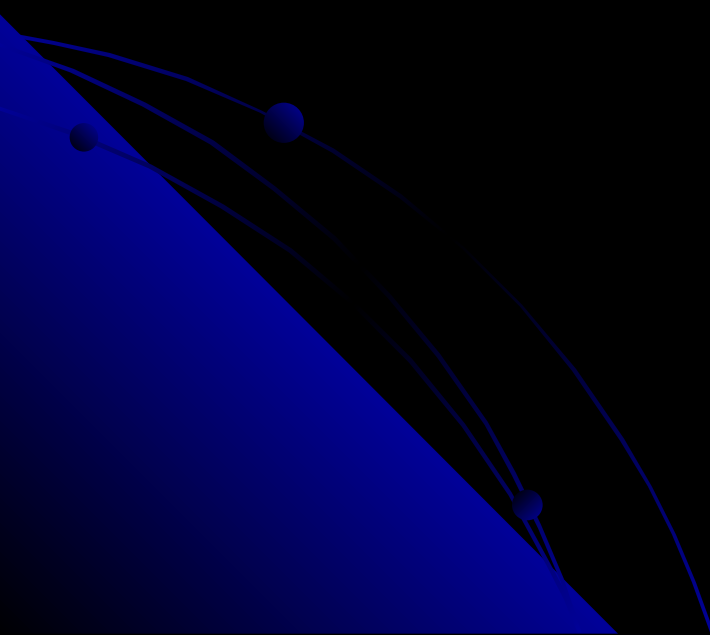


There may be a few people who appear to fit this description but only those related to Superman are good at everything.

A decorative graphic in the bottom-left corner of the slide. It consists of a solid blue triangular shape pointing towards the bottom-left, overlaid with several thin, curved black lines that sweep upwards and to the right. Small black dots are placed at the intersections of these lines.

Myth # 5

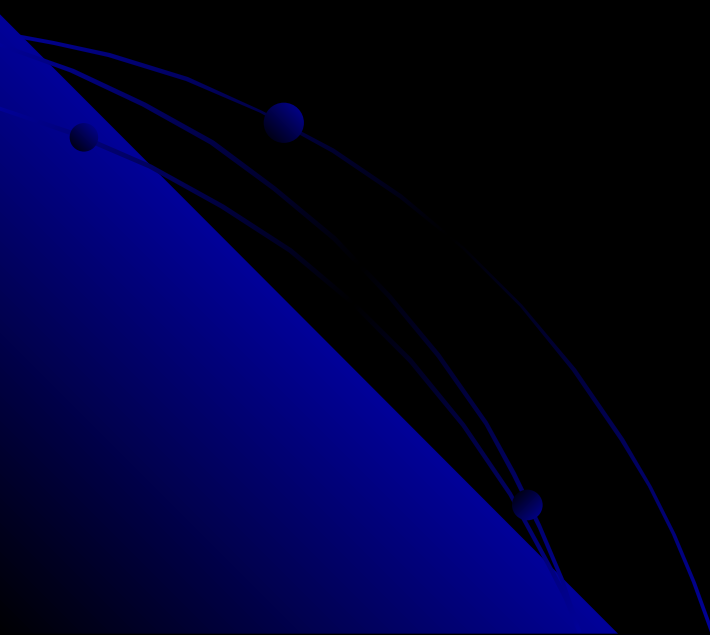
- **Teachers can identify gifted students and like to work with them.**



Some can and some can't. Some do and some don't. There are a number of teachers who feel uncomfortable with gifted students and get defensive because they may not know as much as the students do. Certain teachers equate giftedness with a student who is not conforming, polite, and gets good grades. These qualities are not synonymous with being gifted.

Myth # 6

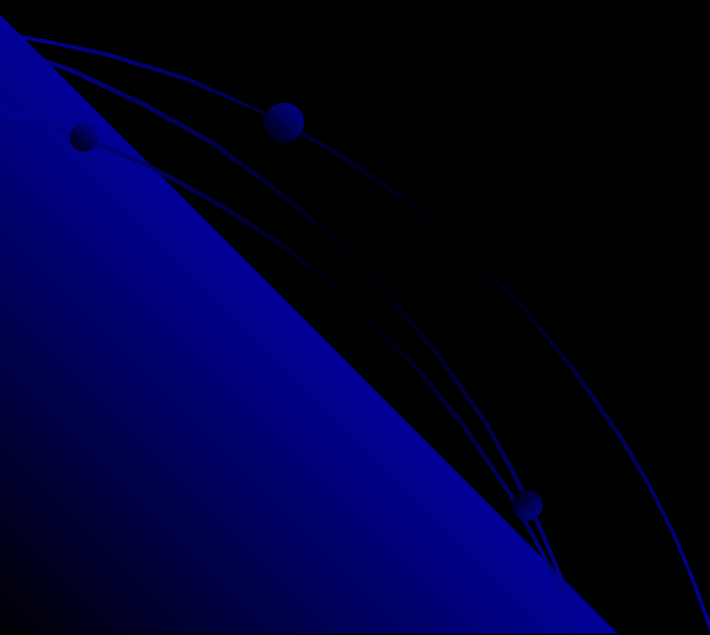
- **If gifted students are grouped together, they'll become snobs or elitist.**



Gifted students don't *automatically* become snobs any more than other students become snobs when they're grouped together. Some do – some don't. Gifted students who don't, recognize that being gifted or talented doesn't mean they're better than others, any more than being a member of a gifted *class* promotes you to an elitist rank.

Myth # 7

- **All gifted students have trouble adjusting to school and friends.**



Simply not true. While many gifted students experience difficulties and face problems such as those presented in this book, there are others who are happy, and know how to get what they want from life.

Holly, 15, is a good example of a gifted student who is perceptive, self-assured and has good problem solving skills. She had this to say:

“Some people think that all gifted kids are far-out basket cases. That all we do is read books and study. I was like that for awhile.

“But I think a lot of us are pretty normal. We get good grades and are involved in extracurricular activities.

“When I was in 7th and 8th grade, all I did was study. I got tired of my image. All people knew about me was that I got all A’s and read a lot of books. I decided that I was the only one who could change things so I tried out for a school play and got a part. I realized that I could get up on a stage and perform. I got involved in choir. Now my grades aren’t straight A’s but I’m learning more things that are fun and will be helpful later in life.”