

Reading Guide for *The 1619 Project* Creative Works

The 1619 Project includes 17 creative texts that explore major events in U.S. history. As students explore the pieces, have them consider the following questions:

- 1) What words and phrases stand out, and why?
- 2) What emotional reactions do you have, and why?
- 3) How do the authors use creative writing to address historical events?
- 4) How do the authors use form and language to communicate a point of view?
- 5) What new information do you learn about the lasting impact of slavery through the stories and poems featured in *The 1619 Project*?
- 6) Why do you think *The New York Times* included creative writing in *The 1619 Project*? How do the featured stories and poems connect to other essays, photography, and artwork highlighted in the issue?

Medium Author Page	Historical Event Referenced
Poem Clint Smith 28	The Middle Passage
Poem Yusef Komunyakaa 29	Crispus Attucks
Poem Eve L. Ewing 42	Phillis Wheatley
Poem Reginald Dwayne Betts 43	Fugitive Slave Act of 1793
Fiction Barry Jenkins 46	Gabriel's Rebellion
Fiction Jesmyn Ward 47	The Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves
Poem Tyehimba Jess 58	Black Seminoles
Fiction Darryl Pinckney 59	Emancipation Proclamation of 1863
Fiction ZZ Packer 59	New Orleans massacre of 1866
Short Fiction Yaa Gyasi 68	Tuskegee syphilis experiment
Short Fiction Jacqueline Woodson 69	Sgt. Isaac Woodard

Poems Rita Dove and Camille T. Dungy 78	16th Street Baptist Church bombing
Poem Joshua Bennett 79	The Black Panther Party
Short Dramatic Work Lynn Nottage 84	The birth of hip-hop
Short Fiction Kiese Laymon 84	Rev. Jesse Jackson's "rainbow coalition" speech
Poem Clint Smith 85	Superdome after Hurricane Katrina