

Extra Credit - Kylo Ren from Star Wars VII

Antisocial personality disorder

1. Describe the main characters psychological disorder and the symptoms exhibited?

Kylo Ren is portrayed as a character who seeks his objectives at all costs, without regard for the feelings of others or consideration for the negative consequences which may follow. Throughout the movie he is seen to intimidate his subordinates, order the mass murder of villages, and generally doing whatever it takes to try and obtain the map to Luke Skywalker. He frequently tells his coworkers that what he wants is more important than all else, and towards the end of the movie he even kills his own father to further his own goals.

2. How did it develop?

It is unknown how Kylo Ren's case of Antisocial Personality Disorder developed, though one can surmise it is due to his troubled home growing up. Kylo Ren is the son of Han Solo, a renowned scoundrel and smuggler known for abandoning his duties and running off, and the former Princess Leia Skywalker, leader of the rebel forces. While Kylo Ren was growing up in this uncertain environment, he was also told impressive stories of the power his grandfather, Anakin Skywalker, used to wield in the galaxy. Eventually, Kylo Ren sought to follow in Anakin's footsteps and become the next Darth Vader.

3. How did it affect the character's life (work, health, relationships, family, etc.)?

Kylo Ren's disorder has severely affected his personal life. His frequent emotional outbursts have led his coworkers to fear and despise him, and it seems like everyone else in the First Order treats him with some degree of animosity. Furthermore, even though his parents are trying to reach out to him, he refuses to talk to them, and even engages in aggressive behavior towards them. The closest he has to a friend is his mentor, the Sith Lord. On the plus side, his disorder has made him very good at torturing others for information, which has become a critical part of his job functions.

4. Did the character get treatment? If not, why not? If so, what kind of treatment?

Kylo Ren sought treatment twice in his life. He originally obtained Jedi mind training from Luke Skywalker, which attempts to bring the student into harmony with the world and other living things around them. Unfortunately, this was extremely unsuccessful, and Kylo Ren ended up murdering all of the other students. Afterwards, he sought treatment from a Sith Lord. Sadly, Sith training seeks to emphasize his mental disorder and make him distrust others. Sith training has been very effective, leading to the character killing his own father.

5. How accurately was the disorder portrayed?

His disorder was portrayed with a medium degree of accuracy. On one hand, the social repercussions of his behaviors were portrayed quite accurately, and the origins of his condition were plausible. On the other hand, however, his condition is seen as a sign of promise and strength in his culture, despite the obvious drawbacks of his actions.