



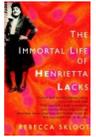
# Season's Readings 2010

From the Staff of the Francis A. Drexel Library at Saint Joseph's University

Sarah Bolce

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

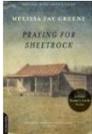
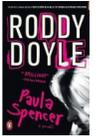
An impoverished, uneducated woman, Lacks' cancer cells were taken without her knowledge during surgery. Unlike most other cells taken from people, Lacks' were found to be "immortal". The cells have been used in experiments that led to many medical and scientific advances in the last half century. Skloot not only covers the medical and scientific facts, but weaves in sociological and cultural aspects as well.



Evelyn Minick

**Paula Spencer** by Roddy Doyle

Long widowed from her abusive husband and four months sober, Paula deals with the vivid memories of the mother she was and wasn't. In her gritty Dublin dialogue, Paula shares her herculean struggles and you'll cheer when she finally sees a glimmer of a normal life.



**Praying for Sheetrock** by Melissa Greene

I don't know how I missed this one, what a treasure. The Civil Rights movement bypassed this small backwoods Georgia county until the 1970's, when a poor black shop steward takes on the corrupt white county sheriff who has his hand in every racket. As the author says, "This is a story of large and important things happening in a very little place."

Linda Kubala

**Room: A Novel** by Emma Donoghue

This novel is presented in the voice of 5-year-old Jack, whose world has been defined by an 11ft-square room. Jack and his mother survive years of confinement and tremendous change. The story is a thriller, a crime story, and most of all a story of love, innocence, hope, and survival.



Marjorie Rathbone

**Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet** by Jamie Ford

Jamie Ford's debut novel begins during a sad chapter in American WWII history when Japanese-American citizens were rounded up and sent to internment camps to prevent them from collaborating with the enemy. Explored on a very personal level through the innocent but deep love between a young Chinese boy and his Japanese schoolmate, Ford shows us the damage done to the dignity and humanity of these people and the resilience they displayed in surviving the experience. Interwoven in the story is the tension that can exist between father and son. This is a gentle, bittersweet story that is ultimately a story of love, commitment and enduring hope.



Naomi Cohen

**Elsewhere, USA: How We Got from the Company Man, Family Dinners, and the Affluent Society to the Home Office, BlackBerry Moms, and Economic Anxiety** by Dalton Conley

A sociologist reveals how technology and capitalism have shaped the way life is experienced by the individual in contemporary American society.



**Book: A Novel** by Robert Grudin

A hilarious satire of academia, in which a book is murdered, the footnotes revolt, and the blurbs on the back cover are written by the characters themselves. An added bonus for today's reader is a look back at the state of computer technology, ca. 1990.

Margie Guinan

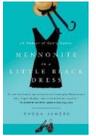
**Look Again** by Lisa Scottoline

A gripping adoption tale and a mother's worst fear.



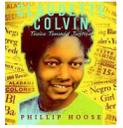
Mary Martinson  
and  
Marian Courtney

***Mennonite in a Little Black Dress: A Memoir of Going Home*** by Rhoda Janzen  
At the end of a 15-year marriage, Rhoda Janzen temporarily moves back home with her parents and reminisces about her Mennonite upbringing. Written with much love, this is both a touching and hilarious, laugh-out-loud book.



Michael Brooks

***Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice*** by Phillip Hoose  
Nine months before Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, sparking the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Claudette Colvin, a young high school girl, made the same courageous stand.



Catherine Collins

***Remarkable Creatures: A Novel*** by Tracy Chevalier  
This fictionalized account of the scientific discoveries of amateur fossil hunters Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot and their relationship in nineteenth-century England is beautifully written, informative, and a lovely tribute to two fascinating women.



Christopher Dixon

***War*** by Sebastian Junger  
An embedded journalist writes about the combat experience and its personal toll on a U.S. Army airborne platoon serving in what has been described as one of the deadliest places on earth, the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan.



***An Eagle Named Freedom: My True Story of a Remarkable Friendship***  
by Jeff Guidry  
The uplifting account of how a relationship developed between an injured bald eagle and a wildlife volunteer and helped each of them overcome life-threatening adversity.



Martha VanAuken

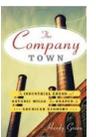
***Call Me Mrs. Miracle*** by Debbie Macomber  
Holly Larson's single life gets complicated when her widowed brother gets shipped out to Afghanistan and leaves his 8-year-old son Gabe with her for next 15 months. Jake Finley is the son of the owner of Finley's Department Store and is the toy department manager. Proving to his father that he knows his job, he places a large order for a new toy going over the sales rep's head. Holly and Jake meet and Gabe falls for Telly the robot. With the help of Mrs. Miracle, things start to heat up in all departments with a surprise ending.



***The Weight of Silence*** by Heather Gudenkauf  
It happens quietly one August morning. As dawn's shimmering light drenches the humid Iowa air, two families awaken to find their little girls have gone missing in the night. Cali, a 7-year-old who suffers from selective mutism since the age of 4, and her best friend, Petra, are missing. This story tells of love, close friendship, acceptance, and of a family living with a terrible secret.

Cynthia Slater

***The Company Town: The Industrial Edens and Satanic Mills that Shaped the American Economy*** by Hardy Green  
This 2010 history covers the company town in America from Lowell, Massachusetts and Hershey, Pennsylvania, to Bell Labs and Googleplex.



Also recommended:

***Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City***  
by Greg Grandin

