

Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totenberg: Discussion Questions

- What did you think about the book? What did you enjoy the most and what did you like the least?
- What surprised you as you read the book?
- What did you learn about the Supreme Court and how it worked?
- The face of the Supreme Court has changed greatly since Ginsburg took her seat on the Court. What do you think will be her legacy?
- Socially, Nina Totenberg's personal interactions with friends seem to happen over dinner. Do you have frequent dinners with friends? How do you maintain friendships?
- Justice Ginsburg's pays homage to several "pathmakers" and "waypavers" who inspired her along her way. Who were the notable "waypavers" in your life? How have they influenced your path?
- Justice (Tzedek) plays a central role in the Jewish tradition, as Ginsburg discusses throughout the book. She writes.

"I am a judge, born, raised and proud of being a Jew. The demand for justice runs through the entirety of the Jewish tradition. I hope, in all the years I have the good fortune to serve on the bench of the Supreme Court, I will have the strength and courage to remain steadfast in the service of that demand. {p.88}

How did you see this "demand for justice" play out in Ginsburg's career?

- Ginsburg talks at length about her respect and love for friend and colleague Justice Antonin Scalia. Despite their ideological differences, they forged a solid friendship that lasted decades. What does this tell you about Ginsburg's nature? How do her personal and professional relationships reflect her character overall?
- What judicial decision that Judge Ginsburg made do you think was most important to you? Discuss.

Extra Credit: Cokie Roberts plays a role in this book. Did it change your opinion of her? Discuss.

Discussion Questions sources: booksthatslay.com, AnnapolisDragonBoatClub.org, jwa.org, booksparks.com