

## Developmental Psychology in *The Walking Dead*

Each student will independently write a 4- to 6-page paper on 15 concepts related to child development depicted in 3 episodes of *The Walking Dead*. Episode choices must be approved by the instructor.

### **Format**

- 1) The opening paragraph should summarize the episodes watched and introduce the purpose of the paper.
- 2) Each of the following 15 paragraphs should:
  - identify and define a developmental topic
  - describe an example of the developmental concept depicted in the episode(s)
    - use quotes to help clarify the example
  - explain why the example illustrates the topic
- 3) Based on the reviewed topics, the final paragraph should discuss whether the portrayal of child development in *The Walking Dead* is accurate.
- 4) Only concepts found in the textbook and class notes can be used.
- 5) Papers will be graded on the following criteria: (1) relevance to the course; (2) accuracy of comments; (3) clarity of explanation; and (4) breadth of coverage [only 2 concepts from a similar category of development (e.g., aggression, intelligence, emotions) are allowed].

### **Example from the book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone***

**Topic #1. Relational Aggression.** Relational aggression involves excluding peers from activities, damaging a peer's reputation, or gossiping about a peer's negative characteristics to harm the peer's social status. An example of relational aggression is when Malfoy teases Harry about not going home for Christmas in front of his classmates. "I do feel so sorry, said Draco Malfoy, one Potions class, for all those people who have to stay at Hogwarts for Christmas because they're not wanted at home. He was looking over at Harry as he spoke. Crabbe and Goyle chuckled." Draco's behavior is an example of relational aggression because he attempted to change Harry's reputation from the great wizard who defeated Lord Voldemort to an unwanted child, thus, negatively affecting Harry's social status.