Discussion Questions for Small Group Video Chat #1: CRISPR, DNA, Imagining Dystopia
questions 1, and 5-6 should be priorities

**ENL Philosophical Questions**:
So far, we’ve seen dystopian societies primarily rely on violence and fear to create oppression

1. Could a dystopian society exist based on pleasure? What might that look like? What would you, as an individual, trade your freedom for?
2. Can freedom be an illusion? How?

**ENL Content Questions**:

1. What is CRISPR?
2. What is science fiction? Why do authors write science fiction? What are some of the concerns in the texts you’ve read?
3. From the podcast: “I guess what seems scariest about this is that there’s just some random scientist in a lab deciding that he wants to alter how humans are made.” Now that it’s been done “maybe another 500 scientists will be like ‘meh maybe I’ll give that a shot too.’ Isn’t that, like, scary?”
4. To what extent should we fear the CRISPR technology? To extent should we fear the technologies that are already altering and being utilized in pregnancies?
	1. What are the ethical and moral dilemmas present with these technologies?
	2. How should legislators make laws to deal with CRISPR and genome editing in people, animals, and plants? What about germline cells? When are the risks worth the rewards?
	3. How **could** genetic editing lead to societal control?
5. What other science fiction texts involve gene editing?
	1. How does it work out? What problems arise? What uses does society have for these practices?