1. Children raised in bilingual environments are often slower to speak than those who are raised in environments in which only one language is spoken. However, when they do speak, bilingual children keep each language separate and speak each language correctly. What insights does this provide about language acquisition? Do you think that bilingual children risk being misjudged as "slow" talkers when they are young?

2. Author Russ Rymer argues that studies of language acquisition in children who are deaf have "provided linguists with a thousand Genies, and what's better, with Genies who have not been psychologically abused, only linguistically deprived." Evaluate his comment.

3. Many Romanian orphans were brought to the United States in recent years and adopted by American families. Some of these children had been sequestered in cribs for many months and, like Genie, deprived of all types of stimulation. Studies of their brains indicate that certain areas simply did not develop and never would. Investigate the role of visual, auditory, and tactile stimulation on the development of the brain and on the ability of individuals to recognize stimuli. Examine the two graphs on brain size. What conclusions can you draw?

4. Sometimes pathological behavior is triggered by personal traumas. That may have been the case for Genie's father. Shortly before he began imprisoning his children and his wife, his mother had been hit by a car and killed. This incident may have sparked a personality change and his paranoia, which led to his abusive behavior toward his family members. Under the circumstances, how accountable should he be for what he did to Genie and the others?

5. What sorts of help should communities provide to individuals and families in which one member is acting in a way that is unhealthy for others? Where is the line between individual freedom and protecting the "larger society," which, in some instances, may just be the family?