

Task for *Evil Genius*

Morals and ethics

The theme that really frames the narrative in *Evil Genius* is the idea of morals and ethics and we know that the exploration of moral development forms the basis of a *bildungsroman* narrative. The concept of morality and living an ethical life has been argued by philosophers for centuries and is seen as being the framework of society. The following clips are short lessons from philosopher Alain de Botton's *School of Life*, the history of modern morality and ethical thinking.

[School of Life: Immanuel Kant](#)

[School of Life: Baruch Spinoza](#)

Consider the comments made by Catherine Jinks about morals and ethics in *Evil Genius* and how they might be reflected in the following quotes:

Now we all know that the world doesn't work. In fact, some of you are only too aware of this fact... The power structures we see around us are entrenched...and they are full of narrow-minded people with unremarkable genes. As a result, the human race is heading down a path that will almost certainly lead to its extinction unless something is done pretty quickly. It is Dr Darkkon's belief that if we harness and nurture mankind's more hidden talents, then we might save ourselves. – Dr Thaddeus Roth (p. 112)

Evil is just a void...used by society to condemn the actions of people it don't like. Evil is the opposite of what society calls good. Some people might call bull-fights evil, but the Spanish don't. Some people call war evil, but you don't see it going outta fashion. The concept of evil is as flexible as a hunka clay. You can fashion it into practically any shape you want... What do people call evil is a respected philosophy of life called "Survival of the Fittest". – The Maestro (p. 114)

Class discussion:

Do you believe it is possible to live a purely moral and ethical life?

Throughout the story in *Evil Genius*, most of the characters behave in morally ambiguous ways. Can you identify **one** character who acts with moral integrity all of the time? Make sure you use specific references to the text to support your answer.
