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Moral Issues Surrounding Eugenics

Everyone wants perfection: health, appearance, and quality of life. In the world of literature and film, creators have attempted to invent perfect societies in such worlds as *The Giver*, *Divergent*, *The Hunger Games*, and *The Island*. Some artists utilize their mediums to satirize a world in which “perfection” gets out of hand.

Aldous Huxley’s unbelievable tale *Brave New World* boasts of a perfect society in which everyone is equal due to being predestined and manufactured. Humanity is processed rather than created naturally in order to maintain the principles of “community, identity, stability” (Huxley 3). Since people are created and deposited into a particular social cast, their roles and identities are pre-determined; desire for growth and individuality is eliminated. Health is a given. Is our world headed in this direction?

Nowadays, science has allowed for parents to learn about the genetic makeup of their children. A woman can have a test called a PGD that can determine if her baby will have “Cystic Fibrosis and Huntington’s Disease, and chromosomal abnormalities such as Down syndrome and other Robertsonian translocations” (Walker 214). Some parents would abort the child because they would not want to watch their child experience pain and a shorter lifespan.

Other parents think that life is a gift, and they would do their best to provide the best quality of life for that child, regardless of disease or illness

Eugenics will always be a hot topic in society. Whether or not you are for or against having a say in the outcome of a child, point-of-view concerning life will never be universal.

Works Cited

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Walker, Mark. "Eugenic Selection Benefits Embryos." *Bioethics* 28.5 (2014): 214-224.

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