

**TEACHER TOOLBOX:**

**The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,**

**by Rebecca Skloot**

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***~New Developments in the Henrietta Lacks Story~***

**BIG News in the continuing saga of Henrietta Lacks & HeLa! See Rebecca Skloot's Op Ed in *The New York Times*:**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/24/opinion/sunday/the-immortal-life-of-henrietta-lacks-the-sequel.html?\\_r=2&pagewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/24/opinion/sunday/the-immortal-life-of-henrietta-lacks-the-sequel.html?_r=2&pagewanted=all)

**From JoAnne Meyers: A follow-up report on WNYC on Skloot's Op Ed, \*above\* - this broadcast includes discussion with Skloot:**

[http://www.wnyc.org/npr\\_articles/2013/mar/26/sequencing-of-hela-genome-revives-genetic-privacy-concerns/](http://www.wnyc.org/npr_articles/2013/mar/26/sequencing-of-hela-genome-revives-genetic-privacy-concerns/)

**From Eleanor Bader: Some additional follow-up articles & blogs on the recent genome controversy:**

<http://portside.org/2013-03-30/hela-cancer-cells-brew-bioethical-storm>

**From Jennifer Radtke: Additional recent related articles from the NY Times:**

Similar misuse of medical experimentation (but worse!) in the 1940s on Guatemalans:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/05/opinion/guatemalans-used-in-experiments-deserve-compensation.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/05/opinion/guatemalans-used-in-experiments-deserve-compensation.html?_r=0)

And, how changing professional standards can ruin a sparkling reputation:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/health/link-to-ethical-scandals-tarnishes-prestigious-parran-award.html?ref=health?src=dayp>

**From Susan Lachman: BIG NY Times story from 4/11/13 -- "Study of Babies Did Not Disclose Risks, U.S. Finds" -- relates to the medical ethics questions so important to Rebecca Skloot's book:**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/11/health/parents-of-preemies-werent-told-of-risks-in-study.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit\\_th\\_20130411](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/11/health/parents-of-preemies-werent-told-of-risks-in-study.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130411)

**From Brian Katz: The NY Times Reports: "Justices Consider Whether Patents on Genes Are Valid":**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/15/business/as-court-considers-gene-patents-case-may-overlook-relevant-issues.html?src=recg>

From Robert Schenck: See this important article by Ivan Oransky detailing the discovery of a widely used bladder cancer line as actually being HeLa cells:

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/2013/03/11/more-hela-problems-for-decades-a-widely-used-bladder-cancer-line-hasnt-been-what-scientists-thought/>

From Robert Schenck: "*HeLa, a new microbial species.*" Lead author, Leigh Van Valen, came up with the well known "Red Queen Hypothesis". Here, he lays out a case for the HeLa cells being a new & distinct species. It'd tie in nicely to the book and also allow for discussion of various species concepts.

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/18310184/evolutionary-theory/vol-10/Vol.10%2CNo.2%2C%2071-74%2C%20L.Van%20Valen%20and%20V.C.%20Mairorana%2C%20HeLa%2C%20a%20new%20microbial%20species.pdf>

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### *~Video File Teaching Aids~*

This year's Inaugural Lecture by Professor Susan Farrell: "*What Price Immortality?*" Dr. Farrell's lecture serves as a wonderful teaching aid, for use in class or for teachers preparing to teach the book. Here's the link:

<http://kbvideo.kingsborough.edu/embed/5/>

**Black History Month and Women's History Month collaborative events:** panel discussions including several esteemed members of our KCC community and invited guests. These are also GREAT teaching tools. (Please note: at the beginning of the first video, the camera was positioned wrongly such that you do not see the first speaker. This problem is fixed within a few minutes however.) Here's the link:

*Black History Month Panel: The History of Black Struggle and the Struggle for Black History:*  
<http://kbvideo.kingsborough.edu/embed/121>

*Women's History Month Panel: Women Biologists Respond to Henrietta Lacks and 'HeLa':*  
<http://kbvideo.kingsborough.edu/embed/120>

*Women's History Month Panel: Women's Studies & Women's History: The Importance of the Henrietta Lacks Story:*  
<http://kbvideo.kingsborough.edu/embed/122>

Our KCC Reads Student Conference, May 2 2013, was a smashing success, with presentations by 165 Kingsborough students and participation of a whopping 600 KCC students, as well as large numbers of faculty, staff, alumni and retirees. A few important Videos from the Student Conference, 5/2/13:

*Poetry Session:* <http://kbvideo.kingsborough.edu/embed/125/>

***KCC Reads Keynote Lecture:*** Dr. Christoph Lengauer: ...

***"Immortal", Dramatic Performance*** in honor of Henrietta Lacks:  
<http://kbvideo.kingsborough.edu/embed/128/>

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***~Audio File Teaching Aids~***

Excellent *RadioLab* segment, which aired 11/3/12, with involvement of author, Rebecca Skloot:

<http://www.radiolab.org/2010/may/17/henriettas-tumor/>

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***~Assignments & Teaching Materials~***

**A Teacher Toolbox:** an assortment of teaching ideas, from Prof Fadem:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BzFKnUy0tlbvLWZPTHRYTnJIX2s/edit>

**An research paper assignment,** on the Henrietta Lacks book, from Prof Susan Lachman:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BzFKnUy0tlbvWFNCRVZtSE5SbFU/edit?usp=sharing>

**In-class Discussion Topics,** from Prof Devon Greyson:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BzFKnUy0tlbvM21EYU0wTnpLVHM/edit>

**A blog or journal assignment** you might adapt, from Prof Rachel Griffin:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BzFKnUy0tlbvQUpJUVVmWmM2UVE/edit>

**A CAT-W Prompt or essay assignment,** from Prof Meg Feeley:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BzFKnUy0tlbvcHMxZXFZQmlERnM/edit>

**Additional Essay Prompts,** from Prof Meg Feeley:

<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0BzFKnUy0tlbvUnk4bWhhZy1tdkk/edit>

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***~Online Teaching Resources~***

From Sylviane Baumflek: St. Bonaventure site with good resources and reader's guide with timeline:

[https://www.sbu.edu/academic\\_resources.aspx?id=34334](https://www.sbu.edu/academic_resources.aspx?id=34334)

**A lesson plan for teaching *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* from the University of MD:**

<http://fyb.umd.edu/2011/lesson-plan-henrietta-lacks-context.html>

**Suggested Discussion Questions on the Book, from the University of WI, Madison:**

<http://www.gobigread.wisc.edu/Discussion-Toolkit/Questions2011.pdf>

**From the Center for Ethics in Science and Technology, Open Learning Commons:**

<http://www.openlearningcommons.com/resources>

**The Random House, Inc. Teacher's Guide for the Book:**

[http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/teachers\\_guides/9781400052172.pdf](http://www.randomhouse.com/catalog/teachers_guides/9781400052172.pdf)

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**KCC Reads Coordinator, Maureen Fadem, has paper copies of the following additional teaching resources:**

"Life After Death: An Activity To Investigate The Scientific, Legal, & Racial Issues Of The Henrietta Lacks Story," by Stacy Baker. Published in: *American Biology Teacher* 73(6), 2011: 337-340. (Also available on *Academic Search Complete*.)

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