



# The Bluest Eye: A Virtual Public Reading

## PART ONE

[LINK TO PART ONE](#)

: Wed Feb 23rd @ 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 4pm PT

Foreword		Kimberlé Crenshaw
Opening		Jacqueline Woodson
Autumn		Mahogany L. Browne, Edwidge Danticat
Winter		Nikole Hannah-Jones, Glory Edim*

## PART TWO

[LINK TO PART TWO](#)

: Thurs Feb 24th @ 7pm ET / 6pm CT / 4pm PT

Spring		Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Jesmyn Ward*, Angela Davis*, Tayari Jones*
Summer		Leila Mottley, Jacqueline Woodson

\* These readings contain graphic adult and sexual content. Viewer and parental discretion advised.

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# Reader Bios



**Kimberlé Crenshaw** is the Co-founder and Executive Director of the African American Policy Forum, and the founder and Executive Director of the Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies at Columbia Law School. She is popularly known for her development of “intersectionality” and “Critical Race Theory.” Read more: <https://bit.ly/3v9GI76>



**Jacqueline Woodson** is the critically-acclaimed author of more than two dozen award-winning books for young adults, middle graders, and children, including New York Times bestsellers *Red at the Bone* and *Brown Girl Dreaming*. She is a four-time Newbery Honor winner and a three-time National Book Award finalist. Read more: <https://www.jacquelinewoodson.com/>



**Mahogany L. Browne** is the author of several books including *Swag & Dear Twitter: Love Letters Hashed Out On-line*, recommended by Small Press Distribution & listed as About.com Best Poetry Books of 2010. She has released five LPs and is co-founder of Brooklyn Slam. Read more: <https://mobrowne.com/index.html>



**Edwidge Danticat** is the author of *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, *Krik? Krak!*, *The Farming of Bones*, *The Dew Breaker*, *Anacaona*, *Golden Flower* and many more. Her essay *The Art of Death: Writing the Final Story (Graywolf)* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Criticism 2017. Read more: <https://edwidedanticat.com/>



**Nikole Hannah-Jones** is the Pulitzer Prize-winning creator of the 1619 Project and a staff writer at The New York Times Magazine. She has spent her career investigating racial inequality and injustice, and her reporting has earned her the MacArthur Fellowship. Read more: <https://nikolehannahjones.com/>

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**Glory Edim** is the founder of Well-Read Black Girl, a book club and digital platform that celebrates the uniqueness of Black literature and sisterhood. The winner of the Innovator's Award from the Los Angeles Times Book Prizes, Edim serves on the board of New York City's Housing Works Bookstore. Read more: <https://www.wellreadblackgirl.com/the-team>



**Honorée Fanonne Jeffers** is a fiction writer, poet, and essayist. She is the author of five poetry collections, including the 2020 collection *The Age of Phillis*, which won the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Poetry. She teaches creative writing and literature at University of Oklahoma. Read more: <https://honoreejeffers.com/>



**Jesmyn Ward** received her MFA from the University of Michigan and is currently a professor of creative writing at Tulane University. She is the author of the novels *Where the Line Bleeds* and *Salvage the Bones*, which won the 2011 National Book Award. Read more: <https://www.jesmynwardauthor.com/>



**Angela Davis** is an activist, philosopher, academic, scholar, and author who has been involved in social justice movements around the world. Her work as an educator – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasized the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial, and gender justice. She is the author of ten books and is a professor at the University of California Santa Cruz. Read more: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela\\_Davis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angela_Davis)



**Tayari Jones** is New York Times best-selling author and the author of four novels, most recently *An American Marriage*. The novel was awarded the Women's Prize for Fiction, Aspen Words Prize and an NAACP Image Award. Read more: <https://www.tayarijones.com/>



**Leila Mottley** is an author native to Oakland, California, with an interest in reflecting on institutional and individual inequity, liberation, and joy through writing. Leila has performed and run poetry workshops as the 2018 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate and has been published in Oprah Daily and The New York Times. Read more: <https://www.leilamottley.com/>

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## Toni Morrison and The Power of Story

Toni Morrison is unapologetic in her depiction of the suffering of her people and the damage of psychological and physical violence that Black girls and women have endured for generations. She is equally committed to lifting up their humanity and grace while interrogating the mechanisms by which oppression is internalized.

Society continues to receive Morrison's first novel with controversy. As a literacy program, we respect the power of story in individual and collective healing from trauma and in the urgent project of dismantling oppression. As upsetting as some scenes may be, justice demands that we not look away. Our goal is to use this powerful public reading to advance reflection, learning and conversation.

## Literacy & Transformation

Parents come to Literacy Partners to transform their lives and create a brighter future for their family through the power of literacy. They develop their skills and find their voice so they can take charge of their own narratives. At the same time, we work to make some of the great stories of our time available to people who wouldn't otherwise have access.

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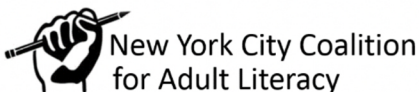
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