## creativity

Questions: Find ways of measuring creativity.

Relevant items include definitions of creativity, descriptions of characteristics associated with creativity, and factors linked to creativity.

<sup>↓</sup> This One

★ They're Equally Good ★

\*They're Equally Bad \*

This One <sup>↓</sup>

her father's death when she was 8; by attempted suicide and four months of treatment in a mental hospital while she was in college; by her husband's faithlessness, both imagined and real, which caused her to end their marriage; and finally by her suicide on Feb. 11, 1963.

In trying to account for an ending one can only perceive as tragic, Stevenson has chosen to read Plath's life in conventional psychological terms, although her "diagnosis" remains murky. Repeated references to "divided being" recall R. D. Laing's work on schizophrenia, but just as often she mentions "depressed" and "manic" extremes, suggesting bipolar depression, a diagnosis apparently supported by the doctor who was treating Plath when she ended her life. Stevenson makes this bipolarity her controlling metaphor. As early as high school, "Sylvia had a rare, infectious capacity for exultation -- as great a gift for rapture as she had for misery." Indeed, in Stevenson's view, there were two Sylvia Plaths: "the outer Sylvia, characterized by Robert Lowell as 'a brilliant tense presence, embarrassed by restraint,' and the inner woman, fraught with fears and aggressions." And although at one point Stevenson claims that "the writer was beginning to identify with the woman, the woman with the writer; there could be no true distinction between them," her later evaluation is more sinister: that Plath had projected "the 'desired image' (the required image) of herself as Eve -- wife, mother, homemaker, protector of the wholesome, the good, and the holy, an identity that both her upbringing and her own instinctive physical being had fiercely aspired to. Now her submerged and subversive self, utterly true to itself, utterly detached, completely the artist, turned on the Eve scenario and

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