

Questions for Discussing *Stitches* by David Small

Some of the questions below were generated by Roger Shattuck's review of *Forbidden Knowledge: From Prometheus to Pornography* in *First Things* (1997).

1. Do teams of genetic engineers rushing to crack our genetic code, with little thought to practical consequences constitute forbidden knowledge? Why or why not? (Scully)

2. Does stem cell research, a science that experiments with embryonic stem cells in hopes of finding cures for diseases like Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis seem like forbidden

knowledge? Why or why not?



Figure. 1. Young Frankenstein (Small 190).

3. Do artists and writers who are celebrated merely for being "original," "shocking," or "experimental"-the more shocking the experiment the more original the art-purveyors of forbidden knowledge? Why or why not? (Scully)

4. Is the \$8 billion pornography industry, which operates with no restrictions to speak of creators of forbidden knowledge? Why or why not? (Scully)

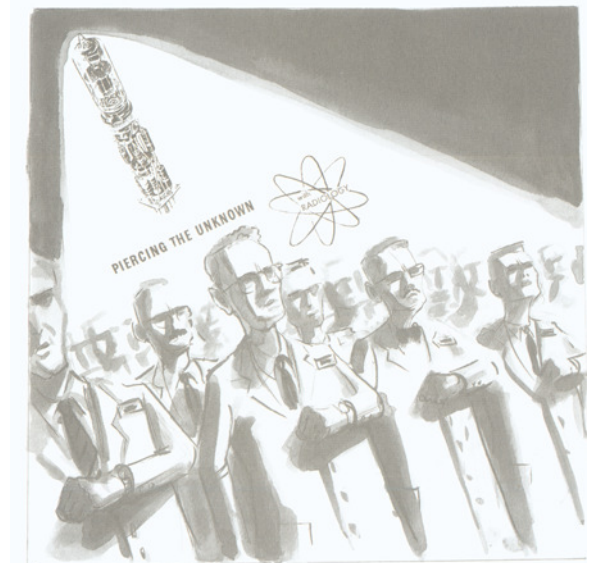


Fig. 2. Forbidden science: X-rays (Small 27).

5. What is your definition of “forbidden knowledge”?

6. What other books, movies, or TV shows can you think of explore forbidden knowledge?

7. In Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, "the Frankenstein monster" is not the monster himself but the doctor who presumed to create a human being. In *Stitches* who is the monster, the father or the son? Why?

8. What about transplants? If we were able to transplant a dead person's brain into a living body, should we? Why or why not?

9. As you can see from previous questions, forbidden knowledge does not necessarily have to reflect scientific knowledge. Is there any knowledge we are forbidden to know in our society?

10. Can you think of information that other societies forbid its people to know?

11. What kinds of forbidden knowledge do you see our global society exploring today?

12. Just because science can do or create something, should it? Why or why not?