Hollingworth (1942) asserted that children’s interest in “questions of origin and destiny” emerges around ages 12 -13 (p. 279) and that an early interest indicates giftedness. Many in the field agree. To test these claims, I compared highly gifted and typical 7- to 9-year-olds using data drawn from three sources: self report, parent report, and children’s responses to issue-laden drawings. The highly gifted group’s response to drawings revealed considerably more issue awareness than did self report data. Parents’ reports strongly supported the hypothesis that highly gifted children have early issue awareness. The disparity between children’s and parents’ perceptions of these same phenomena is striking.