Intersex and Middlesex: Accuracy of Pseudohermaphroditism as portrayed by Calliope Stephanides and Zora in *Middlesex*

By Marjorie Schaeffner

Literature has a long standing tradition of bringing ignored topics to light in revealing ways, and in the high tension debate of gay marriage, the issue of hermaphroditism and pseudohermaphroditism must be acknowledged. Jeffrey Eugenides is incredibly thorough and accurate in his portrayal of pseudohermaphroditism and how it affects a child. His term “middlesex” is used to describe Cal, a child who is a pseudohermaphrodite.
Sex vs. Gender

And

The Issue of Gay Marriage
5th Chromosome and DHT, Testosterone (pseudohermaphroditism)

Sex Chromosomes and sex variability
XO, XS, XXO, XXXY (hermaphroditism)

Psychological sex variability
Homosexuality, Transsexualism

(I,J)
Disorder
Vs.
Intersex
National Intersex Society of North America

- Definition
- Its goal
- “Normalizing” surgeries on infants
Pseudohermaphroditism

5-Alpha Reductase
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome
Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome
Hermaphroditism

Positive
Negative
Nature vs. Nurture

Dr. Luce and Dr. Money
Intersex in the Gay Marriage Debate
Works Cited


