

Name: _____

Date: _____

Life Science

Period: _____

Video: ***Gattaca***

Answer the following questions while viewing the movie "Gattaca".

1. What is the symbolism behind the movie title "Gattaca"?
2. What does the geneticist mean when he said to Vincent's parents that their future child (Anton) would "still be you, just the best of you"?
3. What does it mean when Vincent says that "for the genetically superior, success is easier to obtain, but is by no means guaranteed" and "there is no gene for fate"?
4. What is the symbolism of the staircase in Jerome's apartment?
5. Is there a possibility that this future could really happen? Explain.

Did you notice...

- Public address announcements in the Gattaca Corporation headquarters building are in Esperanto, an artificial language invented in the 19th century.
- Uma Thurman's character is named Irene Cassini. Cassini is the surname of the 17th century French-Italian astronomer, Jean Dominique Cassini, who discovered the prominent gap in Saturn's main rings, as well as the icy moons, Iapetus, Dione, Rhea and Tethys. The space mission in Gattaca is destined for Saturn.
- Jude Law's character asks to be called by his middle name, Eugene. "Eugene" comes from the Greek for "well born", which Jerome is. "Eugenics" (the science of improving the hereditary qualities of a race or breed) is the central theme of the movie.
- The Gattaca building (interiors and exteriors) is, in reality, the Marin County Civic Center in San Rafael, CA. It was designed by American star architect Frank Lloyd Wright in 1957. The largest Wright design ever constructed, it was largely built after his death in 1959. The central dome (prominent in the roof-cleaning scene) contains the county library.
- The FBI agents are called "Hoovers", a reference to legendary top G-man J. Edgar Hoover, but also a clever reference to a vacuum cleaner brand. There are numerous shots of vacuums being used to gather DNA evidence.