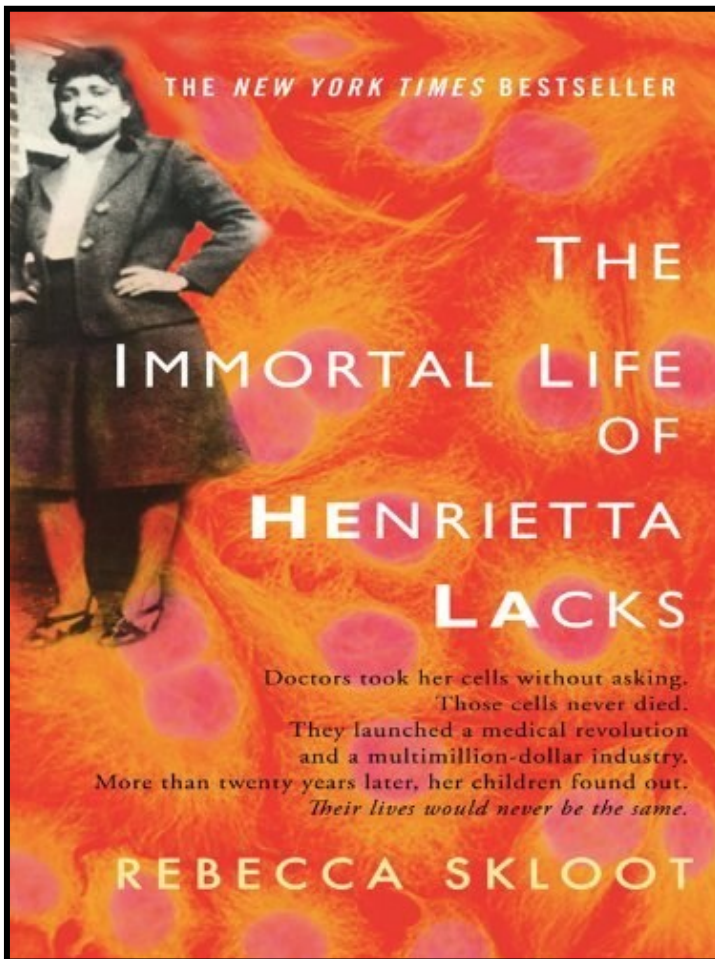


# Read, Think & Chat @ the library



**Tuesday, May 16  
6:30 pm**

**The Immortal Life of  
Henrietta Lacks  
by Rebecca Skloot**

“Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor Southern tobacco farmer who worked the same land as her slave ancestors, yet her cells--taken without her knowledge--became one of the most important tools in medicine. The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they’d weigh more than 50 million metric tons--as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings. HeLa cells were vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the atom bomb’s effects; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.”

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**Perkiomen Valley Library at Schwenksville**

A branch of Montgomery County Norristown Public Library

290 Second Street, Schwenksville, PA 19473

610-287-8360

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