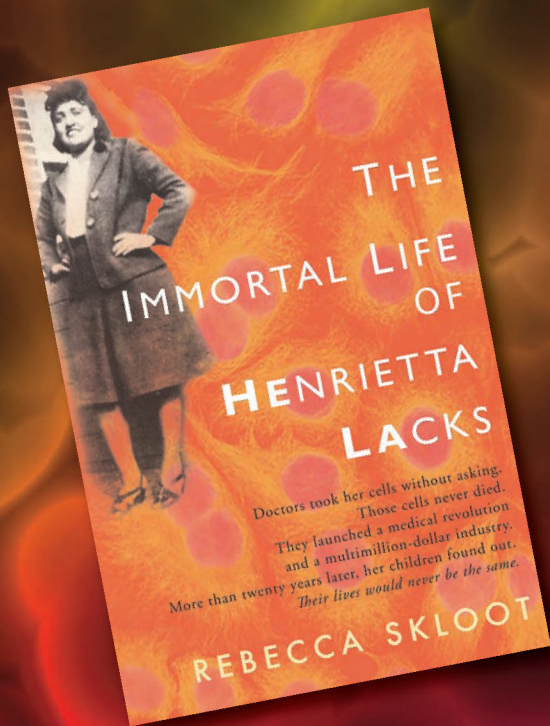


MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

Montclair Book 2012

A common reading experience
for first-year students



THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS

BY REBECCA SKLOOT



Montclair Book 2012, jointly sponsored by the Center for Writing Excellence, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the First-Year Writing Program, and Student Development and Campus Life, is a common reading experience for first-year students.

For more information, go to:
montclair.edu/cwe/MontclairBook



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FAQ for New Students

1. What is Montclair Book 2012?

Montclair Book 2012 is a campuswide program for the Montclair State community, jointly sponsored by the Center for Writing Excellence, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the First-Year Writing Program, and Student Development and Campus Life. Each year, a faculty advisory committee selects a book to be read by all incoming first-year students before they arrive. The goals for this program are to:

- Provide a common intellectual experience
- Engage in interdisciplinary dialogue and debate
- Build community around a shared understanding of relevant issues
- Celebrate the written word
- Offer opportunities for students to reflect on their roles as readers and learners
- Encourage campuswide engagement with the book's theme

2. Which book was chosen?

For our 2012 selection, the faculty advisory committee chose *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Here is an excerpt from the book:

There's a photo on my wall of a woman I've never met, its left corner torn and patched together with tape. She looks straight into the camera and smiles, hands on hips, dress suit neatly pressed, lips painted deep red. It's the late 1940s and she hasn't yet reached the age of thirty. Her light brown skin is smooth, her eyes still young and playful, oblivious to the tumor growing inside her—a tumor that would leave her five children motherless and change the future of medicine. Beneath the photo, a caption says her name is "Henrietta Lacks, Helen Lane or Helen Larson."

No one knows who took that picture, but it's appeared hundreds of times in magazines and science textbooks, on blogs and laboratory walls. She's usually identified as Helen Lane, but often she has no name at all. She's simply called HeLa, the code name given to the world's first immortal human cells...

3. Where do I get the book?

The book will be available in the Montclair State bookstore beginning in April.

4. When should I read it?

Your first assignment for college is to read the book this summer, before you come to campus for the fall semester. Begin early, and pace yourself.

5. How will I use this book?

Several ways. Here are some examples:

- Discussions in the New Student Seminar and other courses
- Theme-related events on campus
- Residence hall activities
- Keynote speaker
- Essay contest
- Placement into First-Year Writing classes (you will write an essay based on the book)

6. Where can I find more information?

The Montclair Book 2012 website will have lots of information. Go to: montclair.edu/cwe/MontclairBook You can also learn more about the author and the book by visiting her website: <http://rebeccasklout.com/>