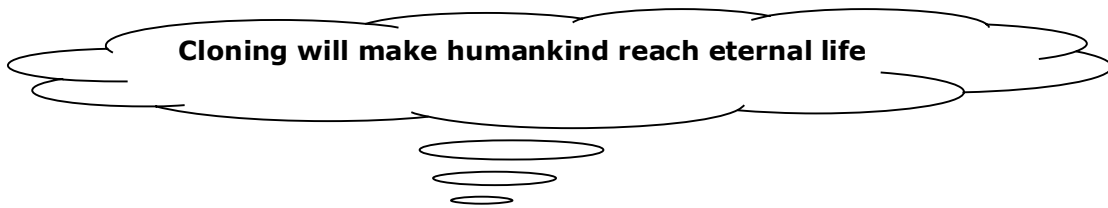


MODULE 1: THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

Section 2: Time for Fiction I

BEFORE READING

The Future of Humanity: Science or Fiction?



1. What is cloning?

.....

.....

2. Can you think of an example?

.....

.....

3. What do you think about the quotation?

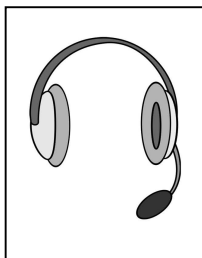
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4. Is it possible to clone a person?

.....

.....



Listen to the story while you read. You can find the audio file in the "Content" section.

Dr. Son Tech

by M.M. Rold

Have you ever thought why you are the way you are? I, Dr. James Son Tech Jr, have. All my life has been marked by this internal uneasiness of not knowing why I could not control all my acts. As time went by, I reached some definite conclusions: We, humans, are a mix of genetic inheritance and social environment.

When I was a child, I discovered that I shared my father's interest in science –he was awarded a Nobel Prize for inventing a cloned embryos incubator– and my mother's religious beliefs –she took me to church every Sunday. However, I never found out why evil forces compelled me to do atrocious things such as kicking a little kitten hard into the air right after helping it come down from the top of a tree just to see the effect of gravity.

As a teenager, things got worse and the forces grew stronger. I was the best in my class but I was not popular. Therefore, I spent most of my time working with my father or praying with my mother, asking God for forgiveness for my bad deeds; some of them are too embarrassing to be told here.

After graduating from university, I was determined to find the answer to my long-lasting question in the root of life: Human cells, so I specialized in biogenetics. In one of my projects, I worked on my own cells. First, I isolated the genes of good and evil and then I divided one of my own cells into two and placed both parts next to the genes fusing them with a jolt of electricity. As a result, I got two embryos containing a group of DNA molecules genetically manipulated. Finally, thanks to my father's incubator, I gave birth to my twin clones: Billy Earl and Willy Oswald Ray Son Tech –I named them like that just to play with the initials, if you know what I mean.

Through my studies, I realized that Billy and Willy grew up ten times faster than humans so two years after they were born, they were already adults. I discovered, too, a surprising ability to improve themselves day by day. Besides, Billy amazed me with his never-ending good actions and Willy with his incredibly perverse doings.

One day, when they were three, or should I say thirty better?, Willy did something terrible to his brother. However, Billy forgave him and filled him with brotherly love. Surprisingly, from that day on Willy changed and became tenderer, more compassionate. What's more, the good in him came to the surface. My experiment had failed but...

AFTER READING

a) Tick (✓) the sentences that best describe the topic of this story.

1. ___ The nature of human beings never changes.
2. ___ Good and evil are part of human nature.
3. ___ Love can turn evil into good.
4. ___ Human beings can change their destiny through love and respect.
5. ___ Science and religion are opposites.
6. ___ Social environment is more powerful than genetic inheritance.

b) Let's reflect upon the story: complete the following sentence.

If a person, he or she

BEYOND WORDS

a) Can you read between lines?

1. What does the name of the narrator (Dr. James Son Tech Jr.) suggest?
.....
.....
2. Why did he name the clones Billy Earl and Willy Oswald Ray Son Tech?
.....
.....

3. Was he satisfied with the results of his experiment? Why (not)?

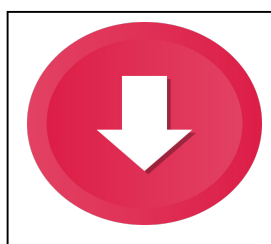
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b) Complete the chart to summarize the story.

Elements of a story	Guiding questions	Dr. Son Tech
Setting and characters: The setting represents both the physical location and the time (i.e. past, present, future) together with the social and cultural conditions in which the characters exist. The characters are the people or animals or personified objects that perform the actions and speak dialogue, moving the story along a plot line.	Who are the characters of the story? Where are they? When does the story take place? What's the weather and/or the place like?	
Problem: It refers to a challenge or problem around which the plot is based. Without conflict, the story has no purpose.	What was the problem?	
Sequence of events that follow: It refers to a series of relevant incidents that create suspense, interest, and tension. It includes all decisions, characters' flaws, and background circumstances that together create turns and twists leading to the highest point of interest in the story.	What happened after that?	

<p>Unexpected event: It is the turning point that aims toward the conclusion of the story.</p>	<p>What was the most surprising event?</p>	
<p>Ending: This is the final outcome of the story.</p>	<p>How did the story end? Think about feelings, reactions and/or results.</p>	
<p>Theme: A little more abstract than the previous elements, the theme refers to the moral or idea that the writer is expressing through the story. It is often called the 'message' of the story.</p>	<p>What is the story about? What is the author's message?</p>	



ANSWER KEY

BEFORE READING

1. What is cloning?

Cloning means to make an identical copy of something, to replicate something.

2. Can you think of an example?

Dolly (5 July 1996 – 14 February 2003) was a female domestic sheep, and the first mammal cloned from an adult somatic cell, using the process of nuclear transfer. Apart from this animal, we can mention many films referring to this topic, for example, *The Island*, where human clones lived (without knowing they were clones) to cover the needs of rich people in case they needed some transplant.

3. What do you think about the quotation?

In my opinion, the quotation is/isn't... because... (Answers here will depend on the opinion of the speaker.)

4. Is it possible to clone a person?

Answers here will depend on the opinion of the speaker but many people think some laboratories in developed countries are making tests on this.

AFTER READING

Exercise A

1. No
2. Yes
3. Yes
4. Yes
5. No
6. Yes

Exercise B

(This is a sample answer.)

If a person receives love and affection, he or she can/will possibly change and transform the evil in him into positive things/behaviour.

BEYOND WORDS

Exercise A

1. That his father was also called that way.
2. To play with the initials: **B**illy **E**arl **S**on **T**ech was the **BEST** and **W**illy **O**swald **S**on **T**ech was the **WORST**.
3. He says that it was a failure but he learnt something from the experiment.
(This is a sample answer.)

Exercise B

Elements of a story	Dr. Son Tech
Setting and characters	The characters are Dr. Son Tech (the narrator) and the twins Billy and Willy. The time is not specified, maybe future. The story takes place in Dr. Son Tech's home and his laboratory.
Problem	The problem began because of Dr. Son Tech's philosophical questions and doubts about good and evil. Then, it continued when he created the two clones after isolating his own genes of good and bad.
Sequence of events that follow	He started observing the behaviour of the two clones and was surprised at their rapid growth and their different attitudes.
Unexpected event	One day, Willy did something really bad to his brother.

Ending	Billy didn't react badly. On the contrary, he offered his brother all his love and affection. Because of this, Willy changed and became a good person.
Theme	<p>The theme has to do with your interpretation of the story, in other words, what you think the story is trying to teach you. In this case, it can be the idea that good and bad live together in all human beings. It can also be the fact that nothing is definite, so people can change. Or you can say that the environment influences people's behavior or attitudes.</p> <p>You can say what you have learnt from this story as long as you can support your ideas.</p>