Vulnerabilities of Highly Gifted Children

Roedel, W. (1984). Vulnerabilities of highly gifted children. *Roeper Review, 6*(3), 127-130

Trait	Description
Alienation	Communication problems with peers at early ages due to advanced abilities (i.e. abstract ideas) makes it hard for very young children to find same-age playmates of like abilities
Uneven Development	Gap between a child's advanced intellectual capacity and more age-appropriate social and physical skills can lead to unrealistic expectations for performance
Inappropriate Environments	Vulnerability increases when large amounts of time are spent in inappropriate educational environments
Role Conflict	Conflict between society's stereotyped expectations for certain age, gender, and racial groups & the highly gifted child's need to fulfill extraordinary individual potential can be severe
Perfectionism	Inner push toward perfection that drives gifted children to set impossible goals for themselves
Adult Expectations	Perfections is exaggerated by adults who constantly urge their children to live up to their potential
Intensity/Sensitivity	Intense sensitivity and internal responsiveness can intensify reactions to ordinary problems of growing up
Self-definition	Classic adolescent crisis may occur earlier for gifted children due to intense analytical approach which leads to early analysis of self

Hoagie's Gifted Education Page
(http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/highly_profoundly.htm)