<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Assignments</th>
<th>English II Honors</th>
<th>English II CP</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. <em>Great Expectations</em>, by Charles Dickens</td>
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<td>b. <em>The Odyssey</em>, by Homer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Complete the attached comprehension questions for *The Immortal Life of</td>
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<td>Henrietta Lacks*; they should help guide your reading.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Study Thurman’s text closely. You’ll have a test over the content the first</td>
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<td>week we’re back. I know it’s a grammar book. Nonetheless, it is readable and</td>
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<td>full of useful information.</td>
<td>full of useful information.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• After reading either <em>Great Expectations</em> or <em>The Odyssey</em>, write a short</td>
<td>• After reading <em>Gulliver’s Travels</em>, write a short (500-750 word) essay</td>
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<td>(500-750 word) essay answering the following prompt:</td>
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<td>o Mark Twain has said that, “A little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing.”</td>
<td>o One of the themes of Swift’s text is that travel can change us. How does</td>
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<td>In what ways might your chosen work illustrate this idea? In other words,</td>
<td>travel change Gulliver? Be sure to describe his personality at the beginning</td>
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<td>how does the story of your protagonist – either Pip in <em>Great Expectations</em>,</td>
<td>of the novel and his views at the end of the novel. What are the causes of</td>
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<td>or Odysseus in <em>The Odyssey</em> – demonstrate the dangers of both ignorance</td>
<td>the change you see?</td>
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<td>AND knowledge?</td>
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**Due Dates**: You will have a test over *The Only Grammar Book*… the first week of school; the essays and comprehension questions are also due the first week we are back.
Comprehension Questions for
*The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

Please answer the following using complete, grammatically correct sentences.

**Prologue**
1. The author uses several similes to describe cells. What simile does she use to describe the way a cell looks? What simile does she use to explain the functions of the different parts of a cell? What do these similes suggest about biology?

**Chapter 1**
2. Explain what the Jim Crow laws were.

3. Review the notes on Henrietta’s medical history found on page 16. Based on the objective details in her medical chart, what can you infer about Henrietta’s life and personality?
Chapter 2
4. Skloot uses vivid imagery and details to describe Henrietta’s childhood in Clover. Locate a passage that you found particularly effective or memorable, and explain why you selected it.

5. Compare the medical terms describing Elsie’s condition with the terms used by Henrietta’s friends and family. What are the connotations of the two sets of terms?

6. How did Pearl Harbor change life in Turner Station?

Chapter 3
7. Analyze the consent statement that Henrietta signed on page 31. Based on this statement, do you believe TeLinde and Guy had the right to obtain a sample from her cervix to use in their research?
Chapter 4
8. Based on the descriptions of Gey found on pages 38-39, offer three adjectives that best describe his personality.

Chapter 5
9. After her diagnosis and treatment, how did Henrietta behave? What can you infer about her personality based on this behavior?

10. What specific details let the reader know that sending Elsie away was difficult for Henrietta?

Chapter 6
11. Paraphrase the information on page 50 describing the Tuskegee Syphilis Study.

Chapter 7
12. Give an example of propaganda that was used to fuel the public’s fear and distrust of tissue culture.
13. What details suggest that Carrel’s claims about the immortal cell line were not scientifically sound?

Chapter 8

15. What objective details suggest that Henrietta was a devoted and loving mother?

16. While most accounts suggest that Henrietta never met George Gey or knew about HeLa, Laure Aurelian says that Gey recounted meeting with Henrietta before her death. Do you find this story believable? Use specific facts about Henrietta, Get, and/or medical practice in the 1950s to support your opinion.

Chapter 10
17. What do the names of the creek and the river suggest about life in Lacks town?
Chapter 13
18. Paraphrase the explanation of how a virus reproduces from page 97. Why did the fact that HeLa cells are malignant make them particularly useful in the study of viruses?

Chapter 14
19. Summarize the various factual errors that appeared in the stories about HeLa.

Chapter 16
20. Describe Skloot’s visit to the Lacks family cemetery. What impact does her use of imagery have on you as a reader?
Chapter 17
21. What is the purpose of the Nuremberg Code? What events led to it being developed?

Chapter 18
22. How did the public respond to the idea of cell hybrids? In what specific ways did media influence the public’s perception of cell hybrids?

Chapter 20
23. Explain the meaning of the idiomatic expression, “to drop a bomb.”

Chapter 21
24. Give an example of indirect characterization that reveals that the Lacks family distrusts doctors.
Chapter 22
25. Do you agree that Henrietta should have been correctly identified to “give her the fame she so richly deserves,” or do you think her anonymity should have been protected? Explain and justify your answer.

Chapter 23
26. The title of this chapter contains an allusion to the classic horror movie *Frankenstein*. What does this allusion suggest about the tension between scientific discovery, and public perception and fear of such discoveries?

Chapter 25
27. Summarize the pros and cons of giving patients legal ownership of their cells
28. What was the Supreme Court of California’s decision regarding the Moore lawsuit? Summarize the reasoning behind the decision.

29. Do you agree with the court’s ruling? Explain your answer.

Chapter 26
30. Explain why Gold’s journalism could be considered irresponsible and/or unethical.

31. What do Gold’s comments about his decision to publish private information without consulting the Lacks family reveal about his attitude toward them?
Chapter 28
32. Carefully reread the speech Deborah gave at Morehouse College, paying particular attention to her repetition of the word “misunderstanding.” Why do you think understanding HeLa was so important to Deborah? What obstacles does she mention as impeding her understanding?

Chapter 31
33. Explain why it would be easy to believe that the Marvel super villain, Hela, Goddess of Death, was based on Henrietta Lacks.

Chapter 32
34. Compare and contrast Skloot’s, Deborah’s, and Zakariyya’s interactions with the Jesus statue at Johns Hopkins. What do the interactions reveal about their attitudes toward religious faith?

Chapter 38
35. Skloot begins and ends the book with Deborah’s voice. How does this choice impact the reader’s experience of the story?