



# The American Place Theatre

*Brought to Youth by*

## Young Audiences New York

The American Place Theatre's "Literature to Life" performances turn important works of contemporary American Literature into dramatic, theatre experiences for teens. The performances and post-show conversations invite teens to examine what it means to be a citizen—confronting current social issues of discrimination, racism, poverty and justice—and to explore the role of art in social change.

# Bring Literature to Life for Youth

## 1. SELECT A PERFORMANCE:

Choose a performance that will engage your teens. Consider how the themes relate to their course work, current events, and ideas and feelings, as they navigate their own journey to adulthood.

Here are some of the classic American titles we have adapted into performances exclusively available to schools and community organizations:

- Black Boy by Richard Wright
- County of Kings by Lemon Andersen
- The Giver by Lois Lowry
- House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros
- The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
- The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien

Visit our website for full list of titles: [www.yany.org](http://www.yany.org). All of our plays are 60-90 minute, one-person shows performed by professional actors trained in the grand tradition of The American Place Theatre.

## 2. PLAN THE POST PERFORMANCE

### ACTIVITY WITH US:

What do you want youth to “walk away with” after they have experienced the performance and post-show activity? Our post show activities can provide youth with opportunities to:

- Comprehend and critique as they cite specific evidence from the story through discussions and writing. Build strong content knowledge
- Question assumptions and premises of author, character, and/or society
- Understand other perspectives and cultures
- Demonstrate independent thinking as they articulate their own ideas on racism, justice, identity and values, as they consider the implications for their own decisions in life

With you, we will shape the post-show activity to respond to the needs and interests of the youth in your school or community organization.

## 3. OFFER YOUTH A CHANCE TO CREATE:

If you would like your teens to experience the performance as a jumping off point for deeper learning and action, we can also provide workshops and residencies that engage them in experiences like:

- Writing their own monologues, poems or plays
- Performing
- Using art for civic discourse and action



## We Can Also Help You With...

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

Our experienced staff and artist educators are available to train school and community educators to use Literature to Life performances as a jumping off point for guiding youth to think critically and independently, while making personal connections to the story. Educators will walk away with a set of learning activities and strategies to use with youth, including, kinesthetic and dramatic activities that can be applied across the curriculum and in community settings.

### ONLINE FORUM:

Ask about this new opportunity to upload the creative responses of youth to Literature to Life performances — and be eligible for prizes and other rewards.

## About Young Audiences New York

For over 64 years, Young Audiences New York has been bringing innovative performances and other artistic experiences to children and youth who would not otherwise have access to the arts. Every year, we give over 45,000 children and youth the chance to experience and create art.

Young Audiences New York is proud to bring the legacy — and maverick artistic leadership — of The American Place Theatre into the lives of today's youth through the Literature to Life program. In the grand tradition of The American Place Theatre's main stage productions, performances dealing with minority and immigrant experiences continue to be emphasized in Literature to Life's stage adaptations of important American stories.