

## YOUR WEEKLY READER

### [Rescuing Reading Project](#)

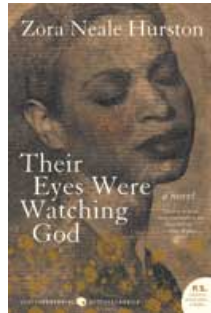
Thomas Nelson Community College  
November 30, 2006

## Spring 2006 Book Circles & The Big Read

In partnership with the Newport News Public Library System and the newly-formed Virginia Peninsula Literary Consortium, Thomas Nelson Community College's **Spring 2007 Book Circles on Friday, April 13 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.** will include **Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God***, which will also be read by The Big Read book groups around the Peninsula.

In addition, faculty from the Foreign Language Department have chosen North African author **Mariama Bâ's** novel in French, *Une si longue lettre* (translated into English as *So Long a Letter*) and Costa Rican author **Uriel Quesada's** story collection, *Lejos, tan lejos* in Spanish.

Administered by the Rescuing Reading Project, the College's Book Circles are a student book club held once each semester during the regular academic year.



## New Vocab Guide Published

**Susan Pongratz**, assistant professor of Reading at Thomas Nelson Community College, has co-authored a new vocabulary guide with D.J. Henry, entitled *Effective Vocabulary*. Published by [Pearson Longman](#) as a companion to Henry's reading series, *Effective Vocabulary* prepares students for academic studies in a variety of disciplines.

## What They're Reading

**Laura Spencer, Department of Mathematics**, reports: "*The Beautiful and the Damned* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. It is my 'carpool line' library book because that is the only free time I have, if I am not grading papers. I may stop reading it and return it to the library because the characters are really beginning to get on my nerves. Either he is a great author who has the ability to make his story come alive, or I am too stressed out with my own responsibilities and a day that runs from 5:00 a.m. to midnight."

## TNCC Faculty, The Big Read Subject-Area Experts

English department faculty from the college have volunteered to serve as subject-area experts for the spring 2007 The Big Read selection, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Susan Pongratz, Jacqueline Blackwell, David Kleinman, Vic Thompson, Kathleen Schuck, Heath Scott, Allison Folkwein, Lori Large, Hollis Pruitt, Mary Dubbé, and Tom Long will participate in an online seminar on Hurston's career and will be available to speak to book groups around the Peninsula in May and June.

## NBA Winners

We're not talking about basketball: Winners of the [National Book Awards](#) were announced earlier this month.

The envelope please. And the winners are:

### FICTION

*The Echo Maker* by Richard Powers (Farrar, Straus & Giroux)

### NONFICTION

*The Worst Hard Time: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl* by Timothy Egan (Houghton Mifflin)

### POETRY

*Splay Anthem* by Nathaniel Mackey (New Directions)

### YOUNG PEOPLE'S LITERATURE

*The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Vol. 1: The Pox Party* by M.T. Anderson (Candlewick Press)



## Humanities Award

Robert Fagles, translator of *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, and, more recently, Virgil's *Aeneid*, was among the National Humanities Medal awardees at a White House ceremony earlier this month.