

# Alice Cooper – “18”



# Personality Development

- Research by anthropologist Margaret Mead reflects the theme of Alice Cooper's song "18." According to Mead, the adolescent no longer belongs to the social group of children and still is not accepted as an adult.
- Social psychologist Kurt Lewin noted that adolescent behavior is characterized by an increased plasticity of personality.

# Personality Development

- Eduard Spranger believed that much of an individual's personality is developed during adolescence. It is during adolescence that many decisions are made that greatly affect life from that point on (e.g., decisions to smoke, drink alcohol, sexual orientation). As he put it. "the dominant value direction of the individual is the profound determiner of personality."

# Identity Statuses (James Marcia)

- **Identity Achievement** – Erikson's term for the attainment of identity, or the point at which a person understands who he or she is as a unique individual, in accord with past experiences and future plans. Adolescents seek to establish their own identities by reconsidering all the goals & values set by their parents & culture, accepting some & rejecting others.

# Identity Statuses (James Marcia)

- **Foreclosure** – Premature identity formation which occurs when an adolescent adopts parents' or society's roles & values wholesale, without questioning & analysis.
- **Moratorium** on identity formation – a way for adolescents to postpone making identity achievement choices by finding an accepted way to avoid identity achievement (e.g., changing majors & colleges, enlisting & reenlisting in the military). Scene from *A River Runs Through It*.

# Identity Statuses (James Marcia)

- **Identity Diffusion** – a situation in which an adolescent does not seem to know or care what his or her identity is. Very common in adolescents who end up referred for professional counseling. Worse case scenario, they develop a
- **Negative Identity** – Some adolescents resort to simply rebelling and becoming the opposite of what is expected of them.

# Personality Assessment

## Brief Screening Protocols

- Personal Problems Checklist for Adolescents (PPC)
- Rohde Sentence Completions

# Correlates of Suicide Potential

- Feeling hopeless & powerless
- Poor impulse control
- Poor reality testing



# Personality Assessment

## Brief Screening Protocols

- Personal Problems Checklist for Adolescents (PPC)
- Rohde Sentence Completions

# Suicide Intervention Questions

- Have you thought about harming yourself?
- What are some of the ways you have thought about doing it?
- Do you have the means to carry out your idea?
- What has kept you from it so far?
- What will happen to you after you are dead?