

GATTACA

1) What is happening during this scene?

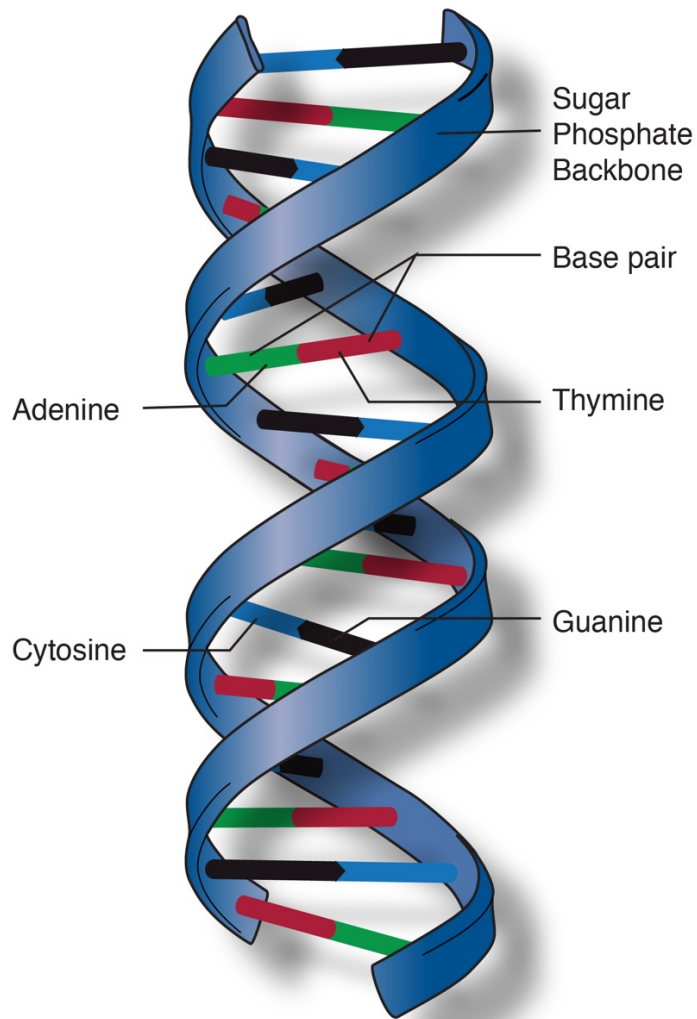


2) What are the names of the characters?

3) The scientist is a specific kind of scientist. Do you know his title?

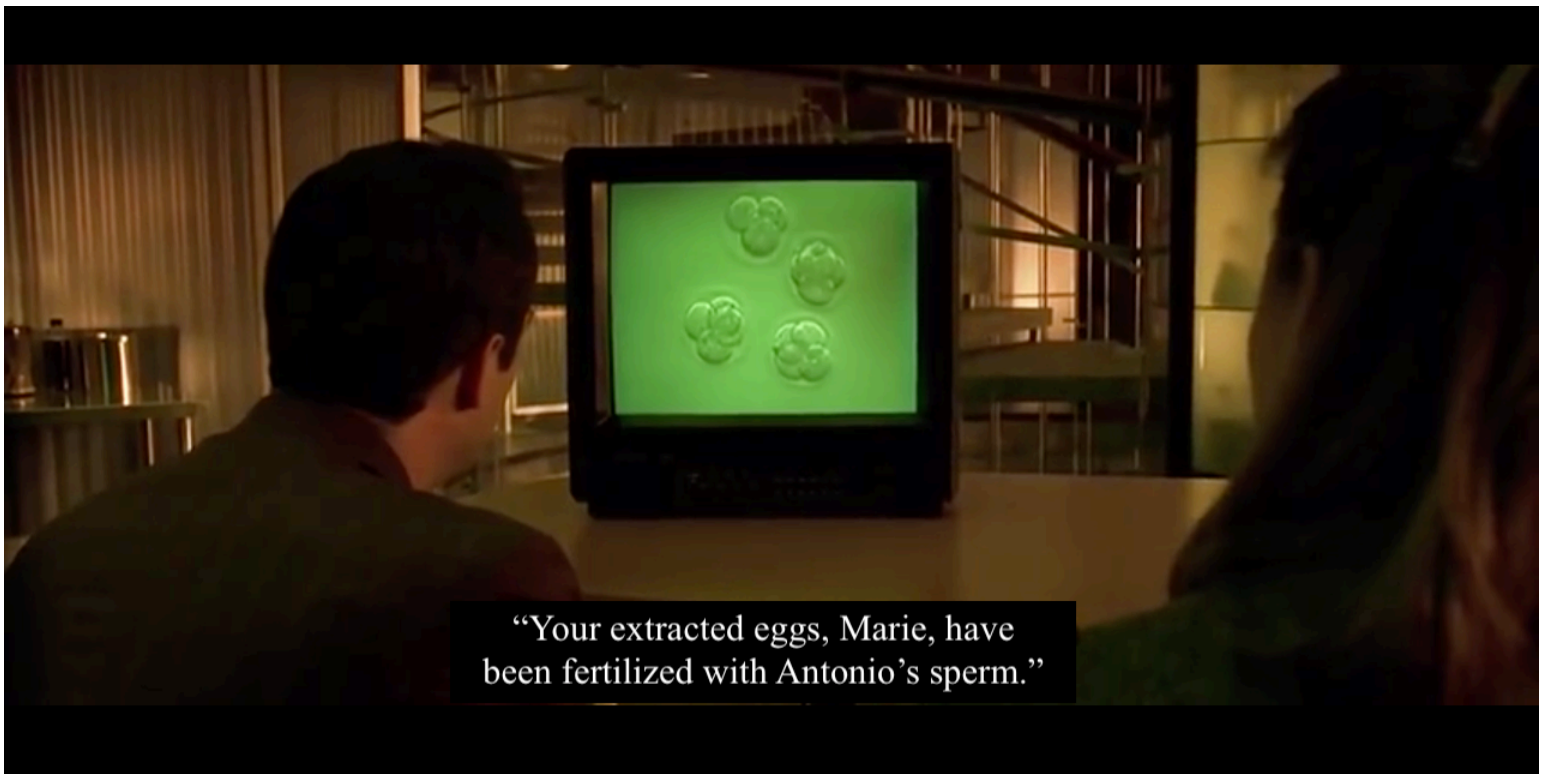
4) What is interesting about the room that they are in?
Specifically, what is interesting about the stairs?





“Like most other parents of their day, they were determined that their next child would be brought into the world in what has become, the natural way.”

- 5) What does the phrase, “to be brought into the world,” mean?
- 6) What does he mean when he says, “the natural way?”



“Your extracted eggs, Marie, have been fertilized with Antonio’s sperm.”

7) In this world, people no longer reproduce naturally but through a process in a laboratory. What do you think of this? Is this troubling? Scary? Interesting? Futuristic? Cool? Or do you simply not care about how someone else gives birth to their child?

8) Do you believe that this will be our future?

“After screening we are left, as you see, with two healthy boys and two very healthy girls... We may as well decide on gender, have you given it any thought?”

9) Do you think that a parent should have the right to choose the gender of the baby?

“You have specified hazel eyes, dark hair, and fair skin.”

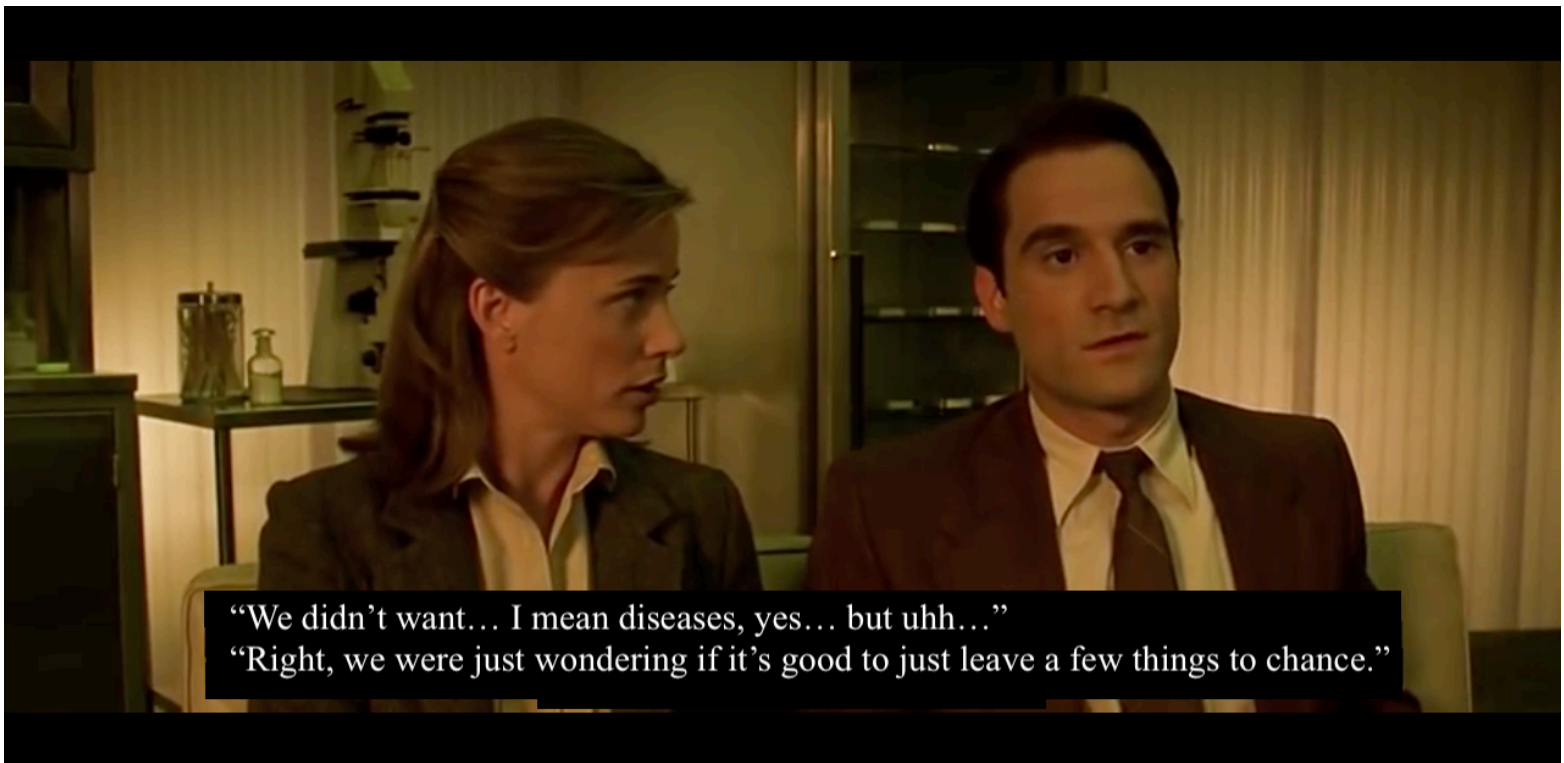
10) Similarly, do you believe that a parent should be able to choose the features of their child?

11) Can you think of any problems that may arise with choosing certain features; such as choosing eye color, hair colors, skin color, etc.? What about gender?

12) If we had this technology today, and you could use it today without repercussions, would you be interested in using it? (Ex. Changing eye color or hair type. Maybe even for a few days?)

“I’ve taken the liberty of eradicating any potentially prejudicial conditions: premature baldness, myopia, alcoholism and addictive susceptibility, propensity for violence, obesity, etc.”

- 13) When using this technology to get rid of diseases and other undesirable characteristics, can it be considered a good thing?
 - a. If so, then why is editing out negative traits acceptable while editing other traits causes caution?
 - b. If not, then why not? Why let a child live with these negative traits when they can be cured?
- 14) If we have the technology to cure these diseases before a child is born, is it the ethical decision to do so? Is it unethical to let a child be born knowing that it will suffer from some kind of disease?
- 15) Does something like baldness or myopia compare to something like an addictive susceptibility or propensity for violence?



- 16) What does the phrase, “leave a few things to chance,” mean?
- 17) Why would the mother want some of her child’s traits to be “left to chance?”
- 18) Why do you believe that the father was more interested in furthering editing the genetics of the child?



“You want to give your child the best possible start. Believe me we have enough imperfection built in already, your child doesn’t need any additional burdens. Keep in mind, this child is still you, simply the best of you. You could conceive naturally a thousand times and never get such result.”

- 19) What does the geneticist mean when he says, “we have enough imperfections build in already?”
- 20) What does the geneticist mean when he says, “Keep in mind, this child is still you, simply the best of you?”
- 21) Do you believe the geneticist?
- 22) According to the geneticist, this child would be so perfect that the parents could attempt to conceive a child naturally and even after a thousand attempts they still would not get the exact perfect results that they will receive by editing the child.
What do you think about this? Does this interest you? Or Does this scary you?

Additional Questions:

- 23) Do you believe that this will be our future?
- 24) If you were to have children, would you do this process for them?
- 25) If such a thing were possible, would you have wanted your parents to do this process for you?
- 26) What do you know about “eugenics,” if anything at all?