

Checkpoint #2

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS

Book Questions

1. In what time frame did Henrietta's initial tumor grow (how long from her last doctor's visit to the one in which her cancer was discovered)?
2. How are cancers categorized?
3. Which element was used to treat cervical cancers, including Henrietta's?
4. What were two major obstacles to growing human cells in culture?
5. Compare what happened to Henrietta's cancer cells in culture versus her normal cell in culture that first week in Gey's lab.
6. Briefly describe the Tuskegee syphilis study.
7. Why were HeLa cells so important?
8. Define "benevolent deception."
9. How was the law different regarding taking tissue from a living person versus a dead person?
10. For what reason was a HeLa factory built?
11. What basic characteristics of cells did HeLa cells still share?
12. What did Southam do in 1954 that is illegal today?
13. When and where did the term "informed consent" first appear?
14. Identify two things hybrids helped scientists understand better.
15. What was the "HeLa bomb?"
16. When was the first time Henrietta's real name appeared in print?
17. When and how did the Lacks family find out Henrietta's cells were still alive?
18. Why couldn't McKusick and Hsu publish their genetic research using the Lack's family names today? **HINT:** What laws does this violate?
19. In detail, explain what caused Henrietta's cancer.
20. What special protein in cancer cells allowed Henrietta's cells to never die?

Take Aways

1. Describe three "take-aways" from the book. What did you learn while reading it?
2. What topics in class did the book help you understand better?
3. What questions do you still have about the topic and why?