

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

Rebecca Skloot

Study Guide

In 1951 a poor young black woman, Henrietta Lacks, was diagnosed with cervical cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Cells taken from her during that exam were used – without her knowledge – to develop the first immortal cell line. The cells, called HeLa, became one of the most important tools in medical research, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more, but Henrietta Lacks, the person who was the source of these cells, was virtually unknown, and her family was never informed about what had been achieved using her cells. Although their mother's cells have been bought and sold by the billions the Lacks family have received nothing from those cell lines, and cannot even afford health insurance today. This book tells the stories of HeLa and of Henrietta Lacks and her descendants, especially her daughter, Deborah, who was consumed with questions about the mother she never knew. At the same time it traces the history of cell research and examines the ethical and legal issues raised by this research.

About the Author

Rebecca Skloot is an award-winning science writer, with a B.S. in biological sciences and an MFA in creative writing. She first heard about Henrietta Lacks and HeLa in a community college biology class when she was 16. As she continued her studies she became fixated on the idea of telling Henrietta's. She spent over a decade researching and writing this story, which has been translated into over 25 languages and is now being made into an HBO movie. She is also the founder and president of the Henrietta Lacks Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to needy individuals who have made important contributions to scientific research without personally benefitting from those contributions, particularly those used in research without their knowledge or consent.

Note to Instructors

This book combines two different stories: a narrative describing the fate of the Lacks family and another providing a very readable history of developments in cell biology and medical research and a consideration of the ethical issues involved in the use of tissues and cells taken from patients during diagnostic procedures. The author does an excellent job of braiding these two stories together, and provides the reader with a clear understanding of the ethical issues involved in this area. Each chapter begins with a time frame to help the reader understand the historical context of the topics covered there.

Study Guide For Henrietta Lacks

Elisabeta Chelsea Wade



Study Guide For Henrietta Lacks:

The Enigmatic Realm of **Study Guide For Henrietta Lacks**: Unleashing the Language is Inner Magic

In a fast-paced digital era where connections and knowledge intertwine, the enigmatic realm of language reveals its inherent magic. Its capacity to stir emotions, ignite contemplation, and catalyze profound transformations is nothing in short supply of extraordinary. Within the captivating pages of **Study Guide For Henrietta Lacks** a literary masterpiece penned by way of a renowned author, readers attempt a transformative journey, unlocking the secrets and untapped potential embedded within each word. In this evaluation, we shall explore the book's core themes, assess its distinct writing style, and delve into its lasting impact on the hearts and minds of those who partake in its reading experience.

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