Lorber Questions 2

1. What do you think the author means by her use of the term *tertiary* sex characteristics? How does clothing fit into this category? (57)

2. Explain how gender is both an ascribed and achieved status. (57)

3. Lorber claims that for human beings, there is “no essential femaleness or maleness, femininity or masculinity, womanhood or manhood” – do you agree? Explain. (58)

4. She also explains that “once gender is ascribed, the social order constructs and holds individuals to strongly gendered norms and expectations” – do some thinking/brainstorming with a partner…explore what she could possibly mean with this statement. HOW does the social order keep people behaving within the gendered norms? (58)

(\*you can think about the “social order” as all of those social institutions and agents of socialization we’ve been talking about working together to create the fabric and frame of society)

5. How can males and females “doing” the same task be perceived as doing things differently? Use the concept of the “sameness taboo”. (58)

6. How did “Jan” ascribe to the gender roles ascribed to women in her society when she became a woman? (59)

7. Again, with a partner, compare what Lorber says on page 59 regarding how man and woman are empty categories with what MacQueen says in the Maclean’s article we read. Where do the two authors differ? What do you (and your partner) think?