

Study Guide for *Beyond Greenaway*

High School and College - long

Select the questions that best fit your curriculum.

Wealth

What are the advantages of wealth? (big advantages? little advantages?)

Are there any disadvantages of wealth? What surprised you most of all the Gilberts' comments on difficulties they have encountered because of being wealthy? Explain.

(If you've seen "Born Rich") What are some of the differences between the Gilberts—both 2nd and 3rd generations—and the young people shown in "Born Rich"?

Work

Would you work if you didn't have to, financially? If so, would being wealthy change the type of work you'd do? Discuss.

Why did Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert urge all their children to work? Do you think those jobs had significant impact on them? Explain.

Play

The narrator says that all the Gilberts learned to play as well as work. Has your family learned to play? What kinds of play do you and your family enjoy? How often do you play? Is your play social or solitary?

Relationships

The Gilbert siblings report that their parents loved each other very much, and married with deep commitment (until death do us part). Yet two of the second generation have never married and all the other four have divorced. What do you think affected their marriage record? (*the model of their parents' marriage, their affluence, their lack of organized religion, the rising divorce rate in the society at that time? other?*)

Are family relationships important to the Gilberts? How can you tell? What has contributed to their family closeness?

What is the divorce rate in your family? What factors do you think have influenced that? Are you close to your siblings? Why or why not?

Class

Describe the effects that class (upper, middle or lower) has had on you. How would your life have been different if you had been born into a different class?

Is the USA becoming more or less class oriented? Explain.

Several of the Gilberts spoke of hiding the fact that they are members of the upper class in order to avoid envy, jealousy, and expectations of others, as well as constantly being asked for money or being "ripped off." Have these things happened to you? Have you been guilty of these things with others more affluent than yourself?

Religion and Spirituality

How important are religion and spirituality to the Gilberts? Describe.

How important are they to you and your family? Describe.

How significant have they been to your personal development? Describe.

Politics

Many political beliefs differ between the first and second generation of the family at Greenaway, as the parents were more conservative than their offspring. How similar are the political beliefs and behaviors within your family?

Do you and your siblings belong to the same political party as your parents? Why or why not?

Are you and your siblings more or less politically active than your parents? Explain.

Parenting

In what ways would you parent your children differently from the parenting methods used by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert?

What factors influence the type of parenting that various people use? Describe.

Racey stated that the most important thing in life is to pick the right parents. Do you agree? Explain.

Dan indicated that his true wealth is in his relationships with his family. Is this true for you? Explain. Do you behave in such a way that we could see this belief in action? Give an example.

ACTIVITY: consider asking your parents and siblings some of the questions raised by the film. You could do this individually or in a group. Are there other topics you'd like to ask your family members?