

## **GATTACA**

### Reflection Questions

Answer the following questions based on your knowledge of the Living Environment, your personal opinions, and the movie "GATTACA".

1. Why do you think Vincent's father decided to name him "Vincent Anton" rather than "Anton"?
2. How was Vincent's childhood/family life affected by his genetic profile?
3. How was Vincent's adult life affected?
4. What qualities does Vincent possess that contribute to his success?
5. Does Jerome have any weak qualities? What are they?
6. Why do you think the writer/director chose the name "Gattaca" for this film, and for the place where Vincent worked?
7. Why do you think Lamar's son was a "big fan" of Vincent?
8. What are the positive and negative aspects of the GATTACA world?
9. "This child is you, simply the best of you. You could conceive a hundred times and never achieve the same result." Explain this statement using the terms: HOMOLOGOUS CHROMOSOMES and ALLELES.
10. What are "valids" and "in-valids" in the story? Explain in definition.
11. During the car search in the tunnel, Vincent (who is with Irene) tells the tester NOT to take a saliva sample (implying the sample might be "contaminated"), but rather, to take a blood sample. What did he mean by the saliva being "contaminated", and, what was the REAL reason Vincent did not want a saliva sample to be taken?
12. Is it true that you are more than the sum of your genes?
13. What evidence pointed towards an "in-valid" as the murderer?
14. What major surgery did Vincent have to enhance his genetic "imperfections"?

15. Discuss at least FOUR preparations Vincent had to do everyday to pass as Jerome Morrow at GATTACA. In each case, explain WHY he had to do each preparation.
16. "For one reason or another, when a member of the elite falls on hard times, their genetic identity becomes a valid commodity for the unscrupulous." What happened in this film to demonstrate what Vincent was talking about?
17. What does GATTACA say about DNA determining a person's potential?
18. The technology to do what was done in the movie is definitely possible within the next fifty years. Do you think that Vincent's world could eventually happen in America? Why?
19. Choose your favorite character from the film. Explain why you choose that person. Would you want to be that person? Why? Why not?
20. Why do you think Vincent left his family, tearing his picture out of the family photo, after winning the swimming race against his brother?
21. Wouldn't every parent want to ensure that their child was perfect and had the attributes of physical attractiveness, intelligence and athletic prowess to be able to do whatever he or she wanted in life? If so, why is the society portrayed in this film so devoid of happiness, vitality and fun?
22. Discuss the significance of the structure of the STAIRCASE in the home Vincent shared with Jerome in terms of the theme of this film.
23. It appears, in the society shown in the film, that one could have a potential romantic partner/love interest sequenced. Discuss the positive and negative aspects of having this technology available to prospective mates.
24. You are an employer and know from genetic testing that the most qualified applicant for the job has a 70% chance of developing Multiple Sclerosis in one year's time. Would you hire this person?
25. In one scene, Vincent states that "there is no gene for fate." What does this phrase mean? Much of this film deals with the human desire to control fate, versus the willingness to let fate run its course. List some examples of moments in the film where characters try to control their destiny, and moments where they accept fate.