

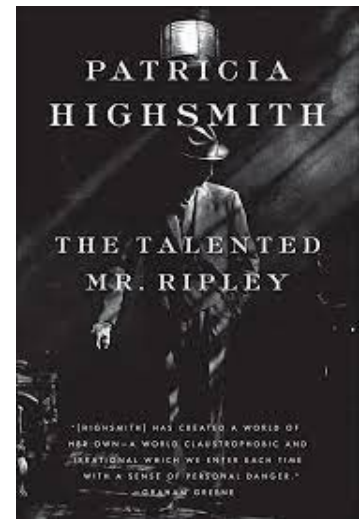
Literature and Psychology Level 9 (W237439)

The Talented Mr. Ripley, Patricia Highsmith

ISBN-13: 978-0393332148

from Norton.com:

*Since his debut in 1955, Tom Ripley has evolved into the ultimate bad boy sociopath. Newly arrived in the heady world of Manhattan, Ripley meets a wealthy industrialist who hires him to bring his playboy son, Dickie Greenleaf, back from gallivanting in Italy. Soon Ripley's fascination with Dickie's debonair lifestyle turns obsessive as he finds himself enraged by Dickie's ambivalent affections for Marge, a charming American dilettante, and Ripley begins a deadly game. "Sinister and strangely alluring" (Mark Harris, *Entertainment Weekly*) The Talented Mr. Ripley serves as an unforgettable introduction to this smooth confidence man, whose talent for self-invention is as unnerving—and unnervingly revealing of the American psyche—as ever.*



Patricia Highsmith's "bad boy sociopath" continually strives for a happy life, and it is this very striving that takes him in murderous directions. As you read, mark passages that will allow you to consider the following:

- What makes Tom happy? Is it sustainable?
- What does Tom believe to be true about himself? Is he right? Does Tom see himself clearly?
- When do you find yourself rooting for Tom? When does this surprise you?
- Highsmith, herself, was a member of the LGBTQ community when such identification was not particularly safe. Where does the text contain slurs against gay men? Who uses them? Why? What is the impact (on both the reader and on Tom)?
- The above blurb calls the book "unnervingly revealing of the American psyche" – where do you find this to be true?