

Directions: Read the short story “Who’s the New Kid?” by Lois Lowry. What kind of person is Lois Lowry based on her response to her experiences at a new school? Make sure to annotate the text (highlight and take notes as you read) to help you write your response.

NOTES:

“WHO’S THE NEW KID?”
by Lois Lowry

Because of my father's job, my family moved a great deal. I was always (at least it felt like always!) the "new kid" in school.

I remember that when I was eleven years old, I was once again entering a brand-new school. And school had already begun. The kids had already gotten to know each other, had made friends, and had learned the teachers' names, the layout of the classrooms and the hallways, and the schedules.

I arrived in the middle of the day, feeling very awkward and shy. I had had my hair cut the day before; it had been very long, and now it was very short, so I didn't even feel like myself. My mother took me to the school office, and they did the necessary paperwork to enroll me, and then she left me there. Someone took me to the classroom where I was supposed to be.

Everyone stared at me, of course, when I entered the room. One of the students—reacting to my very short hair, I suppose—called out, "Is it a boy or a girl?"

Do you know, that was *forty-four* years ago, that moment—yet I still remember how humiliating it felt.

But guess what. I still wear my hair very short. I think it's my way, now, of saying, "Nyah nyah. I don't care *what* you think"

