**Answer Key: Spellbound Episode 2 Kristala L. Jones Prather: Video Questions**

**Instructions**
While watching the video, answer the following questions:

1. Where did Kristala L. Jones Prather grow up?  
   Longview, TX

2. What did Kristala have an aptitude for as a child?  
   Mechanical aptitude, “tinkering” – programming the VCR, fixing the toilet, taking apart the sink, etc.

3. Who helped Kristala figure out what she wanted to study?  
   Her junior year AP world history teacher

4. Where did Kristala go to college?  
   MIT, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Ph.D. at University of California, Berkeley)

5. What company did Kristala work for before becoming a professor?  
   Merck Research Laboratories (pharmaceutical company)

6. What does Kristala’s research involve?  
   Genetically engineering microorganisms to produce useful materials like medication, biofuels, etc. (synthetic biology)

7. What special interests does Kristala have as a professor?  
   Encouraging young women and underrepresented minorities to stay in science, despite its frustrations.

After you watch the video, reflect on the following questions:

8. Kristala indicated that frustration is a normal part of studying science in graduate school, but she encourages her students not to give up. Describe a time when you encountered something difficult but pushed through and finished. Who encouraged you to keep trying? How did you feel when you finally achieved your goal or finished your project?  
   *Answers will vary.*
9. List at least three possible careers you might enjoy. Then list at least two adults in your life you could ask for guidance (family member, teacher or school administrator, neighbor, etc.) and why you chose those people. 
*Answers will vary.*

10. If you had the opportunity to ask Kristala one question (about anything – her work, her life, etc.), what would it be? 
*Answers will vary.*