

## Pinker on child development

### 1 Three Laws

1. First law: All human behavioral traits are heritable.
2. Second law: The effect of being raised in the same family is smaller than the effect of the genes.
3. Third law: A substantial portion of the variation in complex human behavioral traits is not accounted for by the effects of genes or families.

### 2 Which traits, again?

Definition of a behavioral trait: “a stable property of a person that can be measured by standardized psychological tests” or objective observers (p. 373).

The traits that are heritable (followed by dictionary definitions):

1. Intelligence: the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills.
2. Openness to experience
3. Conscientiousness: of a person, wishing to do what is right, esp. to do one’s work or duty well and thoroughly.
4. Extroversion-introversion:
  - a. Extrovert: an outgoing, overtly expressive person. Psychology a person predominantly concerned with external things or objective considerations. Anna: someone energized by social interaction.
  - b. Introvert: a shy, reticent, and typically self-centered person. Psychology a person predominantly concerned with their own thoughts and feelings rather than with external things. Anna: someone who finds social interaction exhausting, even if enjoyed.
5. Antagonism-agreeableness
6. Neuroticism: a relatively mild mental illness that is not caused by organic disease, involving symptoms of stress (depression, anxiety, obsessive behavior, hypochondria) but not a radical loss of touch with reality.

