



***The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars***

by Dava Sobel

Sobel tells the little-known true story of the women who worked at the Harvard College Observatory. Use these questions to kick off your discussion of *The Glass Universe*.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How would you cast Harvard's track record concerning women in science?
2. The women who worked at the Harvard Observatory dealt with a gender pay gap, much as women do today. How did women like Williamina Fleming (appointed as the Curator of Astronomical Photographs) respond to this disparity?
3. Did you find that the women employed in the Observatory fit the stereotype of being able to work more cooperatively with each other than men would? If so, how did that affect their results/output?
4. What, to you, was the most stunning achievement of the women working at the Harvard College Observatory?
5. How would you describe the women's relationships with their male colleagues?

