

AP Language and Composition

Summer Work 2023

For your summer assignment, you will read *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and complete the below assignment before the 2023-2024 school year begins. The assignment will be used as a part of an assessment. Please turn in the assignment on the first day of school. Used copies of this book are available to purchase online for about \$6, and copies are available in the New Castle County library system. The book is also available on Sora for free!

A description of the book is below. The book may have some mature content, which is to be expected in a college-level course. If you have concerns about reading about any particular topics (throughout the year, not just over the summer), please let me know.

***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (Rebecca Skloot)** - Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine: The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, which are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions. Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave. Henrietta’s family did not learn of her “immortality” until more than twenty years after her death, when scientists investigating HeLa began using her husband and children in research without informed consent. And though the cells had launched a multimillion-dollar industry that sells human biological materials, her family never saw any of the profits. As Rebecca Skloot so brilliantly shows, the story of the Lacks family—past and present—is inextricably connected to the dark history of experimentation on African Americans, the birth of bioethics, and the legal battles over whether we control the stuff we are made of.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks - Rebecca Skloot

In AP Language & Composition, the acronym SPACECAT will be your new best friend. This assignment will be your introduction to SPACECAT as well as rhetorical analysis, which is the foundation of this course.

SPACE

Speaker (Who is the writer? Why is she important? How do we know she is credible?)

Purpose (What is the author's primary purpose of writing this book? *To inform us about something...? To persuade us to do or think something...? To entertain us...?*)

Audience (Who is the intended audience? Who is the unintended audience? What evidence do you have to support either statement?)

Context (What is the historical context? Why did the author choose to write the memoir about that moment? When was the book written and why might the author have chosen to write the memoir at that time?)

Exigence (What prompted the author to write this book?)

CAT

Choices (What have you noticed about the author's choices when writing the book - how it's organized, sentence structure, word choice, figurative language, etc?)

Appeals (How does the author appeal to the reader's sense of emotion? Which emotions? Is it effective? How does the author appeal to the reader's sense of logic? How does the author use his credibility to appeal to the reader?)

Tone What is the overall tone (attitude) of the author about the subject? How do you know? Does the tone shift? If so, where?

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Rhetorical Analysis: Select at least five quotes from the book that had an impact on you - whether they inspired an emotional response or made you think of something in a new way or made you stop and disagree. Identify the specific aspect of the sentence that stood out to you and explain its impact on the reader (ie, you).

Quotation with Page Number	Impact and Explanation
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Significance of the opening scene (How does the opening scene establish who the author is, the subject, and the tone of the book?)	Significance of the closing scene (How does the closing scene connect to the opening scene, title of the book, book's subject, and tone?)
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