Year 12 Visual Text Study – *Gattaca*

Symbolism and Motifs

* Fingernails, hairs, and skin falling at start of the film
* Highlighting of letters GCAT in opening credits
* Spaceships taking off
* References to God and Science
* “Detroit Riviera”
* Blood and blood testing
* Print-out of statistical ‘probability’ in relation to disease and life-expectancy at the birth of Vincent
* Changing of Vincent’s name by his father from Anton to Vincent Anton
* Closed school gates looking like prison bars in Vincent’s childhood memories / flashback
* Spiral staircases mirroring DNA strands (double helix)
* Height chart that father draws, Vincent rubs out
* Swimming Contest – echoed throughout the film
* Dreams and ambition
* Genoism as a new form of prejudice
* The twelve-fingered pianist
* Tearing own face from family photograph
* Vincent leaving home
* “A borrowed ladder...” – ladder meaning helix
* Speed of typing showing how hard he’d trained himself
* Book ‘Celestial Navigation’ – Nature versus Nurture
* Alcohol and alcoholism
* Camera angles – Eugene and Vincent on staircase
* Mirror sequence from start of film – cleaning and destroying evidence
* Character names – Vincent Freeman and Jerome Morrow

