

### Practice Cold-Read Task

Read “Henrietta Lacks’ ‘Immortal’ Cells” by Sarah Zielinski. Then answer the questions.

#### 1. Part A

Read this sentence from paragraph 7 of the article:

... the cells, in a sense, took over their lives.

What does the phrase “took over their lives” imply about the Lacks family?

- a. They felt cheated by companies making profits from sale of HeLa samples.
- b. They became more and more devoted to preserving the memory of Henrietta Lacks.
- c. They focused most of their attention and energy on getting compensated by the sale of HeLa samples.
- d. They felt used by people who kept them ignorant of Henrietta’s role in scientific advancements.

#### Part B

Which evidence **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “The scientists didn’t know that the family didn’t understand.” (paragraph 8)
- b. “... could those cells help scientists tell her about her mother ...” (paragraph 9)
- c. “... people were selling vials of their mother’s cells ... the family didn’t get any of the resulting money ...” (paragraph 10)
- d. “So the family launched a campaign to get some of what they felt they were owed ...” (paragraph 10)

2. Which statement **best** explains how Sarah Zielinski introduces and develops her points in the article about Henrietta Lacks?

- a. Zielinski explains how her interest in the Henrietta Lacks story began then provides details about the first immortal human tissue sample and tells why it has been both important and controversial.
- b. Zielinski explains the need for using human tissue samples then introduces Rebecca Skloot who gives an account of her experiences of researching the origin of the HeLa cells.
- c. Zielinski explains how the first immortal human cells were found then provides Rebecca Skloot's answers to questions about the importance of using human tissue samples, the Lacks family's responses to learning of its link to the HeLa cells, and the issues arising from their discovery and use.
- d. D. Zielinski explains the importance of the first human tissue samples to live and their widespread use, the reason for the confusion about those samples as well as the ethical issues faced by the Lacks family after learning they had not shared in profits from the sale of the HeLa samples.

3. Which sentence **best** states Rebecca Skloot's point of view concerning the HeLa tissue samples?

- a. Skloot believes the family of Henrietta Lacks should share in the gains from the widespread use of the HeLa tissue samples.
- b. Skloot thinks the moral and ethical issues brought up by the identification of the original source of the HeLa tissue samples will not be resolved to the satisfaction of all involved.
- c. Skloot seems to side with the scientific community which sees the medical advances from using human tissue samples as being more important than the feelings or wishes of donors.
- d. Skloot remains mostly objective in reporting the Lacks family's discovery of the use of their mother's tissue samples and in discussing the ethical issues arising out of scientific use of them.

#### 4. Part A

How does the section “And for the rest of us?” contribute to the development of ideas in the article?

- a. It reinforces the arguments in the article that the wishes and concerns of the Lacks family have been overlooked and misunderstood.
- b. It attempts to balance criticisms that the use of human tissue samples can be seen as unethical, or that it disregards the rights of individuals.
- c. It connects to researchers’ failures to consider donors important enough to get informed consent for their tissue samples.
- d. It supports the idea that growing human cells in culture is necessary for advancement in modern life even though it may seem to ignore the preferences of individuals.

#### Part B

Which **two** pieces of evidence from the article **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “A doctor at Johns Hopkins took a piece of her tumor without telling her and sent it down the hall to scientists who had been trying to grow tissues in culture for decades without success.” (paragraph 2)
- b. “Many scientific landmarks since then have used her cells, including cloning, gene mapping and in vitro fertilization.” (paragraph 3)
- c. “Today, anonymizing samples is a very important part of doing research on cells.” (paragraph 4)
- d. “But that wasn’t something doctors worried about much in the 1950s, so they weren’t terribly careful about her identity.” (paragraph 4)
- e. “HeLa cells were the first human biological materials ever bought and sold, which helped launch a multi-billion-dollar industry.” (paragraph 10)
- f. “For scientists, one of the lessons is that there are human beings behind every biological sample used in the laboratory. (paragraph 11)

- g. "The real story is much more subtle and complicated." (paragraph 12)

5. What are **two** central ideas developed in the article?

- a. The identification of Henrietta Lacks as the source of HeLa tissue samples prompted the scientific community to reexamine its practice of acquiring human biological tissue samples.
- b. The issues raised by using human biological tissue samples show that the practice, though valuable to scientific research, raises many ethical and practical concerns.
- c. The complicated science of research using human biological tissue samples disregards the privacy concerns of donors.
- d. Profits from the distribution of HeLa tissue samples should have been shared with the descendants of Henrietta Lacks.
- e. The Lacks family became involved in a series of events involving the use of Henrietta's tissue samples which resulted in groundbreaking scientific research but unfortunate consequences for them.
- f. All modern vaccines are developed using human biological tissue samples, so the practice is essential to modern medicine.
- g. Hearing about the identity of the first human to give tissue samples that remained alive prompted a teenager to imagine one day writing the story.

6. Write a multiparagraph essay that analyzes the pros and cons of modern science using human biological tissue samples. Use information from the article as well as any other related articles read in this unit to support your analysis. Be sure to observe the conventions of standard English.

Tasks required by the answer prompt:

Thesis statement:

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State the <b>advantage</b> in your own words.	Evidence from the text.	Why does the evidence explain your advantage?
State the <b>disadvantage</b> in your own words.	Evidence from the text.	Why does the evidence explain your disadvantage?

Introduction: Use a quote, anecdote, or surprising fact about Henrietta Lacks to start your essay.

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Conclusion: Explain the significance of the topic to society or explain what society should do after weighing the pros and cons of human tissue samples.

### Practice Cold-Read Task Answer Sheet

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Part A

\_\_\_\_\_ Part B

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Part A

\_\_\_\_\_ Part B

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Part A

\_\_\_\_\_ Part B

4. \_\_\_\_\_ Part A

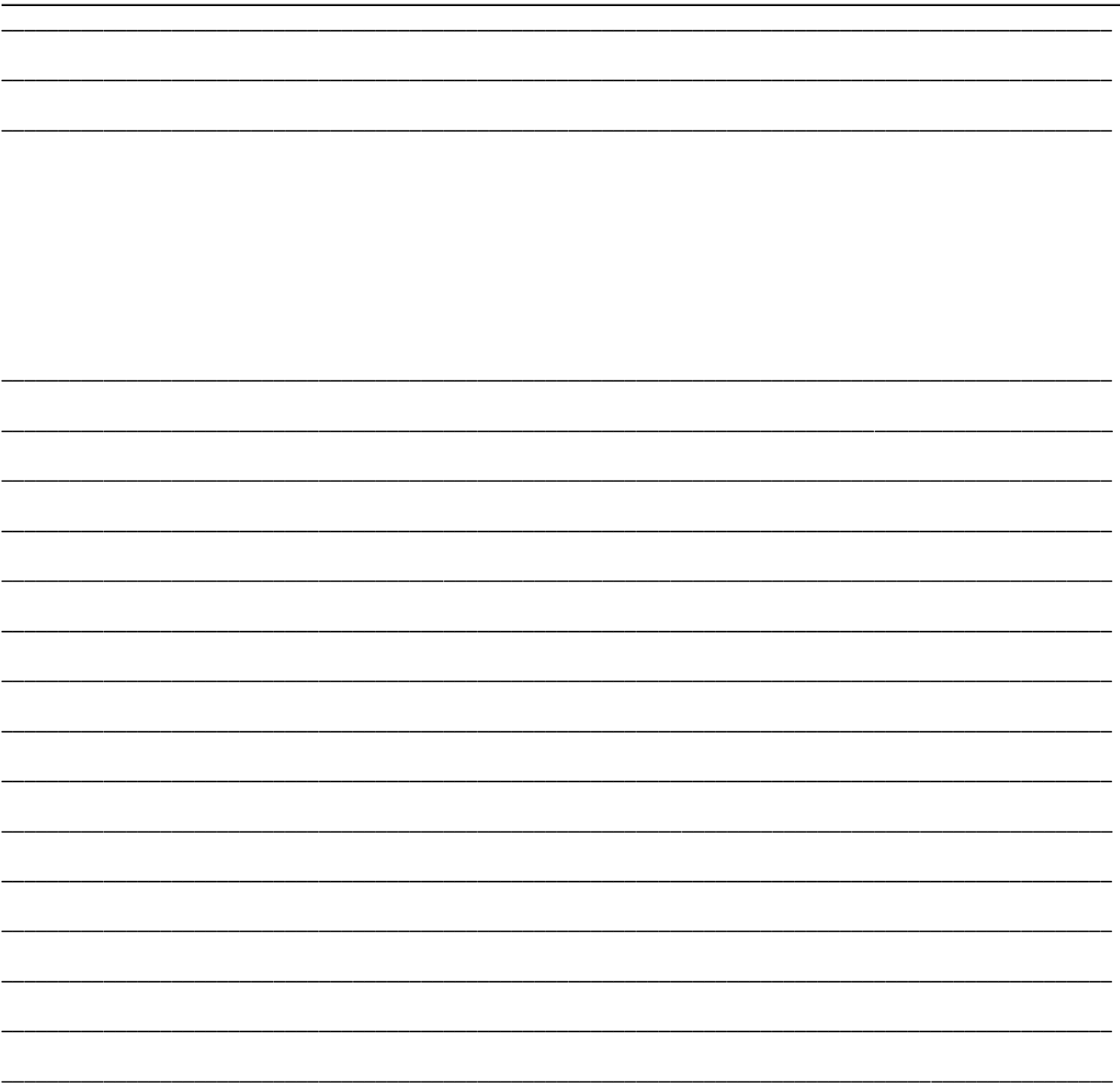
\_\_\_\_\_ Part B

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Part A

\_\_\_\_\_ Part B

6.

Tasks required by the answer prompt:











1.      C      Part A  
     D      Part B

2.      C

**RI.9-10.3; RI.9-10.1**

3. \_\_\_D\_\_\_

**RI.9-10.3; RI.9-10.1**

4. \_\_\_B\_\_\_ Part A  
\_\_\_F, G\_\_\_ Part B

**RI.9-10.3; RI.9-10.1**

5. \_\_\_B, E\_\_\_

**RI.9-10.3; RI.9-10.1**