**The Macdonald Triad**

The Macdonald Triad is what psychologists call the three signs that can identify a sociopath. Sociopathic behaviour is defined as "...a pervasive pattern of disregard for, and violation of, the rights of others that begins in childhood or early adolescence and continues into adulthood.” This means that sociopaths don't care about other people, and can hurt others to gain something (like money or power) or just to feel better. Serial killers are almost always sociopaths, but not every sociopath is a serial killer.

There are three parts of the Macdonald Triad:

1. Firesetting

Many sociopaths carry deep stress, often from childhood. Setting fires can release this stress.

1. Animal cruelty

Many sociopaths were abused as children. This makes them feel weak, so they try to feel strong by hurting animals. (This is often a warm-up for hurting people.)

1. Bed wetting

Many sociopaths wet their beds long after it is 'normal' to do so.

**The Macdonald Triad**

**ENG 2PI**

Fill in the definition of sociopathic behaviour:

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Sociopaths don't care about other people, and can hurt others for something (like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) or just to feel better. Serial killers are almost always sociopaths, but \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

What are the three red flags of possible sociopathic behaviour?

1.

2.

3.