



Honors Biology Summer Work 2024

There are 2 parts to the summer assignment for Honors Biology:

- a) Read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, By Rebecca Skloot and complete the prompts below.
- b) In August, take the AR test on the book.

**The assignment should be completed and turned in on the first day of school.
Print these pages and fill in by hand.**

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

By Rebecca Skloot

Henrietta Lacks was a real person, she is not immortal but the cancer cells taken from her body without her knowledge or consent, live on. They have been instrumental in developing cures, vaccines, and cancer research. As you read about Henrietta's life take notes on each chapter and consider the ethical questions posed. Your notes will be due the first day of school, the quiz will be given during the first week of class.

In order to keep track of the people in the book, fill in these character boxes as you encounter each person. Each box should have a brief description of the important facts about them and any other details that will help you remember. The first one is started for you as an example.

Henrietta Lacks: Died of cervical cancer at age 31. Her cells were taken without consent. Her cancer cells have become very important. Loved her 5 children. HeLa comes from her name. Did not get quality medical care. _____

Rebecca Skloot: _____

Deborah/Dale Lacks: _____

David/Day Lacks: _____

Joe (Zakiriyya) Lacks: _____

Lawrence Lacks: _____

Bobbette Cooper: _____

Elsie Pleasant: _____

Dr. Gey: _____

Roland Patillo: _____

Sonnie Lacks: _____

Sir Lord Cofield: _____

Notes by Chapter

When there is a **question**, answer it in 1-2 complete sentences. When there is no question, write a 2-3 sentence summary of the chapter.

Chapter 1 The Exam

What did Henrietta know about herself? What did she not know about science?

Chapter 2, Clover

Chapter 3, Diagnosis and Treatment

What is Dr. Gey trying to prove about carcinoma in situ?

Chapter 4, The Birth of HeLa

Chapter 5, Blackness Be Spreadin all Inside

Chapter 6, Lady's on the Phone

Chapter 7, The Death and Life of Cell Culture
[What was the truth behind the immortal chicken heart?](#)

Chapter 8, A Miserable Specimen

Chapter 9, Turner Station

Chapter 10, The Other Side of the Tracks

Chapter 11, The Devil of Pain Itself

Chapter 12, The Storm

Chapter 13, The HeLa Factory

Why were HeLa cells so helpful in developing a polio vaccine?

Chapter 14, Helen Lane

Chapter 15, Too Young to Remember

Chapter 16, Spending Eternity in the same place

Chapter 17, Illegal, Immoral, and Deplorable

How did Southam justify injecting cancerous cells in people?

Chapter 18, Strangest Hybrid

Chapter 19, The Most Critical Time on This Earth is Now

Chapter 20, The HeLa Bomb

Chapter 21, Night Doctors

What was Johns Hopkins intent for his hospital?

Chapter 22, The Fame She So Richly Deserves

Chapter 23, It's Alive

Chapter 24, Least They Can Do

Chapter 25, Who Told You You Could Sell My Spleen?

What reasons did the supreme court give for their decision about the ownership of cells?

Chapter 26, Breach of Privacy

Chapter 27, The Secret of Immortality

Why did a biologist claim that HeLa cells were not human?

Chapter 28, After London

Chapter 29, A Village of Henriettas

Chapter 30, Zakariyya

Chapter 31, HeLa, Goddess of Death

How did history of unethical treatment toward Black people impact the writing of the book?

Chapter 32, That's Not My Mother

Chapter 33, The Hospital for the Negro Insane

Chapter 34, The Medical Records

Chapter 35, Soul Cleansing

How does Gary help Deborah deal with her stress and confusion?

Chapter 36, Heavenly Bodies

Chapter 37, Nothing to Be Scared About

Chapter 38, The Long Road to Clover

Afterward

If Henrietta had known in advance that her cells would save lives, would she have given consent if she had been asked? Give your reasons.
