

Session 10

Does Genetics need laws ?

READ this extract from the script of Andrew Nicol's film **Gattaca** (1997). Then LOOK at the Newsweek cover and **say what Andrew Nicol had anticipated**.



Geneticist: Your extracted eggs.....Maria, have been fertilized with.....Antonio's sperm and we have performed an analysis of the resulting pre-embryos. After screening we're left with two healthy boys and two healthy girls. Naturally, no critical pre-dispositions to any of the major inheritable diseases. All that remains is to select the most compatible candidate.

First, we may as well decide on gender. Have you given it any thought?

Maria (referring to the toddler on her knee): we would like Vincent to have a brother.....you know, to play with.

The Geneticist nods

Audio 7: Gattaca, to Los Angeles Fertility Institute

Listen and take notes

- Focus on the journalist's introduction to the report. With the help of the key words define precisely **the topic of the report**
- The journalist mentions **different reactions to this topic**, pick up the words or phrases (expressions) illustrating a difference of opinion
- Sharla Miller's **testimony**

Audio 8: Gattaca , to Los Angeles Fertility Institute

Listen and take notes

- In this part doctor Jeffrey Steinberg is mentioned. **Take notes to present him, his job, the evolution of his job**
- Finally, doctor Mark Hughes is mentioned. Take notes and **present all the information you could get from the journalist 's presentation - his views on medicine**

Recap the information



- Explain what the Los Angeles Fertility Institutes propose
- Is the procedure different from the one explained by the geneticist in *Gattaca*?
- Do all doctors agree with this type of gene manipulation?