**Viewing Guide: Rebecca Skloot on Tavis Smiley:** In the 1950s, it was\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to take cells without people’s knowledge.

1. How does the Lacks family feel about the cells? Describe their feelings about HeLa cells and their response to the book.
2. Describe the purpose and the work of the foundation Rebecca Skloot has founded and what donations are used for.
3. Explain what Skloot and Smiley mean when they refer to the “trust gap” between African Americans and the medical community.
4. To what extent do you feel that pharmaceutical companies and medical institutions, medical research organizations are responsible for profiting from the use of HeLa cells? How does Rebecca Skloot explain their hesitation?
5. “There is science for the sake of science…and then there’s science that’s deliberately being done that we know is being done for commercialization…But when there’s a direct line between science, scientific research, and profit, that doesn’t sit well with me.” (Smiley) Explain what Tavis is saying. Do you agree or disagree?
6. How does this relate to the healthcare debate? How does Skloot explain the source of people’s anger with regards to their tissues being used and the commercialization of medical research?

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**Viewing: Wes Moore at the Brooklyn Public Library:** Author Wes Moore describes his intention for the book: “The process of this book has been fascinating to me. When you put something like this out, you hope\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”

1. Explain what Wes Moore means when he says, “I wanted this to be a larger call to action…The impact of whether we get involved or when we stay apathetic…”
2. “If you aren’t a writer, start writing…The act of telling your story, even if it’s just to yourself, is extraordinary because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
3. Wes’ mother says, “I never gave birth to you because I needed another friend.” Describe Wes’ mother and his feelings about her.
4. “It isn’t all about you.” Explain his mother’s message and the impact it had on Wes.
5. Explain: Wes Moore writes to the other Wes and describes the letter he receives: “If the letter had been written in crayon...The problem is that it wasn’t… ‘He first thanked me for writing him because he said when you’re in prison you think the whole world doesn’t think you exist anymore.”
6. Author Wes Moore explains his initial resistance to writing this book and the two factors that pushed him to do it. “I think there’s a bigger story, a bigger truth…There were two main factors that pushed, that kept gnawing to say that there is a bigger truth to be understood here…
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	2. Other Wes Moore said\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. A few major takeaways Wes Moore explains: What is one thing that makes a child go one way…?
8. “A couple things that I know. I know that\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ matter.” To what extent does Wes Moore take credit for his own achievements?
9. What role do the mothers play in both Wes’ lives?
10. Explain what Wes Moore means when he says, “They helped me discover what it means to be free.”

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