**WEEK 5 HELA QUESTIONS**

**Chapter Sixteen: “Spending Eternity in the Same Place”**

No Questions

**Chapter Seventeen: Illegal, Immoral, and Deplorable**

1. What was Chester Southam concerned that HeLa cells might do?

2. Describe the experiment that Southam developed to test his hypothesis about HeLa.

3. Who were the test subjects in Southam’s first study? Were they informed about the research and its risks?

4. What was the result of Southam’s first research study? Based on these results, did his hypothesis appear to be correct?

5. Where did Southam find test subjects for his second research study?

6. Based on the results of the second study, what two things did Southam believe that injections of HeLa cells might be able to do?

7. How did Southam justify his decision to inject HeLa cells into patients without their knowledge or consent?

8. What does the term “informed consent” mean?

9. Why, specifically, did the Jewish doctors at the Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital object to Southam’s cancer study?

10. What is the purpose of the Nuremberg Code? What events led to it being developed “inalienable” right to?

11. What was the result of the legal action taken against Southam and Mandel?

12. Explain how the action against Southam and Mandel led to the development of informed consent forms as a standard medical practice.

**Chapter Eighteen: “Strangest Hybrid”**

1. Summarize the various ways that HeLa was used in the space program.

2. What disturbing discovery did scientists make about the way HeLa responded in orbit?

3. Why did a committee of scientists form the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC)?

4. Explain what happens during somatic cell fusion.

5. Why did scientists want to fuse human and animal cells?

6. What scientific discoveries were made possible as a result of fused hybrid cells?

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

**Chapter Nineteen: “The Most Critical Time on This Earth is Now”**

No Questions

**WEEK 6 HELA QUESTIONS**

**Chapter Twenty: The HeLa Bomb**

1. What did Stanley Gartler discover about eighteen of the most commonly used cell cultures?

2. How was Gartler able to link the contamination problem to HeLa?

3. What unique abilities did HeLa have that allowed it to contaminate cultures without researchers being aware that contamination had occurred?

4. Why would HeLa contamination be a problem for researchers?

5. What is “spontaneous transformation”? What did Gartler suggest about spontaneous transformation?

6. How did the scientific community respond to Gartler’s theory about HeLa contamination?

**Chapter Twenty-One: Night Doctors**

1. Explain the connection that Sonny makes between his mother’s personality and the ways he believes HeLa cells have been used.

2. Sonny and Lawrence repeat the refrain “That’s a miracle,” when discussing the scientific advances made possible by their mother’s cells. What does this refrain suggest about their worldview and values?

3. Why did Johns Hopkins start a medical school and hospital in a poor black neighborhood? What purpose was the school/hospital intended to serve?

4. What does the 1969 Johns Hopkins study reveal about the researcher’s attitude and

assumptions about race?

**Chapter Twenty-Two: “The Fame She So Richly Deserves”**

1. What type of cancer was George Gey diagnosed with?

2. What specific request did Gey make prior to going into surgery? Why didn’t his surgeons honor his request?

3. After finding out that his cancer was terminal, what reason did Gey give for his decision to offer himself as a research subject?

4. Did Gey benefit or profit in any way from his participation in the research studies?

5. What did Howard Jones realize when he reviewed Henrietta’s medical records?

6. What was the purpose of President Nixon’s National Cancer Act?

**Chapter Twenty-Three: “It’s Alive”**

1. Why did researchers want DNA samples from Henrietta’s family?
2. What were some of Deborah’s fears and concerns after she found out that her mother’s cells were still alive? Are these fears something to worry about?
3. Why did advances in genetic research necessitate establishing the legal requirement that doctors or researchers obtain informed consent documentation prior to taking DNA samples from patients for research?