Beyond Birthday FSIQ Debunk

I was inclined to make this doc after a few conversations where I had to refute terrible and fallacious arguments about Beyond Birthday's FSIQ. I'll go over the supposed "feats" people use to inflate his FSIQ.

1 - "Decoding/translating death gods language as a kid" - this feat refers to BB's shinigami eyes which show a person's name and their lifespan. The lifespan though, is shown to us to be in some mysterious death god language.

We can see in this panel -



That there indeed exists a death god language. As we know, BB used his eyes to see both names and the life spans of people in order to find his victims.

We also know BB was born with the shinigami eyes and realized how they work very early on in his childhood.

So in short, he had to decode the language in order to see people's life spans, this would greatly buff his fluid intelligence, logical reasoning, VCI and potentially some other categories.

The problem is the premise of the feat is flawed, and I'm going to demonstrate that.

"Shinigami eyes users need to decode a language in order to see people's life spans" - a concept that is mentioned, shown, implied and demonstrated in 0 animes, 0 mangas, 0 novels and 0 data books.

Further proven by how illogical it is in the context of death note, I'll elaborate.

Needing to decode some foreign language is an extremely important detail you'd think would be mentioned in the shinigami eyes deal, but it isn't. It is contradictory to ryuks words, a person who makes the deal will be able to see people's names and life spans, nothing about the need to decode anything mentioned. The shinigami eyes automatically translate the shinigami language to human numbers using.. magic. Like how the death note works. It's the simplest, most consistent explanation that basically everyone who watched the show came out with, it's just recently where people are desperate for feats, this ridiculous interpretation has risen.

It is important to remember ryuk has no reason to conceal that important detail, as he said himself he's neutral, he wouldn't lie to light and mislead him, he either says the truth, or explicitly says he won't tell light something because it'll be unfair.

Anything he didn't tell light about the death note he either didn't know himself or forgot.

It's technically possible that he forgot this detail as well, but that seems unlikely as he had all the time in the world to remember it and tell light in the course of the death note plot. Especially in the moment with Naomi when light had to kill her, and he considered making the eye deal, an important detail like him needing to translate some language in the heat of the moment should be something that immediately came to mind for ryuk, but it didn't.

On top of that, misa had the shinigami eyes herself and could see people's life spans, if she decoded that language it must not have been too difficult. The counter arguments people use when this point is brought up are:

1. Rem translated the language for her.

2. She simply didn't know people's life spans, she saw the numbers but didn't know what they meant.

The first one is a baseless assumption. We never saw rem translate anything for misa nor mentioning translating anything for her.

The second one is slightly more interesting. It is actually true that we never saw her mention a person's life span, but she was never in a situation where she needed to. There was no context where it was relevant. The only one would be light as she would probably alert him if she saw his life span, but as he was a death note owner she couldn't. Basically, it is another assumption that works if you already believe the premise. However, everything she did and said still makes complete sense under the premise that she saw people's life spans.

Another argument is Light's dad. The only instance where Light's dad saw him while owing shinigami eyes was on his death bed at his final moments. The argument is that when he saw

light's lifespan it should have affected him seeing it was only five years, and he should have warned light.

This ignores most of the context of the scene. Light's dad was injured, about to die, and until now the thought of his son being Kira was stuck in the back of his mind, causing him discomfort and unrest. The discovery his son was in fact not kira on top of the other factors were enough to overwhelm him emotionally, and he could die in relief.

On top of that, light's lifespan being five years makes complete sense in his dad's point of view. His son was getting into a dangerous profession - detective work, in the most dangerous case in the world fighting the most vicious and cunning mass murderer in history. His lifespan being five years wouldn't even be that surprising to him.

One last question remains. Then why do WE see it as random numbers? Even from the point of view of people with the eyes? If you're playing devil's advocate by asking this question the answer should be obvious, otherwise if you're genuinely asking this question you might be mentally disabled.

The reason we the viewers are not shown the actual lifespans is so we don't get spoiled, OBVIOUSLY. If we knew when light and L would die the series would be quite boring, or at least not as entertaining as it otherwise could have been.

The only poor counter argument to this point is why are we not shown the lifespans of not important characters, we won't really get spoiled then would we? Again, extremely obvious answer, it's not to damage the world building the author has already created. There's no reason to undermine the world building unnecessarily, he already set a precedent to what we're shown when seeing people's life spans, he has no reason to change it for certain characters. It doesn't make any sense and he has no incentive to do so.

With that, I hope I put that silly premise to rest. The idea that the lifespans need decoding is a dumb invention by death note fans created to buff Beyond Birthday. It is completely reliant on baseless assumptions and has no grounding. Just the fact such an important detail isn't mentioned ANYWHERE is enough to not believe it, but I wanted to debunk any other potential arguments just in case.

Overall, BB still deduced the powers of his eyes and comprehended the concept of death very early on in his childhood, on top of other FRI feats, so his FRI is by no means bad, but not close to what certain people would have you believe.

"Decoding/translating feat" status - invalid.

2 - "Monitor hax - scales to near" - not as ridiculous as the previous "feat", but still pretty questionable. The premise of this one relies solely on this statement -

```真相15
Truth 15
page.91
多数のモニターを並行して見る事ができるのはニアが持っている特殊能力?
IS IT A SPECIAL ABILITY NEAR HAS THAT LETS HIM VIEW MULTIPLE MONITORS AT THE SAME TIME?

「モニターを並行して見るのはニア独自のものでしょうが、Lも近い事はやっていましたよね。言ってしまえば分析能力や脳のキャパシティの問題ですから、映像の並行処理に限らず、大量の情報を一辺に処理できるというのはワイミーズハウスの子供達の特徴でもあります。トップクラスの子は大体似たような事ができるんじゃないでしょうか。メロは・・・苦手そうですね(笑)」

"The ability to view multiple monitors simultaneously is probably unique to Near, but L did something similar as well, didn't he? It's a matter of analytical ability and brain capacity, so the ability to process a large amount of information at once is a characteristic of the children at Wammy's House rather than just being able to process more than an image. I think most of the top class children can do similar things. Though, Mello... doesn't seem to be very good at it. (laughs)"

→ 複数の番組から目当ての人物を探し当てる。凄い!
→ He can find the person he's looking for through multiple programs. Amazing!

→ 月の監視時、複数のモニターを確認するし。
→ And he checks multiple monitors when monitoring the moon.

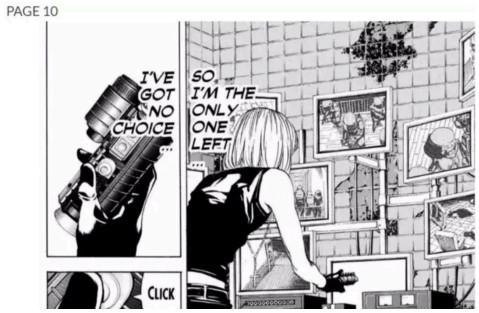
→ モニターを確認する気など全然なしのメロ。
→ Mello has no interest in checking the monitors at all.```

"Characteristic of the children at Wammy's House" this statement alone somehow proves BB scales to near in CPI. Or does it?

There are a few problems with this.

Firstly let's look at another statement - "probably unique to near", this statement reinforces the narrative that Near scales higher than his peers when it comes to FSIQ. Even "L did something similar" reinforces this, "similar" implies not to the same extent/to a lower extent. Meaning the same feat but with fewer monitors, and that is the case as we see L do the monitor hax multiple times, but never with the same numbers as Near. Scaling any character to Near by this statement alone is already a massive assumption that goes against the narrative. As we see, L
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can do it to some degree, but worse than Near, and Mello can't do it at all. "B-but we see Mello-🤓" yes, i know what you're talking about. This panel -



Here we see Mello looking at a monitor, while nine other monitors exist nearby. There's nothing proving or implying that he absorbs information from all ten monitors at the same time. That is simply an assumption that goes AGAINST the statement of the author. In terms of CPI this feat would put mello above the average gamer and below the average security guard.

"Though, mello… doesn't seem to be very good at it" the interpretation that mello is performing a feat similar to Near's goes against the narrative and statements from the author. This goes to show that despite being a top WH kid, Mello can't do the monitor hax, so assuming BB can do it is a big leap of faith.

Even under the interpretation that Mello did the monitor hax to some extent, it was on a much smaller scale. So not only you'll have to assume BB can to the monitor hax, but you'll have to assume he can do it on the same level as the person who's FSIQ is narratively (and feats wise too arguably) highest in the verse, all dependent on a vague statement? That goes beyond being charitable, that's wanking.

Not to mention, BB learned in a different generation than Mello and Near. There's no guarantee his generation even did the monitor hax. ANOTHER thing that we don't know and need to assume.

Assumptions stacked upon assumptions stacked upon assumptions.

To summarize, believing BB scales to Near in CPI, or to the monitor hax at all, requires countless massive assumptions with no backing behind them. BB is at worst featless in CPI, and at best average +.

"Monitor hax statement" status - invalid/valid to a low extent.

3 - "Book memorization and speed reading" - I'll get something out of the way quickly. Speed reading isn't PSI as the meaning of words are so engraved in our brains that they're basically crystalized intelligence, their meaning is not being processed - no PSI aspect. However BB did

read a book, with characters, story, plot twists, deeper meanings etc. If you believe memorizing the book means also understanding everything about it, then it does have a strong PSI aspect.

This feat is the closest to being valid out of the three but I'm afraid it's not close enough as well.

BB was stated to memorize a 376 page book in under five minutes. There's a few problems with this.

Firstly, the only proof we see of this, meaning knowledge about the book he shows are the pages necessary to solve the puzzle he created.

Secondly, he planted the book in advance, prepared the puzzle in advance, he did everything in advance, but.. left memorizing the book for the last moment? It makes no sense.

When you actually think about it, he didn't even need to memorize the book, just the pages necessary for the puzzle. What knowledge from the book did he display again? Right, the pages necessary for the puzzle.

There are two counter arguments for this.

1. But it was stated he memorized the book.

2. Why wasn't it mentioned he memorized the book in advance then? Everything else he did was made clear.

Answering the first, it was stated he memorized the book from *Naomi's point of view,* the person he was constantly deceiving. To her it seemed like he memorized the book really quickly, but he could have just gone through the pages really fast without actually reading anything, because he just needed the specific page numbers needed for the puzzle, which he already knew.

People could say that Mello was the one who stated that BB memorized the book, but Mello got all of his information from L, that's how he wrote the note. Naomi *TOLD* L she saw BB memorizing the book, it was only her impression, and only from her point of view. That's why Mello says "was that even possible?", "could he really do that?" And "either way", implying BB didn't memorize it. Mello doesn't know because he can't, neither L nor Naomi had access to BB's mind and therefore couldn't know whatever he actually memorized the book. What Mello said is unreliable, and once that statement is gone, all logical possibilities lead to BB not memorizing it on the spot.

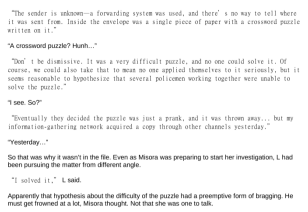
Second argument, it's true that it was never mentioned that he memorized the book, but I believe the more likely explanation for that is because it was extremely *obvious.* He planted the book in advance, created the puzzle in advance, created the entire scene in advance.. of course he memorized the book/pages in advance as well. It's the most logical conclusion.

This feat though, out of the three is the most believable, but i still think it's not convincing enough.

"Book memorization and speed reading feat" status - invalid, very low chances of being valid.

4 - "Crossword puzzle"

Beyond Birthday created a complex crossword puzzle and sent it to the police in an attempt to draw L's attention. Great VCI: similarities feat, or is it?



"The sender is unknown—a forwarding system was used, and there' s no way to tell where it was sent from. Inside the envelope was a single piece of paper with a crossword puzzle written on it."

"A crossword puzzle? Hunh..."

"Don' t be dismissive. It was a very difficult puzzle, and no one could solve it. Of course, we could also take that to mean no one applied themselves to it seriously, but it seems reasonable to hypothesize that several policemen working together were unable to solve the puzzle."

"I see. So?"

"Eventually they decided the puzzle was just a prank, and it was thrown away... but my information-gathering network acquired a copy through other channels yesterday."

"Yesterday..."

So that was why it wasn't in the file. Even as Misora was preparing to start her investigation, L had been pursuing the matter from different angle.

"I solved it," L said.

Apparently that hypothesis about the difficulty of the puzzle had a preemptive form of bragging. He must get frowned at a lot, Misora thought. Not that she was one to talk.

If it's hard to read -

```“Don’t be dismissive. It was a very difficult puzzle, and no one could solve it. Of course, we could also take that to mean no one applied themselves to it seriously, but it seems reasonable to hypothesize that several policemen working together were unable to solve the puzzle.”

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L says it's a complicated puzzle, yet a sentence later brings up the possibility that it wasn't that the puzzle was complex or hard to solve, but that the police simply didn't take it seriously, and no real effort was put into solving it. This makes sense as a busy police force has no reason to solve random puzzles being sent to them, even with the possibility of any puzzle being from an
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actual criminal and not a prank, the fact that the criminal was the one who sent it makes it hard to believe it'll contain any useful information for finding said criminal.

Regardless, he later goes on to say that it's reasonable to assume several policemen were working on it together, unable to solve the puzzle.

So, it was still probably fairly complicated after all.

That was, if not for the last sentence, implying L was more so bragging than anything else, with mello saying L's hypothesis regarding the difficulty of the puzzle is clouded by his ego, and him exaggerating the difficulty of the puzzle was solely to brag.

Mello got his information for the note from L, therefore L was where he got this from, L himself. L would obviously be aware of why he does things, therefore the statement by Mello is reliable, L was in fact, just trying to seem impressive in front of Naomi.

Naomi later on, while looking at the puzzle, stated that it was indeed difficult. However, difficult to L Lawliet, the world's greatest detective and difficult to Naomi are two different things.

Not to mention Naomi has no impressive VCI feats of her own, so Naomi considering the puzzle hard doesn't tell us much about its true difficulty.

That means that the true difficulty of the puzzle is impossible to confirm.

Along with the more important fact that we do not possess the puzzle itself, or any details about it whatsoever, makes the feat basically unscalable. More akin to a vague statement.

With no details or information about the puzzle, and with the difficulty of it being brought into question, it's hard to say it's a good feat.

It might be fair to say BB gets VCI: similarities over a character who's featless in that category, but it's impossible to argue for anything more than that for a simple lack of information.

"Crossword puzzle" status - valid to a low extent.

In conclusion - i really didn't want to make this doc and I didn't enjoy making it. Beyond Birthday is my favorite death note character and I believe he has stronger aspects other than FSIQ.

That said, his FSIQ still isn't bad by any means.

If i had to grade it, it'd be

VSI - very strong
FRI - decent
VCI - average + - decent
PSI - average +
WMI - average +

It's just that bad arguments need to be put to rest, and unfortunately a lot of bad arguments were used regarding BB's FSIQ. Hope you enjoyed the read.

By - saul badman.