

## **PEOPLE AND STORIES: THE POWER OF WORDS**

“The values and principles that sustain our civilization are under siege. If we listen to another person’s story, if we tell our own story, we start to heal from division and hatred.” - Isabel Allende

Inspired by the People and Stories / Gente y Cuentos program founded by Sarah Hirschman in 1972, participants in this online series will read and discuss a different short story each week. The story selections, by writers like Chinua Achebe, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Louise Erdrich, Gish Jen, James Joyce, Jamaica Kincaid, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Tim O’Brien, Tillie Olsen, Hernando Tellez, and Alice Walker, embody the best qualities of enduring literature: rich in artistry, they revel in life’s complications, wonders, and ambiguities. No preparation is required. The facilitator will email a copy of each week’s story to everyone in the group just before class. After hearing it read aloud during the online session, participants will be encouraged to examine the issues and themes; tensions and contrasts; shadows; poetics; sounds of each story and, perhaps of most interest right now, how these stories resonate with this challenging time in all of our lives. All ages and backgrounds are welcome; diversity is critical to meaningful conversations.

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**Leader:** Ellen Gilbert has a PhD in library science and is a trained “People and Stories” coordinator.

**Tuesdays:** 10:00 a.m. to noon, 8 weeks: February 23 through April 13

**Maximum:** 18