

## The Future of Genetics: **GATTACA** (1997)

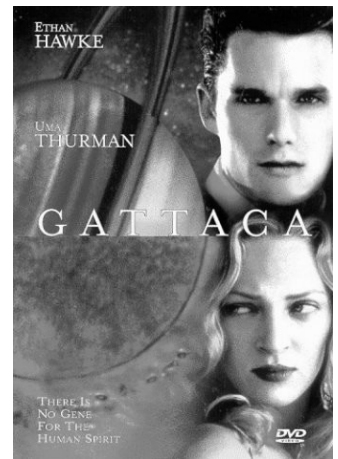
"Consider God's handiwork; who can straighten what He hath made crooked?" - Ecclesiastes 7:13

"I not only think that we will tamper with Mother Nature, I think Mother wants us to." - Willard Gaylin

Director: Andrew Niccol

Writer: Andrew Niccol

Stars: Ethan Hawke, Uma Thurman and Jude Law



1. Where is "Jerome" aka Vincent scheduled to go?

---

2. How long is Vincent supposed to live? What did they predict would be the probable cause of his death?

---

3. Vincent always had a dream to go into \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Why was Vincent the first-born not named after his father Antonio, but the second son, Anton?

---

5. What was Vincent's first job at Gattaca?

---

6. What does the turnstile do to the people entering Gattaca?

---

7. What physical changes did Vincent make to "become" Jerome? Give at least 4.

---

---

---

8. List at least three ways that Vincent tricked the people at Gattaca into believing that he was Jerome.

---

---

9. How did Jerome become crippled?

---



10. What was found that lead investigators to suspect Vincent of the murder?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. How did they test the workers at Gattaca for a match of what was found at the crime scene? How did Vincent get past this test?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. How does the staircase in the apartment relate to this movie?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Who is the younger detective?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. At the end, what happens to ...

Vincent: \_\_\_\_\_

Jerome: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Who is the new second class? What is this called?

\_\_\_\_\_

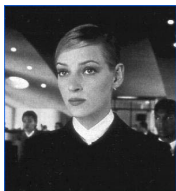
16. What is a borrowed ladder? Why do you think is it called that way?

\_\_\_\_\_



### Who said this (Use their names)

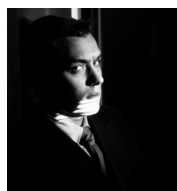
1. \_\_\_\_\_ "the only way you'll see the inside of a spaceship is if you were cleaning it"
2. \_\_\_\_\_ "If you're going to pretend like you don't care, don't look up. "
3. \_\_\_\_\_ "are you colorblind, it's silver"
4. \_\_\_\_\_ "tragic as it may seem, it hasn't stopped the planet's turning"
5. \_\_\_\_\_ "I have some books, I go places in my head"
6. \_\_\_\_\_ "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again"
7. \_\_\_\_\_ "if there is anything wrong with you, I can't see it from where I'm standing"
8. \_\_\_\_\_ "I got the better end of the deal. I only lent you my body - you lent me your dream. "
9. \_\_\_\_\_ "For future reference, right handed men don't hold it with their left. Just one of those things. "
10. \_\_\_\_\_ *after vomiting* "do you want some of this?"
11. \_\_\_\_\_ "Jerome, Jerome, the metronome. You can play the piano by his heartbeat"
12. \_\_\_\_\_ "when they look at you they don't see you anymore. They only see me"
13. \_\_\_\_\_ "I had you sequenced"
14. \_\_\_\_\_ "I never saved anything for the way back"
15. \_\_\_\_\_ "unfortunately my son's not all that they promised. But then again, who knows what he could do."
16. \_\_\_\_\_ "no one exceeds their potential, it simply means that we didn't accurately gauge their potential in the first place"



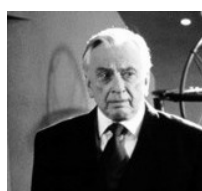
Irene



Antonio



Jerome



Director



Vincent



Lamar

## Quotes from the movie

- “The new underclass is no longer determined by social class or the color of our skin. We now have discrimination down to a science.”
- “The best test score in the world wouldn’t matter unless he had the blood test to go along with it.”

*How is the social reality portrayed by this emphasis in genetics? What types of discrimination do we see?*

- *Anton Freeman:* “Vincent! How are you doing this Vincent? How have you done any of this? We have to go back.”  
*Vincent:* “It’s too late for that. We’re closer to the other side.”  
*Anton Freeman:* “What other side? You wanna drown us both?”  
*Vincent:* “You wanna know how I did it? This is how I did it Anton. I never saved anything for the swim back.”
- “There’s no gene for fate.”

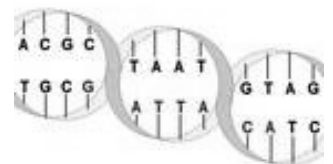
*In what way do these two quotes convey the message of the movie?*

## What are Your Thoughts???

1. Would you consider this type of life to be possible in the future? How would your life be different than it is today? Think about dating, having children, employment, pre-diagnosis of disease, and date of death.
2. Most people, in general, want scientists to find the cures for diseases such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, etc. What if scientists said that the easiest way to eliminate diseases was with prevention rather than a cure. Wouldn’t it seem a reasonable request to prevent diseases from occurring, rather than trying to cure a person already inflicted with a disease? Do you support this idea? Why or why not?
3. If, in the future, parents might be able to chose the diseases that they didn’t want their children to inherit. Parents might also then be able to choose hair, skin, and eye color. What traits do you think should be “off limits”? What should parents not be allowed to chose or tamper with?

## Fun Facts

While it has been identified that "GATTACA" uses the 4 DNA nucleotide abbreviations of G,A,T,C, more specifically, when identifying genetic markers, the tests measure "short tandem repeats" at specific DNA marker locations. These are known as "GATA or CA" repeats - hence GATTACA.



Jude Law's character asks to be called by his middle name, Eugene. "Eugene" comes from the Greek for "well born," which he is. "Eugenics" (the science of improving the hereditary qualities of a race or breed) is the central theme of the film.

When Gattaca was first released, as part of a marketing campaign they advertised for people to call up and have their children genetically engineered. The GATTACA ad featured a baby crawling towards the camera with the words "Children made to order." Underneath, there was a checklist of possible traits which you could choose to "engineer your offspring," including physical characteristics such as eye color, weight, and stature, as well as personality traits such as intellect, athletic ability, aggressive tendencies, addictive susceptibility, and musical ability. "Unfortunately," the ad declared, "there is no gene for the human spirit." Thousands of people called, wanting to have their offspring genetically engineered.