Analysis of Light Yagami's introduction.

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Exercpt #1

Light Yagami is first seen in a classroom staring outside the window and proclaims that the world is a rotten mess, meanwhile Ryuk a Shinigami complains about the repetition of the Shinigami activities, exclaiming that it is boring.

Analysis # 1

Light Yagami is sitting in a classroom where a significant amount of students are either sleeping, engrossed in entertainment or are involved with gossip. This represents his cynical and naive perception of the world by negatively comparing it to a classroom filled with disobedient students which isn't nearly as depraved as some areas of the world. Light's ignorant whinging is contrasted by Ryuk's legitimate despair from inhabiting a desolate realm that holds no prospects for change.

Exercpt #2

Light Yagami glimpses a notebook falling from the sky and takes it home, after reading the rules of the Death Note which states it can kill anyone whose name is written inside.

Analysis # 2

His immediate reaction is to dismiss it as an intricate prank despite this, he tests the abilities of the Death Note which hints his desperation for fulfillment and dissatisfaction with the way he is living his life.

Exercpt # 3

When he is first ambushed by Ryuk, a shinigami and the owner of the Death Note, Light is terrified but is quick to recompose himself and shows Ryuk the names he has written down in the Death Note. Ryuk acknowledges that no normal human would write so many names after they've realised the abilities of the Death Note.

Analysis #3

This heavily implies that Light Yagami has a powerful conviction that influences him to act this way. However the fact that his father and his occupation hasn't been revealed is a hint that Light Yagami is not a good person and he has a different motive influencing his actions.

Exercpt #4

After Ryuk notifies Light Yagami of the Death Note's principles and the repercussions for using it, Light Yagami demonstrates his arrogance by demanding to know why Ryuk chose him to wield the Death Note. Ryuk dismisses Light's delusions by revealing that he dropped it randomly out of boredom and that Light Yagami found it by sheer coincidence.

Light Yagami then speaks about his boredom as well.

Analysis # 4

Light Yagami wanted to be chosen either because it reinforced his vain beliefs about being superior to other people or to ease his conscience about the murders he committed as he wouldn't be responsible if he was forced to by fate.

This conversation with Ryuk serves as a major factor for Light Yagami creating the 'Kira' identity as Ryuk who is far superior to Light Yagami also possesses existential dread. This could either motivate Light by giving him a justification to indulge his hedonistic desires since boredom is so dangerous that he or he could see it as an omen of how he will succumb to boredom if he repeats his daily activities which would be especially significant to him as he is incredibly gifted and he wouldn't appreciate being hindering from fully exploiting his talents.

The Death Note also refutes Light Yagami's fatalism as it is written in English, a foreign language to Japan which shows how Light Yagami has the intelligence to adapt to unnatural situations as well as the willpower to make his own choices.

While it appears that Light Yagami is the optimal candidate to wield the Death Note, the fact that it is written in English, the language used most often in the world, symbolises how it is supposed to be used by commoners which will be people who are most likely to live an impoverished and unfortunate life, which would justify the price of suffering a misfortunate death.

Light Yagami, who is extremely intelligent, athletic and belongs to a relatively affluent family has cursed himself with a bitter demise for an artifact that cannot improve his life in any significant capacity that he couldn't achieve himself with dedication which highlights the flaw of excessive escapism.

Exercpt #5

Afterwards we see Light Yagami test out the Death Note on a criminal he witnesses in the news, he is dissatisfied that the person who died was obscured by a building so he will attempt to use the Death Note again. While pondering this, he wonders whether he should kill a bully named Sudo who is heckling another Ryo for money so he can leave an ongoing lesson to play an arcade game. However he is interrupted from his thoughts by a teacher throwing chalk at him and reprimanding him for not paying attention as he placed first in the national practical college entrance exams

Analysis #5

Light Yagami being hit with the chalk symbolises how he has the capabilities to help other people but societal expectations work against him.
He sees how disobedient students who don't apply themselves can get away with not following the rules since people expect him to assume their responsibilities as he is incredibly gifted.

He sees that helping people directly isn't an effective method to improve the school which can be perceived as a microcosm of society as people will use it as an opportunity to avoid responsibility and opportunities to grow. Instead of being inspired by his success, the other students use it as an opportunity to slack off. Because of him taking the majority of the classes obligations, Sudo may become a future criminal since he isn't being disciplined for his negative behaviour.

Exercpt #6

While overhearing a group of students wanting to meet up for a party, Light thinks that there are people all around him which the world will be better off without.

After seeing a woman getting sexually harassed, Light Yagami writes the aggressors name in the Death Note to test it's abilities which ends up killing the offender.

He has a massive breakdown from his actions as he believes the second man didn't deserve to die for his behaviour before attempting to justify his actions by thinking that it is his chance to cleanse the world of sin and that while it would be difficult as they're human lives, no one else would have the conviction or capabilities to change the world.

Exercpt #6

This scene challenges Light Yagami's convictions and exposes his doubts. Despite the implications that he wanted the surrounding happy students to die, he was incredibly distressed when he killed a sexual offender.

Despite having a negative opinion of other people, he perceives himself to be no better when he claims that the only moral distinctions between him and other people is commitment and courage. He doesn't imply or mention the possibility of people using the Death Note for selfish purposes to justify himself using it.

Exercpt #7

Light Yagami acknowledges that he has been suffering sleep deprivation and has lost weight but states that he has been writing in the names of the world's worst criminals.

When Ryuk questions why he hasn't specified the method of death, Light replies that it is because people with unspecified deaths will automatically die of heart attacks.

He then begins a deranged rant about how if criminals keep dying of heart attacks, illnesses and accidents that even the stupid masses can recognise that there is someone who will enforce divine justice on them and vanquish them if they don't repent and that he'll create a world that will only be available for citizens he deems worthy.

Ryuk then says that Light Yagami will be the only bad person left on Earth if his wish is fulfilled while Light retorts that he is a straight *A student and a model student.

Analysis #7

Light Yagami's gloating exposes his altruistic egoism and suggests that his primary goal for using the Death Note, just a justification for his own selfish desires which could either be his attempt to alleviate his boredom or releasing his rage on other people while easing his conscience.

Additionally the creation of "Kira" enforces a legacy for Light Yagami, something that would appear unlikely if he never encountered the Death Note as while he may have the talent, he lacks the willpower and could have fallen into depression and ceased studying before he became a detective, he may have even killed himself.

However there may be a small chance Light Yagami actually does want to improve the world and he simply has a negative perception on what would be perceived as ordinary civilians.

And finally his desire to reign over a new world indicates that he is trying to compensate for his lack of autonomy caused by his unwillingness to avoid the strict restrictions imposed on him by Japanese culture by attempting to control everyone else.

Summary

Light Yagami creating the identity of Kira is the consequence of Japanese society and culture placing the full responsibility on the best and brightest people instead of distributing obligations amongst its citizens to their fullest capacity.