

# GATTACA Worksheet



## EXPLAIN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NAMES

### 1. Title of the movie—GATTACA

Gattaca is where Vincent works and how he goes to space.

### 2. Vincent Anton Freeman: Vincent = “to conquer” Vincent will conquer his condition and also his dream.

### 3. Jerome Eugene Morrow: Jerome literally means “sacred and powerful”; it could also mean Genome (genetic material). Eugene literally means ‘well born’ and stems from the word Eugenics, which is the science of improving the hereditary qualities of a race or breed. Morrow comes from ‘tomorrow’ meaning the future. Jerome was made to be genetically perfect and superior to everyone else.

### 4. “Degenerate” means having lost the physical, mental, or moral qualities considered normal and desirable. “In-valid” means useless. Others called them these words because Vincent lost physical qualities and Jerome is useless.

### 5. “Hoovers” or “J. Edgars” = vacuum cleaning brand and also J. Edgar Hoover, director of FBI. FBI officers were called Hoovers at Gattaca.

## ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MOVIE

### 1. List FIVE ways that the society portrayed in the movie routinely ‘reads’ a person’s genetic profile.

Five ways that the movie reads a person's genetic profile are Urine, blood, saliva, hair, and fingerprints.

### 2. List THREE things Vincent did to look like Jerome Morrow. He changed his face, hair, and had urine bags for tests.

### 3. Describe Vincent’s interview at GATTACA.

He just needed urine samples.

### 4. Discuss at least THREE preparations Vincent had to do everyday to pass as Jerome Morrow at GATTACA. Three preparations were his hair, his urine and his cut legs.

### 5. When Jerome (Vincent) and Irene go to a concert, what is unusual about the piano player? He has a sixth finger on both hands.

### 6. Who does the detective leading the murder investigation turn out to be?

It is Vincent's brother.

### 7. Why is Lamar’s son was a “big fan” of Vincent? (Hint: Lamar is the doctor who does the urine tests at GATTACA)?

He thought that Vincent was Jerome and wants to work at Gattaca because of him.

### 8. Even though Jerome is genetically perfect, list THREE of his imperfections.

Three imperfections are he cannot walk, he has no desire to do anything, and he drinks alcohol.

### 9. By reading their DNA, Vincent is predicted to live 30.2 years and Jerome “will practically live forever”. Why is this ironic? What is the moral of this irony?

This is ironic because Vincent who is predicted to live 30.2 years changes himself to look like Jerome. Although you can change the way you look you cannot live forever.

### **PICK ONE QUOTE AND EXPLAIN IT IN A PARAGRAPH**

1. “They used to say that a child conceived in love has a greater chance of happiness”
2. “This child is you, simply the best of you. You could conceive a hundred times and never achieve the same result.”
3. “Jerome Morrow was never meant to be one step down on the podium.”  
“Jerome had been engineered with everything right except for the desire to do so.”

3. This quote means that Jerome was made to be perfect. He is made to be better than everyone else. Although he has some flaws like not being able to walk and being addicted to alcohol. Also he was given every opportunity to follow the right path but he chose not to. He had Vincent be his look alike to do things for.

### **PICK ONE TYPE OF RECURRING SYMBOLISM AND DISCUSS IT IN A PARAGRAPH**



1. Glass/Water as invisible obstacles Vincent must overcome. For example: the custodian telling Vincent not to clean the glass to well or the games of chicken in the ocean.
2. Ladder as a DNA helix. For example: Vincent is a borrowed ladder or the spiral staircase at Jerome’s house that no one lives above it.
3. Genes as a persons Race. For example: the new discrimination is genoism instead of racism and the oppression of the invalids is shown like the Nazi’s regime during the Holocaust.

2. The example of the spiral staircase at Jerome's house is a symbol that Jerome is better than everyone else. He was made to be perfect and will supposedly live forever. The staircase at Jerome's house also shows this. But he does have some imperfections, physically and mentally. The example of Vincent being a borrowed ladder shows how Jerome used Vincent as a copy of himself.

### **PICK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING THEMES AND DISCUSS IT IN A PARAGRAPH**

1. **Perfection versus happiness** – Wouldn't every parent want to ensure that their child was perfect and had the attributes of physical attractiveness, intelligence, and athleticism to be able to do whatever he or she wanted in life? Why is the society portrayed in this film so devoid of happiness, vitality, and fun?
2. **The human spirit** – Anyone can overcome great adversity and there is no gene for the human spirit. Vincent’s imperfections and strong will to live chase after his goals. Jerome’s perfection, lack of desire, addiction, and depression.
3. **Genetic engineering** – The moral and ethical issues surrounding the manipulation of genes. The consequences of humans tampering with DNA.
4. **Human frailty versus inhuman perfection** – Vincent compared to his brother. Vincent compared to Jerome. Irene’s heart problem. How does society view them? How do they view themselves?
5. **Symbiotic relationship between Jerome and Vincent** – Both men’s lives depend on each other. What do they need from each other? What do they each get out of the relationship?

1. I do not think a parent would care if their child was perfect. In their eyes their child is perfect. They would most likely rather their child be happy. A child can be perfectly made but never be happy with their life. Most parents would rather their child be happy than perfectly made. Happiness is more important than being perfect.