**`The Emperor of All Maladies Homework Assignment**

Your answers to these questions do not need to be very long, 2-4 sentences should be sufficient. Please remember that all written work that you submit should be written in your own words. Do not copy or quote phrases from any other source including books, the internet, a classmate, or other source.

1. Some people may consider Sidney Farber's antifolate clinical trials in the late 1940s to be a failure because all of the children he treated ultimately died from their disease. However, Mukherjee tells us that Farber "saw a door open—briefly, seductively" (p. 36) after doing these studies. What does this mean? Why did the work that Farber did in these early clinical trials of antifolates in leukemia signify a major turning point in the world of cancer research?

Although Farber’s antifolate trials did not cure leukemia, he saw temporary remissions where white blood cell counts fell and children briefly returned to normal life—this was the “door opening.”

The significance was that it proved chemicals could directly attack cancer, challenging the belief that only surgery or comfort care were possible.

These results marked the birth of chemotherapy and a turning point in cancer research.

1. How is the early history of cancer chemotherapy linked to colonialism, the Industrial Revolution, and World Wars One and Two?

The roots of cancer chemotherapy tie closely to global history.

Colonialism and the Industrial Revolution spurred Germany’s synthetic dye industry, which laid the chemical foundation for modern drugs.

In World War I, mustard gas exposure revealed its effect on white blood cells, suggesting therapeutic potential.

During World War II, further accidents and secret U.S.-funded research led to nitrogen mustard, the first chemotherapy drug, which achieved remission in lymphoma patients.