NEA Big Read broadens our understanding of our world, our communities and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.

NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

Generously supported by the Friends of the Ferguson Library and offered in partnership with UConn Stamford and Stamford Stands Against Racism.
Visit our NEA Big Read page at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read

**BOOK GIVEAWAYS** at all Ferguson Library locations and select Bookmobile stops while copies last.

The library has copies of *Beloved* available to borrow in several formats – book, audiobook, e-audio and e-book. If you would prefer reading an e-book edition, download it from OverDrive with the Libby app. No waiting time. We have simultaneous access through October.

Schedule subject to change. For updates, please check our NEA Big Read page which can be found under Events on our website.

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

*Throughout the month of October:*

**Documentary Screening:**
*Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*
View the documentary, *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*, available on Hoopla and DVD.

**Keynote Speaker—Valerie Smith, President of Swarthmore College**

*Thursday, October 7 at 6:30*
Main Library, DiMattia Building, Third Floor Auditorium

Valerie Smith is a Toni Morrison scholar and author of *Toni Morrison: Writing the Moral Imagination*. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. (Also available via Zoom. Check our online calendar for Zoom login.)

**Book Discussions**

Pick up your free copy at any Ferguson Library location prior to discussions. For virtual book discussions, check our online calendar for Zoom login.

*Weed Memorial & Hollander Branch*
Monday, October 4 at 11:30 via Zoom

*Main Library, DiMattia Building*
*Third Floor Board Room*
Tuesday, October 12 at 7

*Mill River Park*
*Great Lawn*
Friday, October 15 at 11

*Harry Bennett Branch*
Monday, October 18 at 7 via Zoom

*South End Branch*
Monday, October 25 at 7
(also via Zoom)

**The NEA Big Read Kick-off: Community Quilt Project**
Saturday, October 2 from 11 to 2
Main Library, DiMattia Building, First Floor Lobby
Create your square to add to the community quilt. All ages.
Healing from Trauma—Exploring the Personal Grief Process through the Lens of Toni Morrison’s Beloved with Allison Bass-Riccio

Wednesday, October 13 at 6:30
Main Library, DiMattia Building, Third Floor Auditorium

Allison Bass-Riccio currently serves as department chair and teacher of English literature at Cheshire Academy, a boarding school in Cheshire. Additionally, she is coordinator of the Campus Writing Center and house head of a girls’ dorm. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. (Also available via Zoom. Check our online calendar for Zoom login.)

The Work and World of Toni Morrison with Grégory Pierrot

Monday, October 18 at 6:30
Main Library, DiMattia Building, Third Floor Auditorium


Art Show Opening

Thursday, October 21 from 6 to 8
Main Library, DiMattia Building, Third Floor Auditorium

Opening of Fragments of Memory art exhibit. Co-sponsored by the Stamford Art Association. Pictured: When a Door Opens by Mary Ann Glass.

Gothic Elements in Toni Morrison’s Beloved with Blessing Diala-Ogamba

Wednesday, October 27 at 6:30 via Zoom

Blessing Diala-Ogamba is a professor of English at Coppin State University in Baltimore, MD. She is the co-author of Literary Crossroads: An International Exploration of Women, Gender, and Otherhood; and Emerging Perspectives on Akachi Adimora-Ezeigbo. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. Zoom details will be included in registration confirmation.

The Finale: Friends of Ferguson Author Series Event

Meet Farah Jasmine Griffin

Author of Read Until You Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature

Monday, November 1 at 6:30
Main Library, DiMattia Building, Third Floor Auditorium

Farah Jasmine Griffin was the inaugural chair of the African American and African Diaspora Studies Department at Columbia University, where she is also William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature. She is the author of numerous books and the recipient of a 2021 Guggenheim Fellowship. She is also in the documentary Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am. (Morrison personally selected her as one of the few scholars to speak about her work in the film, which played in theaters and on PBS.) Book sale and signing. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. (Also available via Zoom. Check our online calendar for Zoom login.)
The Library will also host companion book discussions for children and teens. Our young reader's selections are *Sugar* by Jewell Parker Rhodes and *Crossing Ebenezer Creek* by Tonya Bolden. Copies of both titles are available at the library.

**The People Could Fly:**
**A Storytelling Program**

*Saturday, October 9 at 11 via Zoom*

Selections from the book by Virginia Hamilton. Grade 2 and up. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. Zoom details will be included in registration confirmation.

---

**A Conversation with Jewell Parker Rhodes, Author of *Sugar***

*Saturday, October 23 at 2 via Zoom*

Jewell Parker Rhodes is an award-winning and bestselling author. In addition to *Sugar*, winner of the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, she is also the author of *Ninth Ward*, winner of a Coretta Scott King Honor, and the *New York Times*-bestselling *Ghost Boys*. Grades 3 and up. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. Zoom details will be included in registration confirmation.

---

**Book Discussions**

**Crossing Ebenezer Creek by Tonya Bolden**

*Tuesday, October 14 at 7 via Zoom*

When Mariah and her young brother Zeke are suddenly freed from slavery, they set out on Sherman's long march through Georgia during the Civil War. Mariah wants to believe that the brutalities of slavery are behind them forever and that freedom lies ahead. But even hope comes at a cost, and as the treacherous march continues toward the churning waters of Ebenezer Creek, Mariah's dreams are as vulnerable as ever. For teens in grades 6 and up. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. Zoom details will be included in registration confirmation.

**Sugar by Jewell Parker Rhodes**

*Tuesday, October 19 at 7 via Zoom*

In 1870, Reconstruction brings big changes to the Louisiana sugar plantation where spunky ten-year-old Sugar has always lived, including her friendship with Billy, the son of her former master, and the arrival of workmen from China. For kids in grades 4 to 6. Registration required. Register online at fergusonlibrary.org/nea-big-read. Zoom details will be included in registration confirmation.

---

“You are your best thing.”

–Toni Morrison,

*Beloved*