Summer Reading 2012
10th Grade

During the summer, you are to complete two (2) assignments that will be due on the first day of school, **Monday, August 27, 2012**. For each assignment, you will read the assigned book and answer the related questions. Each assignment needs to be:

- Typed
- Double-spaced
- 12 point font

**Hand written, emailed, and paper submissions will not be accepted.** You **MUST** submit your assignment on Blackboard/TSS by following the directions below.

1. Go to [www.bcpss.org](http://www.bcpss.org)
2. Click Login at the top
   a. Username = student ID # (located on your school ID and schedule/progress reports/report cards)
   b. Password = first name (first letter capitalized)
3. Click on My Places
4. Click on Vivien T. Thomas Medical Arts Academy High
5. Click on Summer Assignments on the left side menu
6. Click on either Summer Reading 2012 – English to submit Assignment #1 or Summer Reading 2012 – CTE to submit Assignment #2.
7. Click on Browse My Computer to locate your assignment
8. Click on Submit.

Each assignment will count as two (2) assessment grades in both your English course and Career and Technology Education (CTE) course. Assessments are worth **50%** of your grade in each of those courses.

If you need help with any of the assignments, bring your **completed** rough drafts of your assignments to the school. Staff will be available to answer any questions and computers will be available to type your assignments. You will only receive assistance if you have already attempted the assignments. You can also email vttmaa@bcps.k12.md.us for general assistance.

Scan the QR code using your smartphone/computer with webcam for more information on where to purchase books and to watch videos on how to setup your assignments in Microsoft Word 2003 and 2007 or visit [http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/429studentinformation](http://www.baltimorecityschools.org/429studentinformation). Free barcode scanner apps can be downloaded from the Google Play Store for Android devices (Bar Code Scanner) and the App Store for iPhone/iPad (QR Scanner).
Assignment #1

_The Truth about the Truman School_ by Sherman Alexie

_**Bully (Documentary):**_ by Lee Hirsch (Director)

You will answer the following question based upon the text and documentary and format your response in a well-written essay. **Your essay is required to be at least two (2) typed pages.** You MUST utilize textual evidence in your essay response. Prior to submitting your paper you must highlight or underline the contextual evidence that has been utilized in the paper.

**Theme: Sense of Belonging**

1. Comparing the reading selection with the documentary, how is the issue of bullying prevalent in various aspects of our lives and what are the ultimate tragedies and triumphs that coincide with this issue plaguing teens?

Assignment #2

_The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks_ by Rebecca Skloot

As you read the book, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Most of the questions have multiple parts, which are marked with letters. **All parts of the question must be answered in order to be considered complete.** Remember that your responses must be typed.

**Chapter 1: The Exam (1951)**

1. What does this chapter suggest to you about Henrietta Lacks’ ability to understand and make informed decisions about her treatment at the clinic?
2. How would you describe Henrietta’s attitudes toward medical care?
3. What does the term “Jim Crow era” mean?

**Chapter 2: Clover (1920 –1942)**

4. What are your thoughts about the employment opportunities for black men at Sparrows Point?

**Chapter 3: Diagnosis and Treatment (1951)**

5. What is your impression of medical understanding and treatment of cervical cancer in 1951?
6. Do you believe that Dr. TeLinde’s research was important and justified?
7. What are your thoughts on using radium to treat cancer, when it is also a cause of cancer?
8. Read the Operation Permit that Henrietta signed. Do you think it gave the hospital the right to take tissue from Henrietta for research purposes? Do you think Henrietta was able to understand what she was signing?

**Chapter 4: The Birth of HeLa (1951)**

9. Why did Dr. Gey give samples of the HeLa cells to his colleagues?
10. What are your thoughts on the issue of sterile procedures in the lab, given the descriptions of the lab in this chapter?
Chapter 5: “Blackness Be Spreadin All Inside” (1951)
11. AHow well do you think Henrietta understood her illness? BHow well do you think Henrietta understood her treatment?
12. AWhy was Henrietta surprised to learn that she could not have children? BDo you think she was not told, that she didn’t understand what she had been told, or that she had forgotten?

Chapter 6: “Lady’s on the Phone” (1999)
13. Why did Dr. Pattillo ask Rebecca Skloot what she knew about African Americans and science before deciding to let her contact the Lacks family?
14. Given the responses from Deborah and Day, are you surprised that Rebecca Skloot continued this project?
15. From what was related in this chapter, how well do you think the Lacks family understood what had been done with Henrietta’s cells?

Chapter 7: The Death and Life of Cell Culture
16. Would it be possible for a scientist to make claims like Alexis Carrel’s today and have them as widely accepted by other scientists, the media, and the public?
17. AWhy was the development of an “immortal” cell line like HeLa potentially so important to medical research? BHow did the elevated status of doctors in the 1950s affect the quality of the medical care they gave to their patients, both positively and negatively?

Chapter 8: “A Miserable Specimen” (1951)
18. AWhat is your impression of the medical care Henrietta received? BDo you think it was less than what a white patient might have received?

Chapter 9: Turner Station (1999)
19. Based on what you have read so far, why do you think people are unwilling to talk to the author?

Chapter 10: The Other Side of the Tracks (1999)
20. What do you think of Cootie’s understanding of HeLa cells?

Chapter 11: “The Devil of Pain Itself” (1951)
21. How well liked was Henrietta in the Sparrows Point community?
22. AGiven the descriptions in this and other chapters, how close was the Lacks family? BHow does their family compare to your own, or to others you know about?
23. What is your reaction to the medical decisions regarding blood transfusions and discontinuing cancer treatment for Henrietta Lacks?

Chapter 12: The Storm (1951)
24. AWhy was it a surprise for Dr. Gey’s assistant to suddenly think of Henrietta as a person when she saw the chipped toenail polish? BDo doctors and scientists tend to see patients as bodies or specimens rather than as people? CWhat other examples of this can you see in this book? DShould doctors and scientists do this? EWhy or why not?
25. AHow did the Lacks cousins interpret the sudden storm during Henrietta’s funeral? BDo you agree?

Chapter 13: The HeLa Factory (1951—1953)
26. The author notes that Tuskegee Institute, site of the first HeLa production factory, was also home to the notorious Tuskegee Syphilis Study. AHow are these two projects similar? BHow are they different?
27. a Why is standardization of procedures considered so critical to scientific research? b How can that standardization also limit the growth of research?

28. Did Microbiological Associates have the right to begin growing and selling HeLa cells, even though they had played no role in developing them?

Chapter 14: Helen Lane (1953—1954)

29. Why did George Gey decline to identify Henrietta Lacks for journalists?

30. a Should Gey and his colleagues have informed the Lacks family about the origins of HeLa? b Why or why not?

Chapter 15: “Too Young to Remember” (1951—1965)

31. Why was Ethel able to get away with treating the Lacks children as she did for so long?

Chapter 16: “Spending Eternity in the Same Place” (1999)

32. a Why did Cliff bring Skloot to the family cemetery? b How does race continue to play a role in communities like Clover?

33. Why do the “white” and “colored” Lacks families have different beliefs about their interconnections?

Chapter 17: Illegal, Immoral, and Deplorable (1954—1966)

34. What were the justifications given for Southam’s failure to inform his subjects?

35. What is your reaction to Southam’s comment (p.134) on why he did not inject himself?

Chapter 18: “Strangest Hybrid” (1960—1966)

36. a Why were scientists worried that cell and tissue research was becoming a disaster? b What seemed to be going wrong?

37. a Why did the Cell Culture Committee want to create a reference collection of cells? b Why was it so important that these cells came directly from the original source?

38. a Do you approve or not approve of the idea of scientists creating human-animal hybrids for research? b Why?

Chapter 19: “The Most Critical Time on This Earth Is Now” (1966-1973)

39. What shocking news do you think Deborah is about to get, and how well do you think she will handle it?

Chapter 20: The HeLa Bomb (1966)

40. a What was the theory of spontaneous transformation? b What significance did Gartler’s findings have for this theory?

41. Why was this report referred to as the “HeLa Bomb”?

42. Why will the effort to develop markers for HeLa contamination require contacting the Lacks family?


43. Suppose Henrietta Lacks had been your mother or grandmother. a Would you be as upset as the Lacks family members? b Why or why not?


44. a Would you volunteer to serve as a subject in medical research, as George Gey did? b Why or why not?

45. a What is the difference between epidermoid carcinoma and adenocarcinoma? b Would a correct diagnosis have changed the way Henrietta Lacks was treated?

46. Why was HeLa contamination a problem for research seeking a cancer virus?

47. Why was the finding that HeLa cells had contaminated Russian cancer cell research considered so newsworthy?
48. How could McKusick and his investigators have explained what they were doing in a way that made sense to the Lacks family?
49. How would you feel if you discovered that investigators had taken cells or tissues from some member of your family without consent?
50. How are ethical standards for research on humans today treated differently than they were in the 1970s?

Chapter 24: “Least They Can Do” (1975)
51. Do you think that Johns Hopkins should be penalized or required to reimburse the Lacks family for using Henrietta Lacks’ tissue samples to develop and distribute HeLa?
52. The Science article by McKusick and Hsu, published in 1976, provided identifying genetic information about members of the Lacks family. AShould that have been done? BWhy is this illegal today?

53. AIf your blood had been used to create a new vaccine, would you be satisfied knowing that others would benefit from your contribution, or would you feel that you should be financially rewarded? BHow much do you think you should get, and how much should the developers get?

Chapter 26: Breach of Privacy (1981—1985)
54. ADo you think that federal rules regarding patient confidentiality are necessary? BWhy?
55. ADo you think Michael Gold should have published the information on Henrietta Lacks without receiving permission from her family? BDid he make enough of an effort to contact them?

56. What role do telomeres play in determining how many times a cell can divide?
57. What is the Hayflick Limit?

Chapter 33: The Hospital for the Negro Insane (2001)
58. What was your reaction to the description of the conditions and studies being done at Crownsville back in the 1950s?
59. Paul Lurz said, “Sometimes learning can be just as painful as not knowing.” ADo you think that was true for Deborah? BCan you think of situations in your own life where this has been true?

Chapter 36: Heavenly Bodies (2001)
60. AWhich explanation for the immortality of Henrietta’s cells seems better, or more correct, to you? BWhy?

Chapter 38: The Long Road to Clover (2009)
61. Why did Deborah come to such a different position regarding getting money for her mother’s cells?
62. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following? Explain your position on each.
   a. Johns Hopkins should pay the Lacks for taking Henrietta Lacks’ cells without informing her.
   b. The companies that are selling HeLa cell lines should pay the Lacks family for the right to use those cells.
   c. People should not be permitted to sell any body parts or tissues.
   d. The Lacks family should be proud that the mother’s cells have benefited so many people, but they are not entitled to any financial compensation.