

Getting to know you Getting to learn all about you: Tracy K. Smith, U.S.A. POET LAUREATE

In this six-week session, participants will discuss and read about Tracy K. Smith, two-term (current) poet laureate of the United States of America: her family, her professional life, her talk at the Trenton Public library, her poetry, her memoir, and her ongoing podcast, which is called “The Slowdown.”

CLASS REQUIREMENT: *Ordinary Light: A Memoir*

**All poems needed for the class will be distributed to participants after the first class.

FIRST CLASS: DISCUSSION OF PART I of her memoir

Class materials to be used during this session:

Newspaper articles

A small quilt – POETRY OUT LOUD 2014

Photo/article collage of her prolific career

Selected poems from her books:

duende

The Body’s Question

Life on Mars

American Journal: Fifty Poems for Our Times

Wade in the Water

WEEK ONE CLASS 1

- Class introductions
- How Gail came to admire Tracy K. Smith
- *What do you know about her? Q & A*
- Sharing one of my favorite poems
- Class discussion of part I: *Ordinary Light*
- HOMEWORK: READ PART II

- *The Slowdown*

WEEK TWO CLASS 2

- DISCUSS PART II: *Ordinary Light*
- Select, read, talk about class perceptions of poems from *duende*
- Listen and respond to podcast
- HOMEWORK: READ PART III

WEEK THREE CLASS 3

- DISCUSS PART III: *Ordinary Light*
- Select, read, talk about class perceptions of poems from *The Body's Question*
- Listen and respond to podcast
- HOMEWORK: READ PART IV

WEEK FOUR CLASS 4

- DISCUSS PART IV: *Ordinary Light*
- Select, read, talk about class perceptions of poems from *Life on Mars*
- Listen and respond to podcast
- HOMEWORK: READ PART V

WEEK FIVE CLASS 5

- DISCUSS PART V: *Ordinary Light*

Select, read, talk about class perceptions of poems from *American Journal: Fifty Poems for Our Times*

HOMEWORK: READ PART VI

WEEK SIX CLASS 6

- DISCUSS PART VI: *Ordinary Light*
- Select, read, and discuss class perceptions of poems from *Wade in the Water*
- LAST CLASS

Leader: Gail Anne Johnson Mitchell is a quilt-maker and a poet. She received her MFA in poetry from Drew University in 2017.

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon, 6 weeks: February 27 through April 3

Location: The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville