

Applied Practice
in

*The Immortal Life of
Henrietta Lacks*
PRE-AP/AP**

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RESOURCE GUIDE

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APPLIED PRACTICE
Resource Guide
The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Pre-AP*/AP* Version

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GLOSSARY OF LITERARY TERMS

- absolute**—a word free from limitations or qualifications (“best,” “all,” “unique,” “perfect”)
- adage**—a familiar proverb or wise saying
- ad hominem* argument**—an argument attacking an individual’s character rather than his or her position on an issue
- allegory**—a literary work in which characters, objects, or actions represent abstractions
- alliteration**—the repetition of initial sounds in successive or neighboring words
- allusion**—a reference to something literary, mythological, or historical that the author assumes the reader will recognize
- analogy**—a comparison of two different things that are similar in some way
- anaphora**—the repetition of words or phrases at the beginning of consecutive lines or sentences
- anecdote**—a brief narrative that focuses on a particular incident or event
- antecedent**—the word, phrase, or clause to which a pronoun refers
- antithesis**—a statement in which two opposing ideas are balanced
- aphorism**—a concise statement that expresses succinctly a general truth or idea, often using rhyme or balance
- apostrophe**—a figure of speech in which one directly addresses an absent or imaginary person, or some abstraction
- archetype**—a detail, image, or character type that occurs frequently in literature and myth and is thought to appeal in a universal way to the unconscious and to evoke a response
- argument**—a statement of the meaning or main point of a literary work
- asyndeton**—a construction in which elements are presented in a series without conjunctions

**VOCABULARY LIST FOR
*THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS***

Note: Vocabulary from the passage is listed first, followed by vocabulary from the questions and answers.

Passage 1

squat
gibberish
metronome
idyllic

condescending
sanitized
resourceful
coveted
novel

Passage 2

biopsy
pathology
carcinoma
cervix
epithelial
palpable
hysterectomy
malignant
dearth
clinical
replenish
ward
mutations

respectively
avuncular
warranted
grandiose
ruefully

Passage 3

symposium
manic
monotone

imperiousness
resonate
verbatim
tangential
misnomer

Directions: This part consists of selections from *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* and questions on their content, form, and style. After reading a passage, choose the best answer to each question.

Note: Pay particular attention to the requirement of questions that contain the word NOT, LEAST, or EXCEPT.

Passage 1, Questions 1-8. Read the passage from Chapter 2 of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, “Clover” that begins at the chapter’s beginning and ends “holes in the freshly turned red dirt” (pages 18-24) carefully before you choose your answers.

1. The first seven paragraphs (ending “then as his wife”) could best be characterized as
 - (A) omniscient narration that includes touches of humor
 - (B) scholarly in presentation and somewhat condescending in tone
 - (C) a sanitized version of what life was like for the Lacks family
 - (D) straightforward description that includes several surprising details
 - (E) the author’s attempt to differentiate Henrietta from the rest of her family

2. The next five paragraphs (“As children . . . the smell of fresh biscuits”) are most notable for the author’s use of
 - (A) specific, concrete details
 - (B) colloquial language
 - (C) intentional exaggeration
 - (D) information from various sources
 - (E) contradictory images

3. Why does the author include the information that the white children “threw rocks and taunted” Henrietta?
 - (A) To emphasize Henrietta’s determination to become educated
 - (B) To arouse curiosity about why they resented Henrietta so much
 - (C) To note an important aspect of society in this time and place
 - (D) To highlight the unusually violent character of Clover
 - (E) To foreshadow Henrietta’s future treatment by white people

4. In her discussion of the cousins (“If the weather was nice . . . the smell of fresh biscuits”), the author characterizes them as
 - (A) careless and carefree
 - (B) childlike and resourceful
 - (C) lazy yet endearing
 - (D) discouraged yet persevering
 - (E) practical and unimaginative

Question 4

(Suggested time—40 minutes)

Read the passage from Chapter 28 of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, “After London,” that begins “Sir Lord Keenan Kester Cofield” and ends “who has become the victim of a small, but big time fraud” (pages 225-229). Then, in a well-organized essay, discuss how the author uses the resources of language, including diction and selection of detail, to illuminate Cofield’s character for the reader.