**Designer Babies- A dystopian future?**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**DYSTOPIA** (WORKSHEET): A futuristic, imagined universe/time in which oppressive control and illusion of perfect society are maintained through technological control. Dystopias, through an exaggerated worst-case scenario, make a criticism about a current trend….

HERE: genetic engineering might create a future that will have negative consequences for mankind.

**DESIGNER BABIES** (<http://www.daserste.de/information/politik-weltgeschehen/weltspiegel/sendung/usa-blaue-augen-auf-bestellung-102.html> ):

PROCESS: CT-Fertility e.g. offers donated eggs from educated female students (had to undergo hormone therapy) for in vitro fertilization charging $ 150, 000/baby (legal in USA but not in most of Europe ⇨ three years of prison)

* Eggs are fertilized with father’s sperm
* Embryos are screened for traits and hereditary diseases
* Embryos are implanted into a surrogate mother who will carry baby to term for $ 30,000
* Contractual agreement

BUT unsatisfied customers have already sued companies lie CT-Fertility

**SAVIOUR SIBLINGS**: create children with specific genetic material to save a sibling that suffers from a dangerous/maybe life threatening disease/genetic defect

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| **YES, it IS dystopian future** | **No, it ISN’T dystopian future**  |
| * Discrimination:
1. Only healthy babies, babies with certain traits/appearance are accepted
2. Only rich people can afford to have a designer baby
* Saviour siblings are only born to save another child’s life but not because THEY were wanted (just spare parts)
* Religious aspect: God creates life (humans should NOT meddle in the field of creation)
 | * People who cannot have children the natural way (infertile, gay) can have children
* Prevent babies from getting hereditary or genetic disorders
* Saves lives: saviour siblings (less pressure on family to deal with demands/sadness living with a sick child)
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**INTRODUCTION**

1. **Definition** (DICTIONARY!) dystopia/designer babies
2. **Historical event**: Genetic engineering: Sheep Dolly in 1996 (genetic modification +cloning)
3. **Personal experience**: e.g. relative with genetic defect
4. **Quotation**:
5. *“’Brave New World' dealt with a kind of proto-genetic engineering of the unborn, through really, as many dystopias do, it dealt with totalitarianism. The 1997 film 'Gattaca' updated 'Brave New World,' bringing us to a future where genetic testing determined your job, your wealth, your status in life.”*Ramez Naam (American writer)
6. **References to literature:** Aldous Huxley *Brave New World* (human are created- no individuality and personal freedom)
7. **Reference to current events or statistics:** saviour siblings

**CONCLUSION**

Answering the question whether designer babies are a sign of a dystopian or utopian future