**HELA STUDY WEEK 3**

**Chapter Eight: “A Miserable Specimen”**

1. How did her doctors react to Henrietta’s intuitive conviction that the cancer was spreading inside of her?
2. When did the doctors realize that Henrietta had been correct about the growth of her cancer?
3. What objective details suggest that Henrietta was in extreme pain at this point in her illness?
4. What does the use of the term “a miserable specimen” by Henrietta’s doctors reveal about their attitude toward her?
5. If Gey did speak to Henrietta just before she died, do you think she would have understood what immortal cells were? Explain your answer.

**Chapter Nine: Turner Station**

1. What does Skloot realize after watching the BBC documentary about HeLa?

**Chapter Ten: The Other Side of the Tracks**

1. What illness did Cootie have as a child?
2. Cootie seems to know and understand a little bit about HeLa cells, but he believes that Henrietta’s spirit is still present in her cells. What does Cootie think about the reason that HeLa cells were used to develop a polio vaccine?
3. Why is it difficult for Henrietta’s family to understand that Henrietta was dead but her cells were still alive?

**Chapter Eleven: “The Devil of Pain Itself”**

1. Describe the progression of Henrietta’s cancer in the eight months between her diagnosis and her death.

2. Why did doctors stop giving Henrietta blood transfusions?

**HELA STUDY WEEK 4**

**Chapter Twelve: The Storm**

1. Why did Henrietta’s doctors need to ask for her family’s permission to remove tissue samples after her death? How did Day initially respond to their request?

2. What was the official cause of Henrietta’s death?

**Chapter Thirteen: The HeLa Factory**

1. Explain how a neutralization test is used to determine a vaccine’s efficacy.
2. What unusual characteristics of HeLa cells made them ideal for use in the polio vaccine trials?
3. Why did the Tuskegee Institute become involved in the mass production of HeLa cells? Describe the depth of the Institute’s involvement.
4. Why was the development of methods of freezing cells an important scientific breakthrough?
5. Why is standardization important in scientific research?
6. Why did scientists want to be able to clone cells for research?
7. Explain the contribution that HeLa made to the emerging field of genetics.
8. Describe the role Microbiological Associates played in the development of the field of cell culture, and the industry of selling HeLa cells and other human biological materials.
9. Who profited monetarily from the sale of HeLa cells and other human biological materials?
10. Do you agree with Pomerant’s suggestion that Gey should have “finished his own research” before releasing HeLa to the general public?

**Chapter Fourteen: Helen Lane**

1. In what specific ways do you think that learning of HeLa soon after Henrietta’s death might have changed her family members’ live?
2. What was Collier’s take on the power and promise of HeLa cells?

**Chapter Fifteen: “Too Young to Remember”**

1. Describe Deborah’s childhood. What challenges did she have to overcome?
2. What questions did Deborah have about her mother and sister? Why do you think no one told her very much about them?