Questions of Courage

1. Despite their intelligence and abilities in the field of medicine, what were Vivien Thomas and Hamilton Naki hired to do at their respective medical schools?

2. Why couldn't Vivien Thomas be paged over the public address system at the hospital?

3. In what pay classification were Vivien Thomas and Hamilton Naki categorized? Why?

4. Why didn't Alfred Blalock acknowledge the contributions of Vivien Thomas?

5. Why couldn't Christian Barnard acknowledge Hamilton Naki in South Africa?

6. Why wasn't Vivien Thomas photographed or listed as a part of the surgical team following the operation?

7. Why did the reporters identify Hamilton Naki as a gardener in photographs taken with Christian Barnard?

8. Which surgeon do you feel was a greater supporter of equality? Why?

9. Why was the issue of the white lab coat such a problem in South Africa and in the United States?

10. How were these two African American men ultimately rewarded for their achievements and contributions?