

# Graphologically Speaking

by  
LORENE  
GREEN



Dear Lorene,

To me all my capital I's look different; what do you see? Right now it is late evening. Sometimes I find that my writing differs when writing in the morning. Also, my writing seems to me that it has stayed the same for years, but I have changed dramatically in the last three years.

I guess my reason for writing to you is to see if your view of me jibes with my view of me.

J.W., Detroit

Dear J.W.,

I find it very interesting that you feel you have changed a great deal in the past three years but your handwriting has not. I think a trained graphologist would find many nuances that you might not even observe.

The shape of your capital I is not always consistent and I see a self image that fluctuates. In your early life you were influenced by both male and female authority figures, but I observe some disappointment regarding the male role.

All of us need to hear positive reinforcement in our lives to keep us going. At this time it seems no one is giving you very much (endings on many of your words that turn back to the left instead of out to the right). So I would like to give you some from your handwriting.

with "I." In sure that  
thing! Some said my  
do you see? Right now it  
I find that my writing d

Your rightward slant tells me you are a nice person and that you care about others.

You can be both tactful and diplomatic in your relationships with others (tapering m's and n's). This can be very valuable as you sometimes have a tendency to insist on your own opinions (first letter on many words larger than the ensuing letters). You enjoy a good discussion (points on the tops of your p's).

Pride and dignity are strong traits in your writing. You like to do a good job when you assume a task. Social

approval is important to you (height and retracing of many t stems). However, the fluctuation in the size of your lower case letters suggests work habits that are not strongly disciplined.

The overall picture of your writing tells me that you are an emotional person. It is sometimes difficult for you to keep your moods on an even keel. Often they vacillate quickly without too much apparent reason (wavy baseline and extreme rightward slant). When you wrote this sample for me you said it was late evening and that may account for some of the drooping in your writing. Even making some allowance for the late hour, I find some depression lines that slant downward and endings on y's and g's that drop down).

If you have a question about your personality, write to Mrs. Lorene C. Green in care of this newspaper. Please use a sheet of unlined paper and write in the first person singular.

## On children

## Help fearful child find autonomy

Dear Dr. Cash:

My 2½ year-old has suddenly become afraid to go to sleep by herself. She wants me to sleep with her, and cries if I won't. I have been resisting because everyone tells me that's a bad habit to get into, and she will always want me to do it. I hate to see her so unhappy. She's usually a cheerful child. What's so bad about giving in to her on this?

One of the important developmental tasks of the 2½-year-old is that of "autonomy," the natural separation from mother that reflects your child's increasing ability to be an individual in her own right.

When a child experiences difficulty in this regard, as all children do to

some degree, she may react with certain behavioral defenses. One of these is the return to a form of behavior that was acceptable at an earlier age, which is known as regression.

Often such behavior is associated with the development of fears, especially at night, with an attempt by the child to continue to control the mother-child relationship.

Such difficulty in achieving adequate separation is very stressful for both parent and child. Often it becomes a source of great argument between husband and wife as the sleep difficulty disrupts the rest of others in the household. It is very important that parents should agree on their method of handling the problem since inconsistency is even more disturbing to the child as



By  
DR. RALPH  
CASH

she proceeds through this developmental stage.

Most children at 2½ have established a ritual for going to sleep. This may include a drink of water, a special kiss, a bedtime story or special arrangements of the bedclothes. These behaviors are defense reactions

against anxiety and are useful to the child to help her overcome her fears.

The use of a night light in her room, a "quiet time" before going to bed, and your acceptance of her pre-bedtime rituals, all will help her overcome her fears. This period of difficulty may be prolonged, so you must be patient.

I would agree that it is very important not to sleep with her, since such action will interfere even further with her developing that feeling of autonomy that results in the comfort she needs. Be patient, loving and responsive, but let her know the limits of her relationship and you will soon see her blossom into the cheerful child you describe, even at bedtime.

## Volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau, a program of the Volunteer Action Center of United Community Services, has weekly listings of agencies needing volunteer services. Further information about these and over 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau, 642-7272. Any non-

profit agencies needing volunteer assistance may also call the bureau.

**PARENT AIDE**—Volunteers interested in working with families on a one-to-one basis to offer support and friendship are needed now by the Oakland County Cooperative Extension

services. Fall training will be 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., on Wednesdays, Sept. 14, 21, 28 and Oct. 5.

**SPEAKERS**—Women with good speaking skills and ability to deal with sensitive material are urgently needed by the American Cancer Society for its

"Straight-Talk" program. The goal of the program is to reach 5200 women in Oakland County with information on breast cancer. Volunteers are required to complete a total training program and will be assigned a minimum of 12 speaking engagements over the next year.

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## Adult Day Care Temporary Care

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