



NEA Big Read 2017 Kickoff POETRY SLAM

Friday, Sept. 8 • 5:30 PM • National Steinbeck Center

PRIZES:

1st place: \$100

2nd place: \$75

3rd place: \$50

Open to all community members!

Calling all poets: submit your poems by **Tuesday, Sept. 5th** to be part of a powerful community discourse centered on Claudia Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*.

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry and the *LA Times* Book Prize, *Citizen* has been hailed as a "provocative meditation on race." Through an exploratory blend of essay, art, and poetry, Rankine emphasizes the destructive effects of racially-charged interactions on both individual and societal levels.

Prompt: Compose a poem in response to one (or more) of these three lines from *Citizen*. Your poem does not need to be directly linked to *Citizen* and does not even have to directly quote the line. Simply respond to or expand upon the ideas they put forth.

"Perhaps the most insidious and least understood form of segregation is that of the word" (122).

"The state of emergency is also always a state of emergence" (126).

"The worst injury is feeling you don't belong so much / to you" (146).

Please submit all entries to jennalynngarden@gmail.com. Include your full name, school (if applicable), and phone number.

All participants will read their poem (or alternatively select another person to read their poem) to a panel of judges on Sept. 8th. Winners will be chosen shortly after the readings. All of the entries will be compiled into a booklet for the event.



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