

Name: _____

Close-Reading Questions

“Heart Saver”

- 1.** The article begins with a dramatic description of a very sick baby. Why might Lauren Tarshis have started her story this way? (mood, author’s craft)
- 2.** What challenges did Vivien Thomas face while trying to achieve his goals of attending college and medical school? How did he overcome these challenges? (text evidence)
- 3.** Tarshis writes that in the 1940s, heart surgery was seen as the “Mount Everest” of medicine. Explain the metaphor she is using. What does it help the reader understand about Thomas, Alfred Blalock, and Helen Taussig? (figurative language)

4. How was Thomas’s life in the lab different from his life outside of it? How was it the same? (compare and contrast)

5. At the end of the article, Tarshis writes that a portrait of Thomas now hangs across from Blalock’s in the medical school at Johns Hopkins. Why might she have included this detail? (author’s craft)

