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Hours
Mon-Thurs: 9 am-8 pm
Fri-Sat: 9 am-5 pm
Sun: Closed

Quincy Public Library
526 Jersey St.
Quincy, IL 62301
(217) 223-1309

quincylibrary.org

Photo Policy: Quincy Public Library reserves the right to photograph participants in programs and events. These photos are used solely to promote the library programs and services. Your participation in QPL’s programs implies consent. Please notify the photographer if you do not wish to be photographed.

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

NEA Big Read: Quincy
Jan. 30-Feb. 29

A Lesson Before Dying
ERNEST J. GAINES

The Drinking Gourd

The Watsons Go to Birmingham

Follow the Drinking Gourd

Story and Pictures by Jeannette Winter

THE DRINKING GOULD

TODD COMER

Story and Pictures by Christopher Paul Curtis

THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

NEA BIG READ

Managed by Arts Midwest
**NEA Big Read: Quincy**

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**Adult Book**

**A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines**

A Lesson Before Dying poses a universal question: Knowing we’re going to die, how should we live? It’s the story of an uneducated young black man named Jefferson, accused of the murder of a white storekeeper, and Grant Wiggins, a college-educated native son of Louisiana, who teaches at a plantation school, set in 1940s Louisiana. In the story, these two men discover a friendship that transforms their lives. In the tradition of Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* (1960) and Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood* (1966), Gaines uses a capital case to explore the nobility and the barbarism of which human beings are equally capable. The story builds inexorably to Jefferson’s ultimate bid for dignity, both in his prison diary and at the hour of his execution. Join us as we examine this story about freedom and choice against injustice and finding hope and humanity, even in the most challenging times.

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**For Younger Readers**

**The Watsons Go To Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis**

This chapter book tells the story of a loving African American family living in the town of Flint, Michigan, in 1963. When the oldest son, Byron, begins to get into a bit of trouble, the parents decide he should spend the summer and possibly the next school year with Grandma Sands in Birmingham, Alabama. The entire family travels there together by car, and during their visit, tragic events take place.

**Follow the Drinking Gourd by Jeanette Winter**

This picture book begins with a peg-leg sailor who aids enslaved African Americans on their escape on the Underground Railroad. While working for plantation owners, Peg Leg Joe teaches them a song about the drinking gourd (the Big Dipper). A couple, their son, and two others make their escape by following the song’s directions.
**NEA Big Read: Quincy**

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**Big Read Specials in the District**
Stop by one of these businesses in The District to purchase or enjoy a NEA Big Read: Quincy themed item!

**Electric Fountain Brewery:** 503 Maine St. & Roastery: 625 Maine St. (Back Alley Entrance)
Join EFB for a Big Read themed beverage!

**Krazy Cakes:** 512 Hampshire St
Enjoy specialty menu item!

**Popp’n On Maine:** 917 Maine St.
“Pop” in for a special Big Read flavor.

**Potter & Vaughn:** 504 Hampshire St.
Don’t miss their selection of literary-themed items.

**Shaker Hill:** 638 Maine St.
Stop in for their literary-themed special.

**Sweet Apricot:** 129 N. 6th St.
Receive a discount with your library card.

**Thyme Square:** 615 Hampshire St.
Stop in to enjoy a special signature dish.

**Yum Factory:** 700 Maine St.
Enjoy a delicious Big Read themed sweet treat!

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**City Council Proclamation**
Jan. 27 at 7 pm
Mayor Kyle Moore will proclaim “NEA Big Read: Quincy” month at the start of the City Council Meeting.

**Kickoff & Keynote**
Join us for NEA Big Read: Quincy Kickoff on Thursday, January 30, from 4 pm to 6:30 pm! Come pick up your free book, enjoy exciting activities, and get ready for a month of fun and fascinating programs.

**4 pm: Welcome & Keynote**
Mayor Kyle Moore will present a welcome address to kick off the event, followed by our keynote speaker, Mr. John Hanlon, Executive Director of the Illinois Innocence Project.

**4:30 pm: Entertainment**
There will be musical entertainment from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

**5:30 pm: Performance**
Square Peg acting troupe will perform some scenes from Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*. This show focuses on prejudice, wrongful accusation, and human dignity, all themes that relate to *A Lesson Before Dying*.

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**Sponsors**

- National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest
- Friends of the Quincy Public Library
- Blessing Health Systems
- Samantha Otte Youth Opportunity Fund through the Community Foundation Service West Central Illinois & Northeast Missouri
- Quincy Noon Kiwanis
- Royal Printing
- State Street Bank
- First Mid-Illinois Bank

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*Look for the book symbol throughout our program guide for NEA Big Read: Quincy programs*
**Monday Movies**  
Mondays at 1 pm & 5:30 pm  
Jan. 6: Christopher Robin  
Jan. 13: Puzzle  
Jan. 20: Sully  
Jan. 27: The Paper Chase  
Feb. 3: The Hate U Give  
Feb. 10: Daughters of Dust  
Feb. 17: The Watsons Go to Birmingham  
Feb. 24: A Lesson Before Dying  
Enjoy blockbusters, oldies, foreign films, and indies, every Monday at 1 pm and 5:30 pm in QPL’s Large Meeting Room. Popcorn and soda are provided.

**Quincy Writer’s Workshop**  
Jan. 11, 15, 25, Feb. 8, 19, 22  
Are you a writer looking for encouragement and meaningful feedback on your work? The Quincy Writer’s workshop is a diverse group of writers working in small groups to read and critique each other’s submitted work. Meeting once monthly, the different sections focus on a workshop-style critique of up to 5,000 words of original writing per participant. Critiques will be structured and supportive, with equal time given to positive feedback and constructive criticism. All genres and experience levels are welcome! Please contact Libby Campbell at 217-223-1309 ext. 211 or ecampbell@quincylibrary.org to register at least one week in advance or for more information.

**ReferenceUSA Presentation**  
Jan. 27 at 11 am & noon  
Are you a small business owner interested in expanding your clientele using detailed consumer data? Are you looking for free resources to help you accomplish your entrepreneurial dreams? Did you know that QPL offers a detailed consumer data database for free to library cardholders? ReferenceUSA offers library patrons access to extremely accurate and complete business and consumer data on one easy to use online platform. Join us to learn more about this database. You may bring a sack lunch to the event.

**Board Game Night**  
Jan. 14, Feb. 11 at 5:45 pm  
Join us for a wide selection of games, from classics to modern table tops with a moderator to teach games to newcomers! Join us for a beginner-friendly, non-competitive, and casual space on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:45 pm in the Small Conference Room.

**Relax & Reuse Craft Night**  
Jan. 21 at 6 pm  
Turn your trash into treasure while having a relaxing night out at QPL! In January, we will be creating eye-catching snow globes using repurposed glass jars. Please bring an emptied and washed out glass jar to paint. If you have a figurine you would like to use in this craft, please bring it! This is an excellent opportunity to repurpose old plastic ornaments, action figures, and other small figurines. No prior crafting experience necessary.

**Coloring Club for Adults**  
Jan. 28, Feb. 25 at 5 pm  
No need to be an artist to enjoy a relaxing hour of coloring! We’ll provide the coloring pages, pencils, hot tea, and calm music.

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All library programs are free and open to the public, however reservations are requested. To register, please visit quincylibrary.org or call 217-223-1309 ext. 501.
Adult Programs

People v. Jefferson: A Re-examination of Constitutional Safeguards in A Lesson Before Dying
Feb. 4 at 5:30 pm
In A Lesson Before Dying, Gaines presents a sympathetic defendant who has come to accept his reality. Today, the same defendant would be treated to a very different investigation, trial, and possibly a different outcome. Modern readers will compare and contrast the legal safeguards of the past with those of the present during this lecture. Basic presumptions will be scrutinized, trial methods will be discussed, and justice will be examined within the concepts of race, time, and equality. Presented by Professor P. Charles Entzminger, MSCJ, JD, an Assistant Professor of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration at Western Illinois University.

After Innocence Screening
Feb. 29 at 1 pm
Join us for a screening of the documentary After Innocence, followed by a talkback session presented by the Human Rights Commission. The documentary is a gripping, emotionally charged film that follows wrongfully convicted men freed by DNA evidence after decades in prison as they struggle to transition back into society.

Ethics of Capital Punishment
Feb. 26 at 5:30 pm
When the state executes someone, it claims the authority to do something that ordinarily would be highly immoral, killing someone. Dr. J. K. Miles, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Quincy University, considers questions around the morality of the death penalty as a concept and as an institution.

Diversity & Inclusion Series
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27 at 6 pm
Join us for this four-part series on Diversity and Inclusion led by the Quincy Area Chamber of Commerce D&I Committee. These sessions will help individuals look for ways to form actionable steps to embrace D&I in our daily lives surrounding discussion of A Lesson Before Dying.

NEA Big Read: Quincy Partner Programs

Quincy Art Center Exhibit at Horizons
Jan. 10-April 14
This exhibit will feature African American artists from the Art Center’s permanent collection.

Introduction to New Orleans Cuisine at JWCC
Feb. 3, 10, 17 at 6 pm at JWCC
This class is designed to introduce students to the history and development of New Orleans’ unique cuisine and the differences between Creole and Cajun styles of cooking. Students will learn easy recipes to expand their palates, learn to prepare a light meal of each style dish, and discuss possible variations that can be made in each of the dishes. Cost $60, show your library card and receive a $5 discount. To register for this event, please go to jwcc.edu/cbo/class-registration. In partnership with John Wood Community College.

The Underground Railroad in Adams County presented by the Great River Genealogical Society
Feb. 13 at 7:30 pm at St. John’s Lutheran Church
Join the Great River Genealogical Society for a fascinating presentation on Adams County’s links to the Underground Railroad presented by Historical Society board member, Heather Bangert.

QU Band Concert
March 1 at 3 pm at QU’s Connie Niemann Center for Music
The Quincy University Symphonic Band and the Quincy Public Library partner in this event to explore the many themes of the NEA Big Read: Quincy book through music.
Adult Discussion Groups

Socrates Cafe
Jan. 10: Gender in Today's Society
Feb. 14: Racism
Everyone is a philosopher, and everyone is welcome to exchange thoughtful ideas and experiences. Socrates Cafe meets at 10:15 am the second Friday of each month in the QPL Large Meeting Room.

Candid Conversations
Jan. 18: Ted Talk - Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I’ve Loved
Feb. 15: Ted Talk - We Need to Talk About an Injustice
Candid Conversations is designed for open, honest, respectful, discussion among participants. Each meeting begins with a short video related to the discussion topic. The group meets the third Saturday of each month at 10:15 am in the QPL Large Meeting Room.

Genealogy Help
Tuesdays at 9 am-noon
QPL has many resources for genealogists, including local history material in the Illinois Room and digital resources. The Great River Genealogical Society will assist you with your research every Tuesday from 9 am to noon in the Illinois Room.

Book Clubs

Renaissance Readers
Jan. 14: Native Son by Richard Wright
Feb. 11: A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
The Renaissance Readers discuss a variety of books with an intellectual view. They meet on the second Tuesday at 10 am in the Small Conference Room.

Unshelved
Jan. 8: The Bookshop on the Corner by Jenny Colgan
Feb. 12: A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
This lighthearted group enjoys a wide variety of books, accompanied by snacks and coffee. They meet on the second Wednesday at 1 pm in the Small Conference Room.

Sci-Fi/Horror Book Club
Jan. 15: The Bear and the Nightingale by Kristin Arden
Feb. 19: A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
This group is geared to the 20- and 30-somethings who enjoy the genre. They meet on the third Wednesday at 6 pm in the Small Conference Room.

All Over the Page
Jan. 21: Book Reports (Bring any book you are passionate about and tell the book club all about it!) at the Village Inn
Feb. 18: A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines at The Coach House
Known for wild book choices, this group meets the third Tuesday at 7 pm at local restaurants.

Bookies
Feb. 5: A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
This group offers a traditional book discussion atmosphere, meeting the first Wednesday at 1:30 pm in the Small Conference Room.

Literary Angles
Jan. 21: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson
Feb. 18: A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines
This laid-back book group leaves room for extended discussions. They meet on the third Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the Small Conference Room.
Children’s Programs

Storytimes
Introduce your child to the excitement of live storytelling at our weekly storytimes, incorporating thematic books, crafts, music, and more! All storytimes are held in the Children’s Puppet Theatre.

**Toddler Time:** 16 to 36 months
**Tuesday:** 10:15 am

**Baby Time:** Birth to 16 months
**Wednesday:** 10:15 am

**Preschool Time:** Ages 3 and up
**Thursday:** 10:15 am

**Family & Friends Storytime:**
**Thursday:** 6 pm

Monday Funday
**Mondays at 6 pm**
Activities provide time for children to develop pre-reading skills including language, cooperation, communication, and social skills.

**Play Date:** Jan. 13, Feb. 10
**Process Art:** Jan. 20, Feb. 17
**Dance Party:** Jan. 27, Feb. 24

Fantabulous Fridays
**Fridays at 10:15 am**
Activities provide time for children to develop pre-reading skills including language, cooperation, communication, and social skills.

**Play Date:** Jan. 3, 17, Feb. 14
**Process Art:** Jan. 24, Feb. 21
**Dance Party:** Jan. 31, Feb. 28

Marionette Shows
Frosty the Snowman
Jan. 6 at 6 pm
Jan. 7, 9, 10, 11 at 10:15 am
Find out what fun a snowman can have with just a little magic and a lot of imagination in this classic holiday production!

Beauty and the Beast
Feb. 3 at 6 pm
Feb. 4, 6, 7, 8 at 10:15 am
Will the Beast ever find love? Join us at this puppet show to find out!

Creativity Corner
Jan. 4, Feb. 1 at 10 am
Enjoy a family program focused on creating art. We’ll provide supplies for a craft, a coloring sheet, and art journals.

Super Saturday
Feb. 22 at 10:15 am
Join us for books, crafts, music, and more during this fun program!

Read to Cats & Dogs
Jan. 20, Feb. 17 at 1 pm
Join Ms. Natascha at the Quincy Humane Society to read to cats and dogs! This program helps children get comfortable reading out loud while giving affection to shelter cats and dogs.

Winter Wonderland Tea Party
Jan. 25 at 1:30 pm
Do you wanna... have some tea? Dress up in your favorite party outfit or as your favorite winter character and join us for our winter-themed tea party! Party-goers will enjoy snacks, tea, a craft, and a game before they get an opportunity to “walk the runway” showing off their outfits.

All library programs are free and open to the public, however reservations are requested. To register, please visit quincylibrary.org or call 217-223-1309 ext. 501.
Family Programs

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten
Start your child on a lifelong love of reading when you participate in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Early childhood literacy has been proven to increase general knowledge, expand vocabulary, and make children more fluent readers. In this program, you and your young child can earn rewards for reading books together! Any child not yet in kindergarten is eligible to participate. You must log the books you read together. Any book counts, including books from home. Books read by others also count, including library storytime. Stop by QPL, and we will help you get started!

Make & Take Craft
Stop by the Children's Desk any time the library is open to pick up a craft kit. Each month there will be a new craft to create. Take your craft kit home or make your craft at the library with supplies available here! January's craft will be a snowman windsock. February’s craft will be a Gee’s Bend Inspired Quilt Square. The women of Gee’s Bend, a small, remote, African American community in Alabama, have created hundreds of quilt masterpieces. Gee’s Bend quilts carry forward an old and proud tradition of textiles made for home and family.

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Movie: The Watsons Go to Birmingham
Feb. 17 at 10:15 am
The film chronicles an African American family, and how they are drastically changed while visiting grandma in Alabama during the height of the civil rights movement in the summer of 1963. The Watsons set out on a family road trip where their experiences give them a newfound courage to stand up for what is right and helps them grow stronger as a family in the process. Based on the bestselling book by Christopher Paul Curtis.

African American Spirituals with Mett Morris
Feb. 18 at 5:30 pm
Join us for an evening of celebration and education as we learn about and sing along to African-American Spirituals presented by professional storyteller, Mett Morris. These songs are considered to be the foundation of the black experience during the height of slavery. This program will feature lecture, concert, and sing-a-long, followed by a question and answer session. Families are welcome.

All library programs are free and open to the public, however reservations are requested. To register, please visit quincylibrary.org or call 217-223-1309 ext. 501.
Teen Programs

Wii Wednesdays
Wednesdays at 2:30 pm
After a hectic day at school, teens can take some time out to relax, gather with friends, share a snack, play games, or do their homework. Teens can also enjoy a D & D game or do a craft at our craft table. On Jan. 22 and Feb. 26, we will also have Book Bingo for teens during this time. Every Wednesday at 2:30 pm in the QPL Large Meeting Room.

Teen Advisory Board
Jan. 8 at 4 pm
Feb. 12 at 4:30 pm
Help choose and plan exciting activities at QPL. Learn about all the fun events and volunteer opportunities for teens. Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets every second Wednesday. Refreshments are served.

Cajun Cooking Class
Feb. 8 at 1 pm
Enjoy the foodways of Creole culture at this celebration of Cajun cooking on Saturday, Feb. 8. Learn how to prepare a classic gumbo and southern style cornbread, staples of Southern cuisine, at this cooking class just for teens. Teens will have an opportunity to sample the fruits of their labor at the end of the program. This program is presented as part of the NEA Big Read celebration of the novel, A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines.

Self-Portraiture Kehinde Wiley Style
Feb. 15 at 2 pm
Using the style of President Barack Obama’s portrait painter, teens are invited to bring their creative side to this collage mixed media workshop sponsored by the QPL in partnership with the Quincy Art Center. An instructor from the Art Center will guide you through the process of selecting materials to design a compelling composition that is meaningful to you. Bring photos from home and tell your story; past, present and future using the vibrant colors of Mr. Wiley’s compositions.

Sewing on the Edge
Jan. 18 at 1 pm
Are you interested in learning to sew and making a bag to take home? Join us for Sewing on the Edge with YA Librarian Deborah Riddell. Learn the basics of sewing, discover how to use a sewing machine, and become familiar with basic sewing techniques. Teens in grades 7-12 are welcome; no sewing experience is required. Please bring 1 ½ yards of material; QPL will provide the sewing machines and any other decorative supplies needed.

Self-Esteem & the Crisis of Bullying; themes from A Lesson Before Dying
Feb. 12 at 4 pm
Teens are invited to join the Teen Advisory Board for a presentation on bullying presented by Kathy Nelson from Chaddock Alternative School. She will speak on self-esteem for individuals. She will also discuss valuing others and managing bullies, examining themes from NEA Big Read: Quincy books.

Teen Book Discussion
Feb. 19 at 4 pm
The Teen Book Group meets after Wii Wednesday every third Wednesday. If you are interested in joining a Teen Book Discussion group, please join us. In February, we are reading A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest J. Gaines.

All library programs are free and open to the public, however reservations are requested. To register, please visit quincylibrary.org or call 217-223-1309 ext. 501.
Outreach Services

Let the library come to you! Home Delivery Service is available to any library patron temporarily or permanently unable to visit the library due to a visual or physical disability. We deliver books, DVDs, CDs, and more. School Delivery service is available to teachers in our community. Our School Delivery Specialist will select material to enhance curriculum and schedule delivery to each school. Call the library at 217-223-1309 for more information!

Additional Services

24/7 Access
In addition to our digital resources, QPL offers hold lockers so you can pick up your items when and where it's convenient for you. Lockers are located outside the library, or at County Market (48th & Broadway), Lincoln-Douglas School, and Iles School. Call us at 217-223-1309 to request your item and pick-up location.

We also offer an automated branch at County Market (48th & Broadway). Via the book kiosk, you can check out and return books, movies, and audiobooks!

Ebooks, Audiobooks, & Streaming
QPL has a collection of over 5,000 eBooks and audiobooks, available from the library catalog, waiting for you to download to your device. Download the Libby or Axis 360 apps to your device and get started today!

You can also access thousands of titles, from major Hollywood movie studios, record companies, and publishers – for instant streaming or temporary downloading to your smartphones, tablets, or computers with the Hoopla app.

Flipster is a digital magazine service provided at no additional charge to QPL library cardholders. Over 70 titles are available for reading online or download the Flipster app to access content offline.

Visit quincylibrary.org for more information on these services, or ask a Librarian!

Meeting Rooms
QPL has meeting rooms and study rooms available free of charge for use by members of our community. Please talk to our librarians to reserve one.

Fax, Copy, Scan & Print
QPL offers self-service scanning, faxing, and copy stations. We also offer wireless printing from all mobile devices, including laptops, tablets and smartphones. Submit print jobs from home, in the library, or on the go. Visit quincylibrary.org or ask a librarian for more information.

Interlibrary Loan
Can't find the books, movies, or music you're looking for? Let us request it from another library for you. Make your request at the Reference Desk or online at quincylibrary.org.

Wifi
Public wifi is available at QPL. The wireless password is qplibrary.

100 Women Donation
Quincy Public Library was honored to be the recipient of the 100 Women Who Care 3rd Quarter Donation. Each member of the group donates $100, for a total donation of over $10,000. Donations will benefit technology upgrades to our public use computers. We are so grateful to the group!

Book Notes Podcast
Listen to our weekly book recommendations on our Book Notes Podcast, posted Tuesdays on SoundCloud and our social media pages!

Mary Weems Barton
QPL Foundation
Donations from patrons like you bring QPL’s vibrant resources to our area residents and help to build a stronger Quincy. From early childhood literacy to digital resources, the library is a vibrant community resource for lifelong learning. Your support today will allow QPL to continue services for future generations. Call 223-1309 or visit quincylibrary.org/donate to make a donation.

QPL will be closed January 1. The QPL Branch at County Market (48th & Broadway) is open 24/7, and digital resources are available any time at quincylibrary.org.