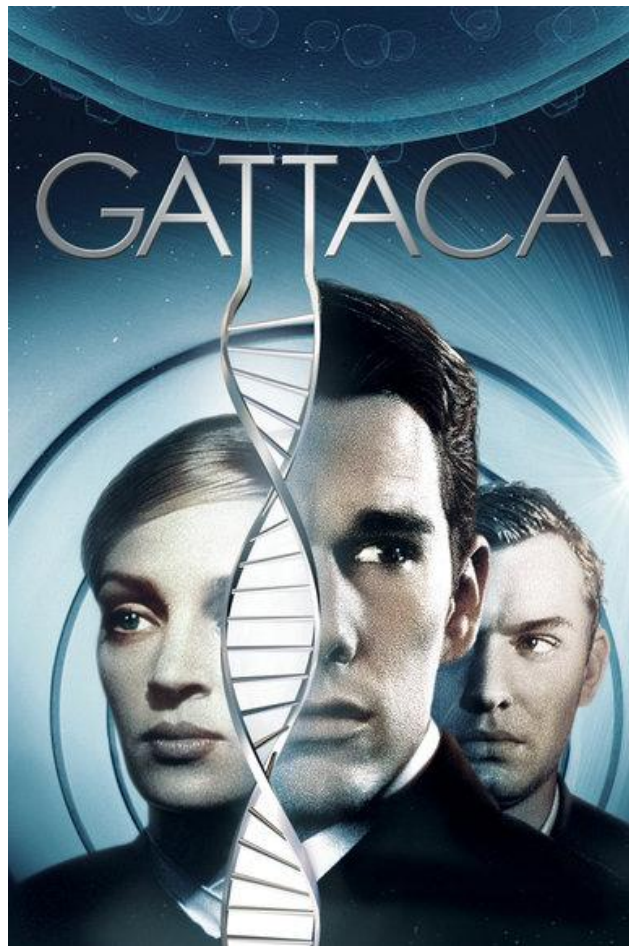


Gattaca

Comprehension Work



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Comprehension Work
Grade 9 - Language Arts
Mr. N. Sorensen

1. What deception or lie is Vincent (protagonist) trying hard to maintain?

2. Describe four ways that Vincent maintains his genetic identity.

3. What does the term "Valid" mean in Vincent's society?

4. Where are the space missions taking supplies and people?

5. When Vincent was born, what did the nurse immediately do and why?

6. How are humans “expected” to reproduce?

7. What motivates people to use genetic screening and engineering?

8. What is the basic difference between Vincent and his brother, Anton?

9. What is Vincent’s dream with regard to a career?

10. What physical ailment or difficulty (99%probability) prevents Vincent from ever “legally” attaining his dream?

11. What does Vincent mean when he says, “My real resume was in my cells”?

12. GATACA society is divided in half. What determines your social position or where you belong in society?

13. What is Jerome's (middle name is Eugene) problem, even though he is one of the genetically altered elite?

14. Why does Vincent need Jerome?

15. What does Vincent have to do to his legs? Why does he choose to do this?

16. Why is Jerome's urine sometimes rejected by the machine?

17. Describe Vincent's "interview" at the space company.

18. Why does Vincent have to scrub his body so carefully?

19. Why is Vincent, as a masquerading Valid, called a “borrowed ladder”?

20. What are Irene and the other women doing with the saliva and hair samples?

21. What does Irene read on the printout and what does she think about it?

22. What DNA source incriminates Vincent and gets him in trouble in spite of how careful he has been?

23. Who does the crime investigator turn out to be?

24. How is Vincent finally exposed at the GATACA spaceport as he is going to get on his flight?

25. Why does the doctor let him go through even though he knows Vincent is not who he says he is?

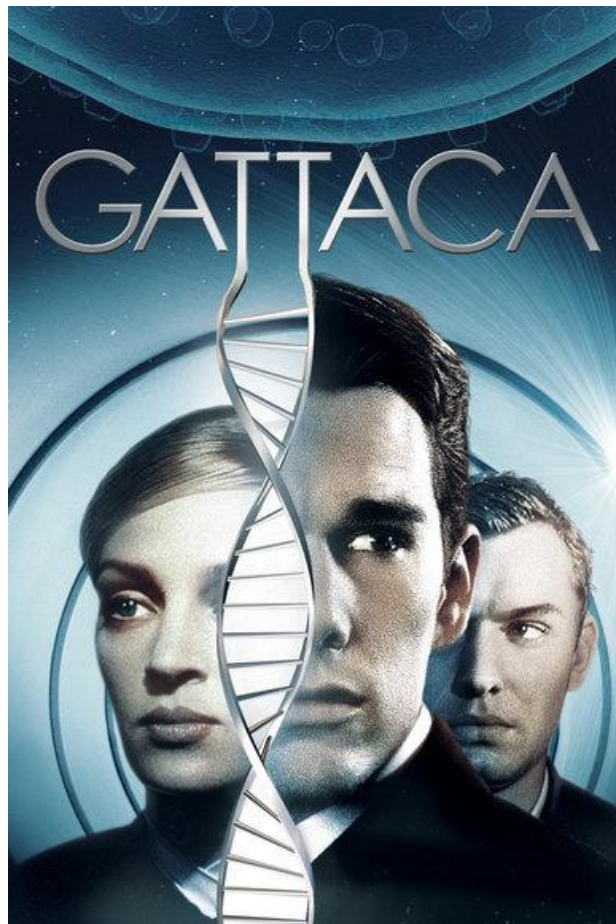
26. Where does the word GATACA come from?

27. Why is the name "Eugene" significant in this story?

28. What is significant about the staircase in Jerome's house?

29. Why is there so little furniture in Jerome's house?

30. Why does Irene finally go along with Vincent (even though she now knows he is not Jerome) when he offers her his hair for testing and she simply lets it go?



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Comprehension Answers

- 1. The crime investigator turns out to be Anton, Vincent's brother.*
- 2. Humans are supposed to go to their local genetic doctor for in-vitro fertilization where the embryo is changed and then it is implanted into the mother.*
- 3. Vincent was born the natural way and his genetics were left up to chance. Anton was created in a lab and he was genetically altered.*
- 4. Vincent wants to be a navigator on a spaceship to Titan.*
- 5. Jerome is having mental problems because he thinks he should be the best. He only got a silver in swimming and he thinks this is terrible. He is so upset that he tries to commit suicide by walking in front of a car but he fails. He is left in a wheelchair and he has lost his dreams.*
- 6. Vincent scrubs his body so that he won't leave any skin cells or hair around GATTACA. He is hiding his true identity.*

7. Vincent is using Jerome's genetic identity to get a position as a space navigator at GATACA. Vincent's genes are not good enough to do this.

8. The DNA molecule, containing the genes, looks like a twisted ladder. It is called a helix and Vincent is borrowing the identity of someone else and using their genes to do it. As a result, he is called a "borrowed ladder".

9. The word GATACA comes from the four chemicals that make up DNA - adenine, thymine, guanine and cytosine.

10. It is significant because it looks like a giant DNA molecule and the steps look like genes.

11. She does this because she is in love with him.

12. The machine detects the alcohol that Jerome often drinks and it rejects the sample.

13. Vincent has a heart defect and is only expected to live until he is thirty years old.

14. A blood sample was taken and analyzed so that Vincent's genetic profile could be decided. This would decide much of Vincent's future.

15. Vincent is pretending to be Jerome who has a much better genetic identity. This allows Vincent a better job at GATACA.

16. *The people and supplies are going to Titan, the fourteenth moon of Saturn.*

17. *Vincent was given a urine test and because his urine passed the test he was offered the job as space navigator at GATACA.*

18. *They are all checking out the genetic background of their boyfriends to see if they are really “a catch” or not.*

19. *The inspector finds an eyelash in GATACA that belongs to Vincent. This should not be there.*

20. *Jerome uses a wheelchair so the furniture would get in his way. It is better to have very little.*

21. *Just as Vincent is getting on his flight, they do a surprise urine test and Vincent does not have any of Jerome’s urine with him.*

22. *A. He uses Jerome’s blood, urine and hair.*

B. He uses plastic surgery to change his face and he cuts and lengthens his legs.

C. He scrubs off all loose skin and hair and he uses Jerome’s skin cells.

D. He gets contact lenses for perfect vision.

23. *The doctor has a son who was not genetically what he should have been. The doctor understands what Vincent is trying to do*

and he and his son admire him. He has also been suspicious about Vincent for some time. He lets Vincent go through to prove a point.

24. Irene reads that "Jerome" has very superior genetics and she thinks he is "quite a catch"!

25. Vincent's legs are cut just below the knee and put into braces that slowly lengthen Vincent's legs so he matches Jerome's height.

26. Vincent's DNA is in the nucleus of every cell he has and in this society that is what determines Vincent's characteristics and it is like a resume that lists what Vincent could do for a job.

27. People want the best genes for their children because this will help them get better jobs and have a better place in society. It also eliminates diseases and other conditions children could develop.

28. A "Valid" is someone who has been genetically altered and has great genes that are good enough to work in a space agency like GATACA. An "In-Valid" is one who has poor genes and will only get poor jobs.

29. This name refers to the practice of Eugenics which is the science of improving the human race through genetic engineering. It is a type of artificial breeding using humans. It is illegal.

30. Your genes will determine where you end up in society. If you were genetically engineered then you will have a good job and

*your children will go to great schools. If you are a de-”gene”-
erate then you will only get poor jobs.*

