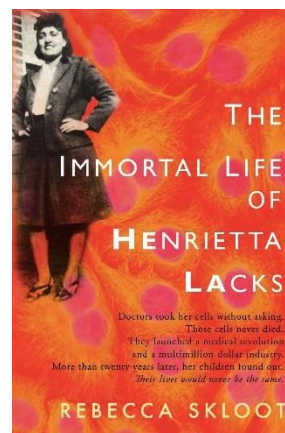


## 2018-2019 AP Language Summer Reading Assignment

Read the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. The book, published in 2010, details the story of the HeLa cell line, an immortal line of cells that lead to some of the most important innovations in modern science. The HeLa cells were taken in 1951 from an African-American mother in Baltimore without her consent. Despite the importance of her cells, Lacks's family continued to live in poverty and ill health, knowing nothing of her contributions to scientific advancement.

Once you have finished reading the book, you will have to create a presentation (Part I) and complete a grammar assignment (Part II). **Both assignments are due the first day of class.**



**Part I (60 points):** Prepare a three- to four-minute presentation on ONE these subjects:

- Skloot begins the book with the following quote from Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel: “We must not see any person as an abstraction. Instead, we must see in every person a universe with its own secrets, with its own treasures, with its own sources of anguish, and with some measure of triumph.” In your presentation, explain how this quotation applies to *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.
- Analyze the ways in which Skloot’s style exemplifies the writer’s rule of “show, don’t tell” as she develops the characters of Henrietta, Deborah, George Gey, or other key figures in the book.
- The narrative arc involving Deborah and Skloot follows that of an archetypal hero journey. Analyze the story as a hero’s journey with Skloot as the hero, and then change your perspective and analyze the story with Deborah as the hero.
- Create a presentation that presents an argument on this prompt: Lacks is a woman who has been at the helm of many medical advancements. Unfortunately, these medical breakthroughs were unknown to her and her family because she never consented to her cells being used for medical research. To what extent is consent necessary before medical researchers use patients’ cells or parts of their bodies in researching medical breakthroughs?
- Identify a theme in the book and prepare a presentation discussing it.
- Trace the rhetorical strategy of imagery OR detail through the text and prepare a presentation discussing its significance.
- FOUND POEM ASSIGNMENT: A found poem is a text that takes its content from an unlikely source—novels, newspapers, conduct manuals—and crafts sentences from its source into a poem. While the poem will be original as a poem—that is, it’s ordering, line breaks, and themes—the content will come from Rebecca Skloot’s text. Choose a brief passage from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, and pull 20-25 sentences that you think are interesting on the language level. From there, cross out words (do NOT move them around) until only the most important and striking thoughts and images remain. Think about **why** those words and images matter, don’t just choose randomly and hope that it hangs together. When you are finished, type your chosen words onto a piece of paper and decide where to place punctuation and line breaks. Your poem should be 15-20 lines, have a clear, central tone, at least one line demonstrating alliteration (consonance, assonance), at least two sensory images, at least one example of parallelism. Given that this poem is part of a presentation assignment, for your presentation you will present the original text selected, your poem, and an illustration of your poem.

(continued)

Presentation guidelines:

1. Your presentation should have a formal beginning, middle, and end. You should make specific references to the text. If you do additional research or use other sources besides the book, be sure to cite them appropriately.
2. It must be three to four minutes in length. Points will be deducted for presentations outside of the time requirement. You will be graded on the quality of your content, plus your volume, pacing, poise, and vocabulary.
3. You must have a visual aid. It can be a PowerPoint, poster, or project of your choosing. It will be graded on creativity, neatness, use of color, and use of text.

### Part II (40 points)

You will also recognize and classify different kinds of phrases and clauses from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. For review, **identify and label** TWO examples of each of the following grammatical structures:

#### Phrases

Prepositional

Participial

Gerund

Infinitive

Appositive

#### Clauses

Adjective

Adverb

Noun

Type the examples on a sheet of paper, **underline and identify what they are**, and cite them according to MLA style. All examples should come from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* only.

#### EXAMPLE

Adverb Clause:

Until I read those dates, I hadn't done the math: Henrietta was barely four years old when she lost her mother, about the same age as Sonny was when Henrietta died (121).

Questions? Send an email to [erin.atkinson@signature.edu](mailto:erin.atkinson@signature.edu)