

Lab Girl
Personal Reflection

Write a short personal reflection to the book by answering one of the following prompts. The answer should be 150-300 words and written in a short response prose format.

- a. Jahren writes, "I chose science because science gave me what I needed—a home as defined in the most literal sense: a safe place to be" (p. 18). What in your life is 'home' to you?
- b. At the core of this book is the story of a relationship Jahren forged with a brilliant, wounded man named Bill, who becomes her lab partner and best friend. She tells many stories about her times with Bill -- happy and sad -- that show the depths of their friendship. Think of someone who you have a deep relationship with. Tell a story about a time you've had together with that person that reveals something about your relationship.
- c. Jahren's upbringing helped determine her dedication to science and to writing. Her father was a science teacher and her mother loved English literature. Is there something in your background that has made you passionate and/or dedicated to something?
- d. Jahren's struggle with manic depression has affected her life and work. Is there something you struggle with that affects your life?
- e. Jahren has a great respect for nature and the environment. Did reading her book cause you to look at trees—or any plant life—in a new way? Will you ever take them for granted again?
- f. Someone who plans a career in science would probably find Jahren an inspiring role model. Do you find her inspiring? Why? If not Jahren, is there someone else who you find to be an inspiring role model, either as a person or a professional (or both)?

