

Discussion Questions about Affluence

How does *Beyond Greenaway* illustrate “the paradox of wealth?”

Some have described the upper class as being in a golden ghetto. In what ways is - or isn't - this family in a ghetto?

Outside of money itself, what sort of traits do you expect the very wealthy to possess? In what way does the Gilbert family meet or defy your expectations?

If a very wealthy person were coming to your home for dinner, what sorts of feelings would you have, and why?

Why did some of the Gilberts feel like hiding their wealth? What might cause you to feel the same way?

How might inherited wealth affect your sense of self worth?

What role does the size of your bank account play in your self-identity?

If you had raised a fortune from scratch, how might you value it differently?

If you suddenly won the lottery, how would that affect your work life? How would you spend your time and your extra money?

If you met a rich potential romantic partner, would their wealth be an attraction for you? Would their wealth counterbalance their lack of an attractive trait that a different non-rich potential partner has? Explain.

What role do you think financial class plays in the formation of your friendships? Do you have any friends from vastly different financial backgrounds? Why or why not?

How would your politics change if you were wealthy?

How has *Beyond Greenaway* expanded your understanding of the wealthy?