

Study Guide to GATTACA



Director: Andrew Niccol
Screenplay: Andrew Niccol
Starring: Ethan Hawke, Jude Law, Uma Thurman, Gore Vidal
Release date: 20 March 1998
Running time: 106 minutes

Key Concept

Genetics, genetic engineering, determinism, freedom, identity, discrimination

Summary

As soon as Vincent (Ethan Hawke) is born, his DNA is analyzed and his future capabilities are predicted—including the fact that he has a 99% chance of dying of a heart disorder when he is 30 years old. As a result, he is doomed to a life of menial

labor.

However, he is determined to get to Gattaca Space Academy and join space missions. Through his sheer determination—and the use of someone else's very superior DNA which he buys illegally—he manages to achieve his ambition. The film ends with him taking off in a rocket for Titan: he has overcome his genetic limitations and is free.

Advertising Taglines: "How do you hide when you are running from yourself?"
"There is no gene for the human spirit."

Cultural significance

Hardly a week passes without claims by scientists that they have isolated the gene for some particular disease or trait. Increasingly we are told that mental and emotional characteristics can be attributed to our DNA. Insurance companies want to increase genetic testing in order to identify high-risk applicants for life insurance. More and more we are being defined by our genetic make-up. Gattaca explores these issues.

Biographical background

Gattaca is New Zealander Andrew Niccol's second major screenplay and was his debut as a director. He says, "My genes made me do it. I don't know when I first thought of it, but you can open a newspaper today, and I'm certain that you'll read something about a new gene, and it became inescapable for me as a story idea." He had earlier written the screenplay for The Truman Show.

Overview

The film opens with a text from the Bible - Ecclesiastes 7:13 "Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked?" It continues to tell how our civilization may, in the not too distant future, attempt to do this.

This is a world in which women take swabs of their lips to catch the saliva from a potential husband's kiss in order to have the DNA analyzed - to assess their positive and negative attributes. It is a world in which pianists are genetically engineered so that they can play pieces "that can only be played with 12 fingers". It is a world in which police and security checks are carried out by immediate DNA analysis from blood samples.

Vincent, the main character, was conceived by a young couple in love - in the back of a car rather than in a laboratory. Thus he was destined to be a second class citizen along with others born in the same way - and called "faith births" or "degenerates" or "invalids". Within seconds of his birth his DNA was analyzed and

Gattaca Study Guide

Zhe Xu



Gattaca Study Guide:

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Reader's Guide to Lesbian and Gay Studies Timothy Murphy, 2013-10-18 The Reader's Guide to Lesbian and Gay Studies surveys the field in some 470 entries on individuals Adrienne Rich arts and cultural studies Dance ethics religion and philosophical issues Monastic Traditions historical figures periods and ideas Germany between the World Wars language literature and communication British Drama law and politics Child Custody medicine and biological sciences Health and Illness and psychology social sciences and education Kinsey Report

American Literature and Therapeutic Cultures Martin Halliwell, Nicholas Manning, 2026-01-31 This volume explores the myriad interactions between American literature and psychological discourses in the United States from self help to alternative health practices to psychotherapeutic approaches Spanning the 1940s to the 2020s it sheds light on the development and conceptualization of therapeutic culture during a century in which it has oscillated between clinical and cultural domains Bringing together an intergenerational group of scholars from France the UK and the US the collection examines authors as varied as William Carlos Williams Lionel Trilling Sylvia Plath Philip Roth Colson Whitehead Daniel Suarez and Ottessa Moshfegh Moving beyond the conventional focus on psychoanalysis the eleven contributors foreground how American literature is animated by broader therapeutic modes and trajectories At stake are not only literature's historical links to psychological theories and institutions but the neoliberal framing of literary texts as tools for personal restoration

Gattaca Sue Tweg, 2002 Insight Study Guides are written by experts and cover a range of popular literature plays and films Designed to provide insight and an overview about each text for students and teachers these guides endeavor to develop knowledge and understanding rather than just provide answers and summaries

The Human Genome Project in College Curriculum Aine Donovan, Ronald Michael Green, 2008 Begun formally in 1990 the U S Human Genome Project's HGP goals were to identify all the 20 000 to 25 000 genes in human DNA determine the sequences of the three billion chemical base pairs that make up human DNA store this information in databases improve tools for data analysis and transfer related technologies to the private sector It was the first large scientific undertaking to address potential issues that arose from project data and opened up vast possibilities for the use of genetic data and the alteration of our genetic makeup This volume is the first to address the diverse range of ethical issues arising from the HGP and enables professors to bring this critically important topic to life in the classroom

Emerging Evangelicals James S. Bielo, 2011 The Emerging Church movement developed in the mid 1990s among primarily white urban middle class pastors and laity who were disenchanted with America's conservative Evangelical sub culture It is a response to the increasing divide between conservative Evangelicals and concerned critics who

strongly oppose what they consider overly slick corporate and consumerist versions of faith A core feature of their response is a challenge to traditional congregational models often focusing on new church plants and creating networks of related house churches Drawing on three years of ethnographic fieldwork James S Bielo explores the impact of the Emerging Church movement on American Evangelicals He combines ethnographic analysis with discussions of the movement's history discursive contours defining practices cultural logics and contentious interactions with conservative Evangelical critics to rethink the boundaries of Evangelical as a category Ultimately Bielo makes a novel contribution to our understanding of the important changes at work among American Protestants and illuminates how Emerging Evangelicals interact with the cultural conditions of modernity late modernity and visions of postmodern Christianity James S Bielo is Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Miami University in Oxford OH He is the author of *Words Upon the Word: An Ethnography of Evangelical Group Bible Study* NYU Press and editor of *The Social Life of Scriptures: Cross-cultural Perspectives on Biblicalism*

Andrew Niccol's Gattaca Lewis Mitchell, 2009 **Cambridge Wizard Student Guide Gattaca** Marcia Pope, Richard McRoberts, 2003-04-02 Gattaca is a thought provoking SF film centred on a key contemporary issue genetic engineering In this study guide two experienced teachers one a film lecturer offer background on the movie explaining how to read it in cinematic terms before taking you through the film scene by scene drawing out its subtext in easy to understand language and offering you key quotes to use Also offered are generous notes on characters themes critical reviews and finally a full length A exam essay on the text **TV Guide**, 2005 The Rough Guide to Opera Matthew Boyden, 2007 A unique handbook on the most thrilling of art forms spanning four hundred years of music drama The title features lively biographical sketches of some 150 composers from Claudio Monteverdi to Poul Ruders **Signs of Life** Graeme Harper, Andrew Moor, 2005 Signs of Life: Medicine and Cinema is the first single volume to consider the cinematic representation of medicine medical science and the medical profession and explores the political implications of the representations of doctors nurses patients diseases and disabilities The essays in this collection from a wide range of film scholars and medical practitioners also consider how formal qualities of cinema such as empirical observation mise en scene propaganda and education melodrama documentary and narrative construction impact on our understanding of medical procedures and the public image of medicine Books In Print 2004-2005 Ed Bowker Staff, Staff Bowker, Ed, 2004 DVD & Video Guide 2004 Mick Martin, Marsha Porter, 2003 Featuring more than 400 new entries among reviews and ratings of 18 000 movies this guide to films that are available on video and DVD includes brand new DVD listings director and star indexes and much more Original

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Table of Contents Gattaca Study Guide

1. Understanding the eBook Gattaca Study Guide
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Gattaca Study Guide
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Gattaca Study Guide
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Gattaca Study Guide
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Gattaca Study Guide
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Gattaca Study Guide User Reviews and Ratings
 - Gattaca Study Guide and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Gattaca Study Guide Free and Paid eBooks
 - Gattaca Study Guide Public Domain eBooks
 - Gattaca Study Guide eBook Subscription Services
 - Gattaca Study Guide Budget-Friendly Options

6. Navigating Gattaca Study Guide eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Gattaca Study Guide Compatibility with Devices
 - Gattaca Study Guide Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
 - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Gattaca Study Guide
 - Highlighting and Note-Taking Gattaca Study Guide
 - Interactive Elements Gattaca Study Guide
8. Staying Engaged with Gattaca Study Guide
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Gattaca Study Guide
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Gattaca Study Guide
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Gattaca Study Guide
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Gattaca Study Guide
 - Setting Reading Goals Gattaca Study Guide
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Gattaca Study Guide
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Gattaca Study Guide
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements

- Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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