

## A SQUID

Karen Crosset

(1) As our society changes, so do the words we use. New words are invented, old words take on new meanings, and these unfamiliar words need definition. Squid, a little-known slang term coined by a friend of mine, needs definition for its new meaning.

(2) "Squid" is defined by Webster's New International Dictionary as "any of numerous ten-armed cephalopods having a long, tapered body, and a caudal fin on each side." However, this meaning does not apply to the new definition. The slang term "squid" can be defined as "a person, especially a student, who is annoying because he demonstrates his belief in his own superiority when his weaknesses are obvious to everyone but himself." "Squid," synonymous with the words "nerd" and "geek," implies the repulsiveness of the object it describes. You can recognize a squid by his annoying actions or by his slimy appearance and strange smell. Myron, a fellow student, exemplifies a squid.

(3) First, Myron displays his squidishness by his attitudes toward his peers. For example, Myron reads ahead in all of his classes. This action in itself does not earn him the disdain of his fellow students, but his constant bragging about his superior intelligence does. No matter how much anyone has accomplished, the squid has done more and he lets everyone know about it. Also, Myron smirks while he brags. The squid wears a smug look and you know that he feels superior to you. This makes you want to hit him, but your losing control would only make the squid feel justified in his self-appointed position of superiority. The squid annoys everyone with his attitude.

(4) Second, Myron calls out the answers in class without raising his hand. The squid interrupts the professor, thereby disturbing the class. However, he thinks nothing of it because a squid believes that what he has to say is important, no matter how little it relates to the topic. If he has been reprimanded for calling out the answers, the squid will do one of two things. He will whisper the answers loudly, or he will bounce around in his chair and wave his arms wildly while grunting, "Ooh, ooh, me, me! Call on me!" By disturbing others with these annoying actions, the squid brings his bad reputation upon himself.

(5) Third, Myron steals books from the library, and the likelihood of his taking a book is directly proportional to the number of people who need it--the more people who need the book, the more likely a squid is to steal it. This frustrates others' attempts to produce a well-researched paper.

(6) Because he spends all his free time building a

private library with the university's books, a squid has little time for personal hygiene. For example, Myron has yellow teeth. This condition, the result of the squid's smoking and/or never brushing his teeth, causes others to stand two or more feet away from him. Also, a squid seems to bathe only once a month, if that often. He has greasy hair, greasy skin, black dirt under his fingernails, and an easily detectable, unpleasant smell. Thus, a squid is also physically unattractive.

(7) Last, Myron brown-noses all the professors. The squid runs errands for them, brings them coffee, and fakes interest in even the most boring lectures. After the lectures, Myron stays to speak with the prof for the sole purpose of showing how much he knows. This low attempt to gain extra points leaves a squid in less than good stead with the rest of the class.

(8) Almost everyone has met someone like Myron, a character who nearly defies description. Now, however, thanks to a new definition, Myron can be accurately described in only one syllable, "squid."