

The Girl with All the Gifts **Movie (drama, horror, thriller)**

Summary¹

In this account of a zombie apocalypse, a fungus has changed nearly everyone into hungry, flesh-eating monsters, called Hungries. Among the few humans not infected with the fungus are Dr. Caldwell, a scientist who believes she is close to finding a vaccine against the fungus, and Helen Justineau, a teacher at the military base in England where a number of child Hungries are kept in captivity for the purpose of Dr. Caldwell's experiments. One of Helen's students is an especially gifted girl named Melanie. She is a 10 year old Hungry, and she adores Helen. Unlike the adult Hungries, Melanie and other children born to women infected with the fungus are able to maintain their mental capacity, but still act as Hungries when exposed to the scent of flesh. When the base is attacked, Dr. Caldwell and Helen Justineau escape together with Sergeant Parks and Privates Gallagher and Dillon. They take Melanie with them, handcuffed and wearing a muzzle to prevent her from attacking them. Melanie proves useful, as the Hungries don't attack her, and she is able to lead the Hungries away from the group. Melanie starts forming special bonds with Helen Justineau, Sergeant Parks and Privates Gallagher and Dillon, but to Dr. Caldwell, who is obsessed with finishing her experiment before she dies, Melanie remains a specimen for her research.

Duration: 1 hr 51 min.

Produced, 2017.

Director: Colm McCarthy

Writers: Mike Carey (novel and screen play)

This movie is available on Netflix

Questions for discussion:

- Discuss Dr. Caldwell's perception of the child-Hungries she is experimenting on. How does her perception of the child-Hungries as research specimens compare to/ differ from current approaches to the use of human and non-human test subjects in research?
- Dr. Caldwell is trying to develop a vaccine for the fungus during an emergency situation. Do you think her experiment is ethical? Why/why not?
- Discuss the relationship between Melanie and Helen, Sgt. Parks and Privates Gallagher and Dillon. Do you think they see her as a human being? How does that affect your ethical assessment of the characters' actions?
- What are your thoughts about Melanie's actions towards the end of the movie? Why do you think she did what she did?
- Do you think Melanie did the right thing?
- Discuss the ending of the film – what do you think will happen in the future? To Helen? to the children?

¹ Adapted from the Wikipedia article: [The Girl with All the Gifts \(film\)](#)