

Short Answer Questions for “Race for the Double Helix”

(Compiled from Sue Anderson, Palatine High School, Palatine, Illinois; Dr. Harry Hitchcock, Clinton High School, TN; J. Murray, Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave, VA)

1. What were your first impressions of the main characters?

James Watson:

Francis Crick:

Rosalind Franklin:

Maurice Wilkins:

2. Compare the research approaches/ styles/ attitudes of Watson and Crick with those of Franklin.

3. Do you think Franklin should have shared her information more freely with the others? Do you think she should have worked more closely with Wilkins? Why? Why not?

4. Do you think Watson may have had a valid point when he told Rosalind that a "fresh" look " at her work may be what was needed?

5. What important relationship between DNA nucleotides did Watson and Crick discover? What methods did they use to accomplish this?
6. When Franklin finally had the opportunity to look at the DNA double-helix model constructed by Watson & Crick, what was her response? (write a couple of sentences summarizing what she felt and what she said)

What was Wilkin's response?

7. What were your **later** impressions of the main characters?

James Watson:

Francis Crick:

Rosalind Franklin:

Maurice Wilkins:

8. Why is this movie called "Race for the Double Helix"? Do you think scientific research should be a race? Why or why not?

9. Who was awarded the Nobel Prize for the discovery of DNA structure?

In your opinion, were the Nobel Prizes awarded fairly? Why or why not?

10. Which person do you think played the most important role in the discovery of DNA structure?
Explain your answer.

11. Which person do you think played the least important role in the discovery of DNA structure?
Explain your answer

12. Which character did you like the best? Why?

13. Which character did you like the least? Why?

14. What did you learn from the movie that you didn't previously know?