Name: \_\_\_Gage Farmer\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Writing Project ID: Part 4 of 5 (40 points) // Chapters 24-31 of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***

**Part I. Short answers (1 point each)**

1. Who was Michael Rogers?

A writer for the Rolling Stone, and the first reporter to ever contact Henrietta’s family.

1. How much profit did Johns Hopkins and George Gey make off HeLa cells?

There was no record of them accepting money for the cells, however other companies which developed and sold them independently made a “buttload” (G. Farmer, 2022) of money.

1. Why was continuing to see John Moore for treatment so important to Dr. Golde?

Because he was using his cells to patent and produce ‘Mo’, which produced extremely valuable proteins and would be able to make Dr. Golde millions of dollars.

1. What was Deborah’s reaction to what she read in Michael Gold’s book *A Conspiracy of Cells: One Woman’s Immortal Legacy and the Medical Scandal It Caused*?

She was incredibly upset by reading what had been done, and seeing her mother’s corpse split in half and filled with tumors and other disgusting stuff. It affected her greatly, and had caused her to lose sleep from crying and thinking about the photo. She also became angry at the hospital, and her brothers for giving her mother’s hospital records to the reporters, though she didn’t know exactly who did it.

1. What was Robert Stevenson’s conclusion about HeLa cells?

He said that it was much easier to do science when you separate the materials used from the people in which they originated, so that’s why most scientists rarely mention how HeLa cells as coming from Henrietta.

# Part II: Short Answer (3-5 sentences) (5 points)

* 1. Explain the actions and implications of Sir Lord Keenan Kester Cofield.

Initially, it seemed as though Cofield was a relative of the Lackses who wanted to help them seek justice for what Hopkins had done to their mother. As he attempted to see through the medical records of Henrietta, the hospital had a background check done on him which had revealed that he was a notorious con artist, who has had numerous counts of fraud against him. This showed that his true intentions were not to help the Lacks family, rather to cash in on their misfortune, which would likely also result in the family getting into trouble with the law. Soon after being denied access to the records, he very predictably filed a lawsuit against anyone who could have been even remotely related to the situation, including the Lacks family. Ultimately, this was an attempt by him to make some money by filing a lawsuit (scamming) the Lackses, and scaring them into paying him off or something. It did not work.

# Part III: Essay Questions (8-10 sentences/each) (15 points/each)

1. Explain two of Zakariyya’s points in chapter 30. Then, agree or disagree on each and support your answers.

When the author corrected him in calling George Gey “George Grey”, he snapped back and said how it doesn’t matter since Gey was going around calling their mother “Helen Lane”. This is a very good point, as his mistake was incredibly minor in the face of the misinformation that Gey had spread about their mother. It showed how far separated the cells had been from the actual person they came from in the eyes of the scientists, while this clearly upset Zakariyya and the rest of the family. The other point of his was how Henrietta’s cells were stolen by the hospital, and that it was very wrong of them to have lied about this while profiting off of the cells. Zakariyya had said “That’s like hanging a sign on our backs saying, ‘I’m a sucker, kick me in my butt.’ This is again a very agreeable point, as while there was technically consent given through paperwork signed by Henrietta, the hospital knew that she wasn’t able to read what she was signing. Despite this, the hospital hadn’t bothered to inform her of what they were doing, and continued to mistreat her, resulting in death by overdose of radium.

1. Analyze Deborah. Give specific details from chapters 29 and 31 to support your analysis. What are her motives when talking to and traveling with Rebecca?

Deborah seems to be the one of the siblings with the closest relationship to Henrietta, as shown by her saying “I’m the one doing all the worrying about our mother”, and showing the author her streak of grey hair. This reveals how taxing it has been on her to have had to deal with all of the people contacting her, wishing to find out more about her mother, and how not knowing as much as she would like to about the situation has affected her. Later on, when shown the photo of the cells and given the invitation to come to a laboratory to see the cells in person, Deborah gets visibly excited. From this, one can see how adamant she is to learn more about her mother, and again how her close relationship with Henrietta has affected her during this situation. When seeing how she’s reacted to the information about her mother, her motives in talking to and travelling with Rebecca are clear in that she is trying to find out as much as she can about her mother. Not only this, but when she first spoke with Rebecca about agreeing to speak with her, she said she wanted to get the story set straight about not only Henrietta, but the rest of the Lacks family as well.