

The Ethics of Cloning in Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go"

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Kazuo Ishiguro's novel "Never Let Me Go" delves into the complex themes of mortality and the ethics of cloning. Through the experiences of the characters, Ishiguro raises thought-provoking questions about the nature of humanity, the value of life, and the ethical implications of scientific advancements. This essay will explore how Ishiguro uses the theme of mortality and the ethics of cloning to convey deeper philosophical and ethical messages in the novel.

The novel is set in a dystopian world where clones are created for the sole purpose of providing organ donations to their "originals." The protagonist, Kathy, and her friends, Ruth and Tommy, are clones who are raised in a secluded boarding school called Hailsham. As they grow up, they come to understand the true purpose of their existence and the inevitable fate that awaits them. The looming specter of mortality hangs over the characters, as they grapple with the knowledge that they are destined to sacrifice their lives for the benefit of others.

Ishiguro uses the theme of mortality to explore the characters' existential angst and the ethical dilemmas surrounding their existence. The clones are acutely aware of their limited lifespan and the predetermined nature of their fate. This awareness shapes their attitudes towards life, love, and their relationships with others. As Kathy reflects on her experiences, she ponders the meaning of her existence and the value of her short life. The novel raises profound questions about the nature of mortality and the ethical implications of creating beings for the sole purpose of serving as organ donors.

The novel also delves into the ethical implications of cloning and the commodification of human life. The clones in "Never Let Me Go" are treated as expendable resources, stripped of their autonomy

and agency. They are raised in a controlled environment, where their lives are carefully managed and their futures are predetermined. The novel raises important ethical questions about the value of life, the rights of clones, and the moral responsibility of society towards these beings.

Ishiguro's exploration of the theme of mortality and the ethics of cloning challenges the reader to consider the ethical implications of scientific advancements and the treatment of marginalized groups. The novel serves as a cautionary tale about the potential consequences of unchecked scientific progress and the dehumanization of individuals. Ishiguro prompts the reader to reflect on the moral responsibilities of society and the ethical considerations that arise from the creation and treatment of cloned beings.

In conclusion, Kazuo Ishiguro's "Never Let Me Go" masterfully explores the theme of mortality and the ethics of cloning to convey deeper philosophical and ethical messages. Through the experiences of the characters, Ishiguro raises thought-provoking questions about the nature of humanity, the value of life, and the ethical implications of scientific advancements. The novel challenges the reader to consider the ethical implications of cloning and the treatment of marginalized groups, prompting a deeper reflection on the moral responsibilities of society. Ishiguro's poignant exploration of these themes serves as a powerful reminder of the ethical considerations that arise from scientific progress and the treatment of individuals in a morally complex world.