**Reading Questions for The Dark Lady of DNA and The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks**

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| 1. What is the **central idea** discussed in the book? What issues or ideas does the author explore? Are they personal, sociological, global, political, economic, spiritual, medical, or scientific 2. Do the issues **affect your life**? How so—directly,on a daily basis, or more generally? Now or sometime in the future?3. What **evidence** does the author use to support the book's ideas? Is the evidence convincing...definitive or...speculative? Does the author depend on personal opinion, observation, and assessment? Or is the evidence factual—based on science, statistcs, historical documents, or quotations from (credible) experts?4. What kind of **language** does the author use? Is it objective and dispassionate? Or passionate and earnest? Is it polemical, inflammatory, sarcastic? Does the language help or undercut the author's premise?5. What are the **implications** for the future? Are there long- or short-term consequences to the issues raised in the book? Are they positive or negative...affirming or frightening?6.What **solutions** does the author propose? Who would implement those solutions? How probable is success?7. How **controversial** are the issues raised in the book? Who is aligned on which sides of the issues? Where do you fall in that line-up?8. Talk about **specific passages** that struck you as significant—or interesting, profound, amusing, illuminating, disturbing, sad...? What was memorable?9. What have you **learned**after reading this book? Has it broadened your perspective about a difficult issue—personal or societal? Has it introduced you to a culture in another country...or an ethnic or regional culture in your own country?  |