

A Message in Sequence

ICried	When
HeCried	T
G	C
T	A
AtomBombs	Sirens
Vaccines	Polio
C	G
C	G
A	T
CanSomeone	HelpMe
MyBaby	IsDying
T	A
Cancers	Cures
Contaminations	--
A	T
A	T
G	C
C	G
DidIDo	This
Wrong	This
IsAllMy	Fault
T	A
G	C
C	Hopkins
Slaves	TakenAtNight
A	T
C	G
C	G
IAmOf	Importance
G	NoReflex
SeenIn	MySon'sLife
C	G
A	T
IKnow	T
C	ILovedHim

Reed Grable

This poem is a response to when Zakariyya is given the photo of Henrietta Lack's DNA. It touches on the emotional impact that it had on him but is written in the perspective of Lacks' DNA. Through the poem there is a reflection on the great things done with Henrietta's cells, but Henrietta is regretful about what happened because it didn't give her the opportunity to raise her son. The poem expresses the fact that the use of her cells went against her free will and that her family did not benefit from it. Zakariyya was never given the chance to grow up properly, but there is an endearing love and bond between him and Henrietta despite the fact they never truly knew each other.