Renzulli's Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness

Renzulli considers three factors important for the development of gifted behaviour: Above average ability, creativity, and task commitment.

Within the **above average abilities** Renzulli makes a difference between general abilities (like processing information, integrating experiences, and abstract thinking) and specific abilities (like the capacity to acquire knowledge, perform in an activity).

By **creativity** Renzulli understands the fluency, flexibility, and originality of thought, an openness to
experience, sensitivity to stimulations, and a willingness to take risks.
Under **task commitment** he understands motivation turned into action (like perseverance, endurance, hard work, but also self-confidence, perceptiveness and a special fascination with a special subject). Renzulli argues that without task commitment high achievement is simply not possible. Only if characteristics from all three rings **work together** can high achievement or gifted behaviour be witnessed. Recently Renzulli shifted his emphasis toward the background factors in his models, the personality and environmental factors influencing gifted behaviour.

**Further Information**
- Renzulli, Joseph. S.: *The Three-Ring Conception of Giftedness* at the **Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM)** web site
- See documents about the **Operation Houndstooth** at the **NEAG Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development** web site to learn more about personality and environmental factors.

**Sources**