

## **Summer Reading Study Guide - Biology**

### **Chromosome 6 by Robin Cook**

The murder of a reputed mafia figure and the theft of his body trigger an investigation that leads from the streets of New York to the jungles of Africa. New York City medical examiners Jack Stapleton and Laurie Montgomery use their detective skills to track down the source of a transplanted organ. Questions concerning medical ethics, genetic manipulation, cloning, animal rights, and human evolution are raised as they uncover the secrets of a giant American bio-tech company.

**Main Characters:** Be prepared to describe them and their roles

Dr. Jack Stapleton	Taylor Cabot
Dr. Laurie Montgomery	Lou Soldano
Dr. Kevin Marshall	Cameron McIvers
Candace Brickman	Siegfried Spallack
Melanie Becket	Warren
Carlo Franconi	Vinnie Dominick
Dr. Raymond Lyons	

**Terms:** Glossary in the back

Bonobo	Chromosome	DNA
Gene	Genome	Histocompatibility
Homologous Chromosome	Lymphokine	Meiosis
Mitochondria	Mitochondrial DNA	Parasite
Pathology	Recombinant DNA	Ribosome
Ribosomal Proteins	Xenograft	Transgenic

**Study Questions:**

1. Why was an autopsy on Franconi a possible problem for Taylor Chabot & GenSys?
2. What was Laurie Montgomery's interest in performing the Franconi autopsy?
3. Who did Dr. Lyons hire to get rid of Franconi's body?
4. How did Jack Stapleton determine that Franconi had an organ transplant?
5. Why was Kevin Marshall concerned about the smoke coming from the Isla Francesca?
6. How were the bonobos kept contained on the Isla Francesca?
7. How did Kevin, Candace and Melanie get on the island?
8. Describe how a person could get an organ for transplant through GenSys.
9. How were the bonobo organs made suitable for human transplant?
10. What ethical concerns are raised by the use of primates for human transplants?
11. How had the island bonobo population become different from wild bonobos?
12. How did the bonobos interact with Kevin on the Island?
13. How did they keep track of the bonobo population and how did they capture them?
14. How did Jack, Laurie, and Warren get out of jail?
15. What current events or issues are similar to the story line of this book?
16. What happened to the bonobos at the end of the story?