

INTENSITY

A salient descriptor that characterizes the personality of a gifted child is intensity. Intensity takes many forms that can be both strengths and weaknesses. Recognizing and understanding these intensities can help toward improving the social and emotional life of the child.

- INTENSITY OF THOUGHT

“Her mind is always whirring.”

- INTENSITY OF PURPOSE

“Once he makes up his mind to do something, he’s not satisfied until it’s accomplished.”

- INTENSITY OF EMOTION

“She internalizes everything anyone say about her.”

- INTENSITY OF SPIRIT

“He’s always looking for someone less fortunate who needs help.”

- INTENSITY OF SOUL

“She asks questions that philosophers have asked for centuries and gets upset when we can’t give her definitive answers to them.”

From J. R. Delisle, Once Upon a Mind: The stories and scholars of gifted child education. 2000. Illustration on subsequent pages are used with permission of Dr. James Delisle.