

The Perfect Generation Discussion Questions

1. If you had found out at age 8 or so that you would only live until age 25, what would you have done? Would you have pursued whatever career you dreamed about at age 8, or would you no longer see the point of a career at all?
2. Most PGs sort of hit the road and don't contribute much to the economy, but they certainly volunteer a lot and try and leave a mark on the world. How do you think non-PGs would feel about that? Do you think sympathy for that kind of population would eventually give way to resentment?
3. The story touches on a few of the industries and organizations, like the military, that depend heavily on young adults. What other impacts can you imagine? Would some industries or businesses die altogether, or would they learn to adapt to changes in the marketplace?
4. The scientific method is a careful process and rarely results in tragic mistakes, like the Cure or, in real life, tryptophan, PCBs, or agent orange. Can you think of other times when we trusted in science but paid the price?

Science

1. Do you think science has gone too far or not far enough, at least in terms of manipulating the human genetic code? Why?
2. A century from now, will genetic manipulation have done more harm or good? Why?
3. If you have children, would you have considered receiving the Cure if you felt assured that it would protect them from disease, or would you let nature take its course? What if you had made great sacrifices to become pregnant? What if a genetic disease ran in your family?
4. Would a tragedy of this nature stifle future scientific progress and funding? Why or why not?

Geller

1. Do you think Geller really regards people as sheep or cattle? Why or why not?
2. Was Geller honest about why he left GIG, or was something else behind his departure?
3. Was Geller right to keep Lucy's secret even after she was gone? Why or why not?
4. Could a man like Geller ever be part of a real relationship?

Other characters

1. Baz is a haunted man, hollowed out by his association with Geller and everything it led to. Do you think learning the truth about serum one is helpful or hurtful at that point in his life?
2. Do you think Lars' life was made better or worse by believing he was a PG? Why?
3. Heidi lived a bold and fearless life while she thought she was a PG. How do you think she feels knowing that she represents the ideal outcome of what the Cure was supposed to be?
4. Do you think Lyle ultimately feels some responsibility for what happened with the Cure, or was he comfortable enough with the risks to know it could go badly?
5. Do you think Erik used serum one on Otto, knowing that it had been safe for Heidi? Why or why not?