

YOUR WEEKLY READER

Rescuing Reading Project

Thomas Nelson Community College
January 11, 2007

Spring Book Circles and The Big Read

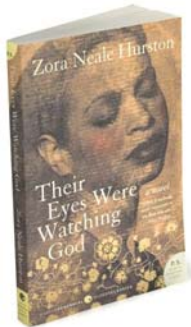
In partnership with the newly-formed Virginia Peninsula Literary Consortium and funded in part by a grant from The Big Read, the TNCC Spring 2007 Book Circles will feature **Zora Neale Hurston's classic novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God***, which has been selected for reading events throughout the Peninsula later in the spring.

Meeting on **Friday, April 13, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Wythe Hall Library Gallery**, the Book Circles are a student book club in which faculty, staff, and members of the community are also

invited to participate.

The Big Read is a national community initiative administered by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Book Circles are also supported by the TNCC President's Cultural Scholarships, the Rescuing Reading Project, Student Activities, and the college's Learning Resources Center.



Jane Eyre on Stage

You read (and loved) the novel, now see the stage play. [The American Theatre](#) presents



[The Acting Company](#) in the American premiere of Polly Teale's stage version of Charlotte Bronte's classic novel. Saturday and Sunday, February 10 and 11. Part coming-of-age novel, part gothic fiction, *Jane Eyre* is the story of an impoverished orphan who rises above adversity by means of her passion,

intelligence and integrity.

Good News, Bad News: Virginia Is Number One

Education Week's recent report, [From Cradle to Career: Connecting American Education from Birth to Adulthood](#), included a [Chance for Success Index](#), calibrated from 13 criteria (mostly related to educational attainment), in which Virginia ranked Number One. That's the good news.

The bad news is that in one criterion, Elementary Reading (the percentage of fourth-grade public-school students reading at "proficient" levels according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress), only 36.9% of fourth graders attained this level. It is cold comfort that Virginia's is better than the national average, which is only 29.8% proficiency.

Despite five years of No Child Left Behind, neither Virginia nor the US saw achievement gains in math or reading in 2003-2005.

What They're Reading

Melissa Manson (Division of Natural, Health and Social Sciences) reports that she's reading "*The Coldest Winter Ever* by Sister Souljah. This book is about the life a young urban woman who is thrown out of her element when big changes shake up her life. The book is exciting and sometimes graphic, but above all it portrays what could really happen when people take their own lives for granted based on their pursuit of material wealth."

Web Watch

Scattered among the detritus of the World-Wide Web (among this week's most frequently searched terms on [Google](#) were "Darrent Williams," "Nick Saban," and "Nikki Cox" which suggests that celebrity-by-any-means prevails), is a Web site that collects thoughtful and intelligent commentary: [Arts & Letters Daily](#). Owned by the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *A&L Daily* is a kind of thinking-person's *Reader's Digest*, assembling Web pages from MSM (that's "mainstream media" to you), newspapers, and scores of magazines, reviews, and syndicated columnists.

Doctorow On Point

Novelist [E.L. Doctorow was featured on a new year's re-broadcast of WBUR's radio program *On Point with Tom Ashbrook*](#), according to whom, "the master [writer] is turning to look at storytelling and creativity itself, from the book of Genesis to America's creative stars--from Edgar Allen Poe and Harriet Beecher Stowe, to Twain, Hemingway, Harpo Marx and Einstein. He calls them, impishly, creationists."