

A Portrait of Ingrid – Case Study in Antisocial Personality Disorder - KEY

Part I: Explain how each of the following symptoms of antisocial personality disorder does or does not apply to Ingrid in the situation you have just read. If the criteria are exhibited by Ingrid, identify the specific behaviors from *A Portrait of Antisocial Personality Disorder* that support your claim.

1. Failure to conform to social norms regarding lawful behaviors, as indicated by repeatedly performing acts that are grounds for arrest: Ingrid has demonstrated that she fails to conform to social norms and has demonstrated that she has not reformed her behavior despite suffering consequences. Ingrid does not make changes or improvements despite punishments or negative consequences. Punishments are not deterrents to her norm-violating behaviors. She shows a pattern of breaking the law even if she was not arrested.

- Ingrid is not worried by Vicki's threats
- Replies to the teacher with threats "I know the principal"
- Does not see that what she did was wrong when she is caught which is a violation of a social norm. She finally admits her guilt, but says it was a joke – thus demonstrating a failure to accept responsibility for her actions
- Stealing a girl's jewelry and vandalizes her car out of revenge

2. Deceitfulness, as indicated by repeated lying, use of aliases, or conning others for personal profit or pleasure: The use of manipulative behaviors or using others for personal gain. Scheming to gain control over situations and others

- Lies easily to teacher and tries to persuade him she did nothing wrong
- Wins over teacher's praise for "her" work
- Attempts to use charm to persuade Mike to lie for her

3. Impulsive or failure to plan ahead: Ingrid frequently acts without forethought or consideration of the possible consequences. Her decisions are often made on the spur of the moment.

- Chose to steal Vicki's paper on the spur of the moment
- Goes to Mike quickly for help
- Does not think before speaking with teacher
- Comes up with new lies on the spot easily

4. Irritability and aggressiveness, as indicated by repeated physical fights or assaults: Although Ingrid does not get into physical fights or commit assaults, her behavior is aggressive and threatening to others.

5. Reckless disregard for the safety of self or others: Ingrid fails to take the safety of herself and others into account and drives carelessly. She also does not take into account the safety of the children she is caring for while babysitting.

- Reckless driving including speeding and texting while driving
- Causes an accident but lies to the police and claims she was the victim
- While babysitting her neighbor's young children, she leaves them unattended

6. Consistent irresponsibility, as indicated by repeated failure to sustain consistent work behavior or honor financial obligations: This criterion is less expressed in the story, but she does demonstrate irresponsibility in terms of her academic obligations.

- Cheating on tests and having others complete her work for her

7. Lack of remorse, as indicated by being indifferent to or rationalizing having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from another: Ingrid has a lack of guilt and the inability to feel empathy for others. She does not experience actual empathy or emotion and simply fakes feelings. Kindness and empathy, when expressed by Ingrid, are not sincere. Individuals with this diagnosis are often indifferent to or provide a superficial rationalization for having hurt, mistreated, or stolen from someone.

- No guilt as a result of stealing the paper or for shoplifting at boyfriend's work
- No guilt continually using Mike
- Amused by Vicki frantically searching for her lost paper
- No remorse for what she has done and calls Vicki a loser
- Showing indignation at accusations in front of both teacher and Vicki
- Fake concern for Vicki by asking if there is anything she can do
- Shows anger and defensiveness when she is accused by the teacher – yet remains “poised.”
- Rationalizes stealing and vandalism because the girl had it coming

Part II: The DSM-5 also includes additional features associated with a diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder. From the list below place a star by each one that is demonstrated by Ingrid

Associated Features Supporting Diagnosis

- Frequently callous and contemptuous with regard to the rights of others
- Inflated and arrogant self-appraisal (e.g., ordinary work is beneath them or lack a realistic concern about their current problems or their future)
- Excessively opinionated, self-assured, or cocky
- Displays a glib, superficial charm
- Irresponsible and exploitative in romantic relationships
- May report an inability to tolerate boredom

Part III: Answer the following questions with regards to Ingrid

1. A diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder requires three symptoms listed in Part I. Based on your analysis which symptoms does Ingrid have?
 - Answers will vary due to the fact that some symptoms are more clearly articulated in the reading than others.
2. A diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder requires that the individual is at least 18 years of age and evidence of conduct disorder must be present with an onset before the age of 15. Conduct disorder involves a pattern of behavior in which the basic rights of others or age-appropriate norms are violated. The specific behaviors characteristic of conduct disorder falls into one of four categories: aggression to people and animals, destruction of property, deceitfulness or theft, or serious rule violations.

Do you see any evidence that Ingrid may have had conduct disorder symptoms in her past? Why or why not?

- Answers will vary due to the fact that some symptoms are more clearly articulated in the reading than others.

3. Does Ingrid meet the criteria for a diagnosis of antisocial personality disorder? Why or why not?
 - Yes, but answers will vary due to the fact that some symptoms are more clearly articulated in the reading than others.

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Original Source: Lessons in Psychology: 1985 J. Weston Walch, Publisher