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Who's the dumbest person you've ever met? (self.AskReddit)

submitted 1 year ago by [deleted]

6099 comments share

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 17813 points 1 year ago* 🌟x7

It's not uncommon as a teacher to have students who are a bit behind the curve in certain aspects, but 99.99999% of the time they are keen on something. They might not understand how to identify a noun or what theme is, but they somehow know how to make a mean plate of nachos. You learn pretty quick to not judge fish for their tree climbing ability, ya know?

I thought this was the rule when I was teaching until I met Kevin. Kevin isn't his real name, but it doesn't matter because he can't spell it anyway. Kevin was a student of mine during my last year of teaching. He came to my classroom with very little to show for his academic past. He had moved a few times and thus was missing a lot of typical test scores that we use to try and ballpark their ability (Don't worry, it was a ballpark.....we didn't make major decisions until we actually had a chance to talk and work with a student for a bit.) I thought "That's fine. I'll just do some one-on-one with Kevin and see what's up" One on One with Kevin was like conversing with someone who'd forgotten everything in a freak, if not impossible, amnesia incident. There was no evidence that he had learned anything past the 2nd grade....and now he was in 9th grade. Flabbergasted, I figured we needed to get more serious with this. If he was going to be in my class, I needed to know why and how.

I decided to meet with him, his guidance counselor, his parents, and another teacher to see what was really going on. This is where it all became clear. It was by some incredible fluke that his family hadn't been wiped off the face of the Earth years ago. Odds are his entire heritage was based on blind luck and some type of sick divine intervention that saves his family every time a threat presents itself. Kevin was the genetic pinnacle of this null achievement. Even my instructional lead, a woman who could find a redeeming trait in a Balrog, failed to see any reason this kid or his family should be alive today.

So here's a list of events that made it abundantly clear that god exists and he's laughing uncontrollably:

- Kevin frequently forgot when/where class was. On more than one occasion, I had to retrieve him from other classrooms.
- Kevin ate an entire 24 pack of crayons, puked, and then did it again the next day. This is 9th grade. I have no idea where he got crayons.
- Kevin's dad wrote tuition checks and mailed them to me...his English teacher. This was a public school. When I gave it back to Kevin, voided, to give to his dad with a brief note explaining that this is a public school, Kevin got in trouble for trying to spend it at 711 after school.

- Kevin was removed from the culinary arts program after leaving a cutting board on the gas stove and starting a fire....twice
- Kevin threw his lunch at the School Resource Officer and tried to run away. He ran into a door and insisted it wasn't him.
- Kevin stole my phone during class. I called it. It rang. He denied that it was ringing. (Not that it wasn't his, not that he did it.....no, he denied that the phone was actually ringing). He tried it three times before the end of the year.
- Kevin called the basketball coach a "Motherfucking Bitch" during gym. Basketball tryouts were that afternoon. Kevin tried out. It didn't go well.
- Kevin's mom could never remember which school he went to. She missed several meetings because she drove to other schools (none of which he ever went to)
- Kevin tazed himself in the neck before a football game
- Kevin kept a bottle of orange koolaid in his backpack for about 4 months. He thought it would turn into alcohol. He drank it during homeroom and threw up.
- Kevin say the N-word a lot. Kevin was white. The highschool was 84% black. Kevin got beat up a lot.
- Kevin stole another student's Iphone....and tried to sell it back to them.
- Kevin didn't understand that his grade was dependent on tests, quizzes, homework, classwork, and participation. Kevin finished his first semester with a 3% average. He tried to bribe me with \$11.
- Kevin spit on a girl and said "You should get out of those wet clothes". The girl was the Spanish Student Teacher.
- Kevin didn't know dogs and cats were different animals.
- Kevin tried to download porn onto a computer in the library.....at the circulation desk....while he was logged on.
- Kevin asked a girl to prom (he was in 9th grade and freshmen don't go to prom) by asking for her phone number and then texting her his address
- Kevin got gum in his hair, constantly.
- Kevin regularly tried to cheat on assignments by knocking the pile over, grabbing one before I had picked them all up, and then writing it name on it wherever there was room.

- Kevin had several allergies, but neither his parents nor he could remember what they were. They were very concerned that "the holiday party" (it's high school, we don't have those) would have peanuts. When they finally got a doctor's note....he was allergic to amoxicillin
- Kevin and his parents took a trip to Nassau (how the fuck did they even get airline tickets?) and forgot all their luggage at home. I didn't believe him when he told me until I talked to him mom, who told me 1st thing when I saw her at the bi-weekly meeting.
- Kevin's grandfather apparently died in a chainsaw accident. I can only assume God was looking the other way that day.

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↑ [-] [smalltowngirl07](#) 5978 points 1 year ago

↓ I'm torn between "This can not be real!" and "You can't make this shit up!".

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 4602 points 1 year ago

↓ Kevin and his world were VERY real. He was simultaneously everything wrong and everything right with the world. He was a testament to the fact that anyone can do anything.

Last I heard, he wanted to join the Air Force.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [OniTan](#) 834 points 1 year ago

↓ Kevin called the basketball coach a "Motherfucking Bitch" during gym. Basketball tryouts were that afternoon. Kevin tried out. It didn't go well.

We call that setting the tryout on hard mode. You better have game to pass that one.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 832 points 1 year ago

↓ Let's be honest. Kevin was short, slow, and white and the basketball team was a regular college scouting stop. Kevin had a better chance of making the Olympic Luge team...and that was before he called the coach a bitch.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **commatose** 1718 points 1 year ago



| Kevin didn't know dogs and cats were different animals.

This is the best.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 3358 points 1 year ago 🏆



Haha, that was actually one of my favorites too because of how I found it out. We were doing an assignment on personification and I had people describe their pets using it. (Welcome to America, where we teach personification in high school, I know). Kevin didn't have any pets but he said his neighbor had a cat he played with sometimes. He listed off like 3 or 4 things and it became really apparent that he was describing a dog. At first I thought that maybe he just had trouble figuring out the right way to say it, but after 2 or 3 more sentences, it was abundantly clear that this was a really big dog. Someone else who lived on the same street put 2 and 2 together as well and said "Kevin, that's not a cat. That's so-and-so's black lab." Kevin was absolutely floored that A. someone else lived on his street and B. that there was a difference between a black lab and a house cat. Like, I am only guessing, but I think to him...dog and cat were as interchangeable terms as Hat and Cap.

You train and prepare as a teacher to try and find ways to redirect embarrassing situations like a student being REALLY wrong in public, but I was at a loss for how to move on from there.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **Annja** 550 points 1 year ago



I have to ask... was he popular with the girls?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 2864 points 1 year ago



Was like watching a greased up orangutan try to climb a water slide.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **tractor_fart** 10 points 1 year ago

↓ So he was smooth?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 31 points 1 year ago

↓ He thought he was, but he got no traction and never got anywhere regardless of what he did.....until apparently he did.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [chilly_anus](#) 47 points 1 year ago

↓ I am so sorry.. may god bless you and your journey with that kid

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 342 points 1 year ago

↓ It was interesting and at times hilarious, but unfortunately, when I say he didn't have a single redeeming quality....I mean it. He was rude, mean, and stupid. He was "enabled" by his parents insofar as that they didn't seem to even understand what he was doing, why it was bad, or how they could stop it. The very fact that they somehow had jobs (and decent ones at that) lead me to believe that somewhere in there was just enough intelligence to earn a paycheck. However, by all observation and evidence presented, it was just as likely as him revealing the entire thing to be an elaborate hoax designed to QC the education process.

I wish I could say I hope he does okay, but I don't....because I care too much about our genetic pool. (Shockingly, or not shockingly at all, he was a father before he dropped out recently)

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

[+] [fashionandfunction](#) 76 points 1 year ago (0 children)

[+] [LightningMaiden](#) 132 points 1 year ago (9 children)

↑ [-] [gijsdaboss](#) 40 points 1 year ago

↓ What kind of girl would want to have sex with somebody like that?

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 156 points 1 year ago

↓ She was smart and came from a relatively normal family (dad was military), but like most kids her age....she was rebellious and had a self-destructive streak. It's a shame, but honestly, of the guys I knew she had "courting her" (hae beb, u wntsumfuk?)...Kevin was not the worst choice. For all of Kevin's faults and stupidity, he didn't get wrapped up in drugs or anything particularly bad. He was just dumb and had a dick that worked.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **bastocrat** 1740 points 1 year ago* 🏆

↓ Kevin- a diagnosis, not a name.

EDIT: Thanks for the Gold!

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 1841 points 1 year ago

↓ That was the hardest pill to swallow. Despite numerous tests and assessments and meetings and just overall study, no one could ever say he had any kind of learning disability. No IEP. No 504. No special file. No case worker or advocate. Just, Kevin, his mom, his dad, and zero brain matter.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **Psionx0** 175 points 1 year ago

↓ LD's often don't include simple low intelligence. The kid probably scored in the upper 80's, lower 90's and so wouldn't qualify for an LD Dx. Which, is unfortunate.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 330 points 1 year ago

↓ Yeah, this was our main consensus by midyear. When badgered heavily, he scored more or less in the middle of the 2nd quartile. His DORA and DOMA scores were low, but not low enough to really indicate he was hitting a blocker with instruction.

Folks always talk about how people typically fall on a bell curve.....well, Kevin was the poor sap at the low end.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **IAMBATMAN29** 240 points 1 year ago

↓ I taught for a couple of years. Would have been really hard not to put this kid's head through a wall. From what I can tell it probably wouldn't have hurt him anyway.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 621 points 1 year ago

↓ He was in a class with two other knuckleheads, but both of them were the "Too smart to do any work" types so they were more of a problem than Kevin. Both of them had 504s and I had 11 or 12 kids with IEPs in there, so I had a collaborative to split the effort with. 4th period with Kevin could go one of two ways: Either he'd do something so incredibly stupid within the first 10 minutes that he'd be gone most of class, or he'd just kind of simmer for the whole period and get everything wrong but not cause problems. So honestly, his behavior problems didn't get to me too much.

Really, I waited for every other monday so I could find out what new and stupid thing he or his family did.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **IAMBATMAN29** 169 points 1 year ago

↓ I've had kids like that. Either get everything wrong or do something stupid. They weren't near as bad as this kid seems to have been though. They might have done some dumb or mean spirited shit, but I don't ever recall one of them eating a box of crayons two days in a row. And one of these kids was a crack baby whose mother had AIDS.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 452 points 1 year ago

↓ Yeah, that was the magical thing about Kevin. I can think of several students who did things that were easily way dumber than the stuff Kevin did....but they also did things that were intelligent, or at least not-unintelligent most of the time. Kevin was just constant, consistent stupidity.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **ANAL_ANARCHY** 144 points 1 year ago

↓ What sort of work did Kevins family do? Did they have cars? Could they drive? Did you keep in contact after Kevin left your class? More Kevin please.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 357 points 1 year ago

↓ I'm pretty sure his mother was some kind of physical therapist. His dad? No idea. I only met him a few times, but he always wore a pretty nice suit or at least business casual. They both drove decently new cars and his house was in a nice subdivision. I'm assuming that for what they lacked in common sense, they made up for in some kind of specialized knowledge. For all I know, his dad could have been a brilliant plastic surgeon....but an idiot in every other regard. They were both nice people.

After I left teaching, I got periodic updates on Kevin (as well as other students) from my friends still working there. I haven't heard anything recently though.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **gijsdaboss** 108 points 1 year ago

↓ Non native english speaker here, what learning disabilities are 504 and IEP

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 311 points 1 year ago

↓ IEP is an Individual Education Plan and it essentially lays out the needs of the student as it pertains to a learning disability. They can cover things as minor as a student needing to take their tests in a quiet room to needing a full time advocate that goes with them to every single class. Sometimes IEPs are only relevant in certain subjects. I had kids in my honors classes with IEPs that only had accommodations in math class. To my memory, I never had a class that didn't have someone with an IEP. They were extremely common and for the most part, pretty reasonable. Most students with IEPs were aware of what it entailed and frequently worked hard to compensate. If you have a significant number of students with one in a class, you typically have a collaborative teacher who assists/splits the load (or does jack shit, depending on who they were).

Because English was required every year (in VA, you can graduate with 3 maths, sciences, and civics classes....but you must have 4 years of English lit/comp), I was typically the one tapped to sit in on IEP meetings for each of my students. My entire September and October was nothing but IEP meetings where parents, advocates, etc would determine what accommodations a student needed. All of this was very structured and if we didn't meet the accommodations, it was serious shit. Most of the time, the accommodations were reasonable and sane, but there was always a few that made zero sense or were entirely unreasonable.

504s were health and behavioral. Things like ADD, ADHD, emotional issues, physical needs, etc were covered by the 504. As bad as it sounds, a 504 was usually a huge red flag. If you saw "Please see counselor: 504 req" in the roster comments for a student, it usually meant "You are about to embark on a journey through the valley of bullshit." The legal requirements concerning how things were worded or explained were vague and at times, arbitrary. Things like "Cannot be required to lift heavy things" would bite you in the ass hard because it was entirely subjective what "heavy things" were. I got in trouble because I made a kid take his textbook home on a night that he had to take other textbooks home. This is also where I learned about Oppositional Defiance Disorder. Essentially, ODD is the mental health term for "Cannot control temper" and it's becoming the new ADD. I had a student throw a shitfit because she wasn't allowed to go to another teacher's room during a test (the other teacher had a class at the time). By shitfit, I mean that she flipped her desk and started screaming at me, the security guard, and everyone between my room and the office. A week later, she had a 504 for ODD and from then on...if she had "an episode", I was to take her across the hall to the copy room and let her blow off steam. If she did anything like attack another student or damage property, she would not be disciplined because she had been diagnosed with ODD. Her 504 essentially gave her a free pass.

So yeah, 504s were abused like crazy and unfortunately, teachers learned that they were the black flag of doom.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [JocelynthGinger](#) 51 points 1 year ago

↓ Ah, VA education. My mother teaches multiply disabled elementary school kids and IEPs are the bane of her existence. Of course, I did have a friend who had a 504 and he was an excellent student. It was just he had a lot of depressive issues and would sometimes miss days of school at a time.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 101 points 1 year ago

↓ Yeah, 504s covered a massive swath of different things. Everything from food allergies to emotional and non-LD mental issues. I had far more IEPs than 504s, but saw a disproportionately high amount of abuse of 504 accommodations. IEPs had list of possible accommodations, but 504s were bespoke in that regard. You could get a doctor to say your kid needs hourly backrubs and we'd have to accommodate that somehow. The most bullshit ones were typically related to ODD or ADD. That girl I mentioned above who threw a fit and got a 504 afterwards had hers amended the next year to essentially say that if anything student does anything, intentional or not, that could provoke an episode...the other student had to be removed from the room until it passed. Removing her, apparently, could increase the severity of her outbursts because of the "increased stress".

Of course, we also had kids who were given 504s who didn't want them or feel like they needed it. Those were typically the result of overzealous advocates or helicopter parents.

And of course, on the flipside of that were the ones who I wish someone had warned me before I met them....like Kevin. For all intents and purposes, he should have had a 504.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [deleted] 6 points 1 year ago

↓ Question- I'm going into my last year of high school pretty soon and I've been diagnosed with ADHD over the summer. I've heard that I could get separate setting for tests- should I go get the IEP? I don't think it'd exactly be too trying for my teachers.

And yeah, there's a lot of people who abuse the ADD or ODD label. I'm related to a few of them, so believe me I sympathize, but dammit it'd be nice to get through a test without focusing on the scratching of pencils and decorative posters on the wall more than the paper in front of me.

Also, this thread is still active, which is interesting.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 13 points 1 year ago

↓ Disclaimer: I am not a special education specialist and/or child psychologist. In fact, I don't even have a teaching license anymore.

I would say that it can't hurt to look into it. If you think you'll benefit from having separate testing environments, there's no harm in contacting your guidance counselor now and finding out. However, be warned, it can be difficult given the fact you are going into your senior year. If you've had ADHD for a long time without an IEP, they may be resistant to creating one now.

On the flipside, talk with your teachers. A lot of times, if a student came to me with a reasonable request or asked me a favor (when they didn't have a history of abusing them), I'd be willing to accommodate how I could. In classes that I knew were distracting, I'd regularly split my class between two rooms when possible just to reduce the distraction.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **msheaven** 8 points 1 year ago

↓ I have been laughing so hard at this thread until right now...

it scares me to think your former district would throw 504's at students who were entitled to IEP's under SED. With an IEP they would be having FBA's done and you could work with them a hell of a lot better then taking them to the copy room

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] **NoahtheRed** 24 points 1 year ago

↓ 504s were commonly abused because parents and guardians knew how incredibly flexible they were. My district had no backbone when it came to things like that. In her case, she had a huge anger issue that stemmed from the fact she never got told "No" and had never really been held accountable for anything. She didn't need an IEP or a 504. She needed a reality check.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] scribbling_des 3 points 1 year ago

↓ To be fair, IEP doesn't always mean there is a disability. They are also required for gifted students.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] NoahtheRed 3 points 1 year ago

↓ This is correct, but it's extremely rare since typically....if you need accommodations for above-average intelligence, you just go to a better school with a better program entirely.

IEPs covered ANY modification to a student's education outside the typical scope of a normal classroom.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] scribbling_des 1 point 1 year ago

↓ I don't know what a better school has to do with it. I went to the best schools in my state and I had IEP conferences every year. I was in the gifted program.

And it wasn't rare at all. It was required for every student in the gifted program as gifted is considered special ed. (at least in my state).

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] NoahtheRed 4 points 1 year ago

↓ In Virginia, you only get one if you'd require something above and beyond normal classroom content. If you are in a gifted program, the things you'd need are already part of it, therefore the IEP is moot.

In 4 years, I had one student with an IEP for anything like that. Hers basically stipulated that she was on the roster for a Calculus class, but was actually taking DE college stat or something. Otherwise, most kids who would be considered gifted went to schools in our district with magnet or IB programs.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] scribbling_des -2 points 1 year ago

↓ All of the schools I went to were magnet schools, they all had gifted programs, and they all requires IEP.

Edit: the entire school was a magnet in each case, not just a school with a magnet program.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [scribbling_des](#) -2 points 1 year ago



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[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 2 points 1 year ago



Yeah, it differs from state to state. I've heard some districts go as far as having an IEP for every student across the board, which seems like a nightmare.

[permalink](#) [embed](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [Carryonyx](#) 217 points 1 year ago

↓ You were very honest not cashing his dad's checks but it sounds like you deserved the money.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 486 points 1 year ago

↓ Honestly, had his dad just kept up those payments, I could have paid off my car AND student loans before June of that year.

But ya know, ethics and whatever.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [AnotherUser256](#) 125 points 1 year ago

↓ Out of curiosity how much was his dad paying? And do you know what his dad did for a living?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 423 points 1 year ago*

↓ The check was for \$20k. I don't know what he did for a living, but like I said elsewhere, both Mr. and Mrs. Kevin's Parents appeared to have actual careers. I am pretty sure that she was a physical therapist and whatever his dad did paid well enough that they lived in a nice neighborhood, drove nice cars, and wore nice clothes.

On the topic of his parents though, they came off as forgetful or flighty for the most part. Based on their socio-economic status, I'm under the impression that while flaky in most regards, but there was something they were both savant level at or something.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [casualhobos](#) 292 points 1 year ago

↓ \$20K and then Kevin tried to cash it in at a 7-11 convenience store?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 296 points 1 year ago

↓ That or spend it. It was never entirely clear what exactly he did, but it was one of the few times I saw his dad legitimately angry.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [veritableplethora](#) 120 points 1 year ago

↓ You should write a book. I'm serious. Not only is this written hilariously, I'm sure there's plenty more. And I'm dying to know...what the hell did Kevin's dad and/or mom do for a living?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 273 points 1 year ago

↓ I don't know what his dad did, but his mom was some kind of physical therapist. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kevin's Parents drove nice cars and based on his address, he lived in a relatively nice area. In my head, I pretend they were Michael Scott-esque.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [Lukeweizer](#) 27 points 1 year ago

↓ I don't know why I want to know this, but how was his personal hygiene? Did he shower regularly? Did he wear clean clothes? Did he brush his teeth?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

↑ [-] [NoahtheRed](#) 82 points 1 year ago

↓ Average for a high school boy with little self awareness. He wore clean clothes and appeared to at least get badgered into taking showers and brushing his teeth. Like many guys his age though, he did have a problem wearing deodorant and instead masking his "scent" with Axe body spray.

The gum in his hair usually got fixed overnight, though a few times the "fix" was a haircut.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)
