

Today we are reading Lois Gould's short story, "X." As we read the story aloud, write down in your notebook any misspelled words beginning with a capital X ("Xperiment," for example). Do not bother to write the same word down more than once.

1. Why did the scientists name the new baby "X"?
2. Why were so many people turned down as possible parents for baby X?
3. How did people react to baby X? Give specific examples from the text.
4. Why were the Joneses especially worried about X starting school (31)?
5. Eventually, the other children began to act more like X. Why? Provide two examples of this from the story.
6. Why were most of the other parents upset by the way their children were acting (after coming into contact with X)?
7. Why do X's parents read him/her stories such as "Sleeping Handsome" (33)?
8. Explain what the children mean when they say, "by the time it matters which sex X is, it won't be a secret any more" (37).
9. This story is written with a purpose in mind. The author wants to make us think about some of the attitudes we have about the differences between boys and girls. What does the author think is wrong with our attitudes, and what sorts of things does she suggest we can do to change?