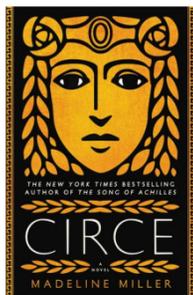


2020 NEA Big Read: Attleboro



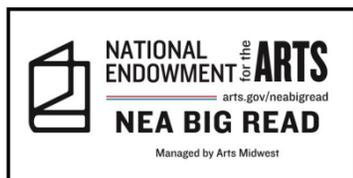
Join the *G-Odyssey* as we explore *Circe* by Madeline Miller! This year marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment affording American women the right to vote. This commemoration was the inspiration for the selection of *Circe* by the members of

Attleboro's IABC community coalition. The committee wanted to select a book with a strong female lead character written by an acclaimed female author. *Circe* meets both of those goals while delivering a satisfying and exciting read. Author Madeline Miller has taken a minor goddess from Homer's mythological epic, *The Odyssey*, and created a multi-dimensional heroine. *Circe* tells the story of a strong and talented woman who must struggle against the constraints of a male-dominated society. She is a single mother, suffers sexual abuse and is ostracized for her magical abilities.

As Ms. Miller explains, "Circe is born into a society that structurally doesn't grant her any power," Miller told *thelibrary.org*. "In fact, at every turn she's belittled, disrespected and objectified. So she has a choice: she can live with that, or she can find a way to fight for herself. She chooses to fight."

Don't know much about mythology? No problem. *Circe* can be explored as easily as any other novel as the book does not assume any prior knowledge of the epic where *Circe* is first introduced.

Attleboro's IABC Committee is pleased to offer our 14th annual community read to the greater Attleboro Community this fall. Pick up a free copy of *Circe* at the program launch on September 10, during the *Scylla: The Ugly Truth Revealed* exhibit at the Attleboro Arts Museum, September 11-18 or at *Art at the Market* at the Attleboro Farmer's Market on October 3. A complete schedule of planned events is provided below.



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

Launch Event at Attleboro Public Library

Thursday, September 10, 6-8pm

Outdoor Event on Library Patio and in Balfour Riverwalk Park, 74 N. Main St., Attleboro

Stop by to pick up a free copy of *Circe* and a printed event calendar. There will be fun take & make children's crafts: Medusa Headbands for Ages 3-7 years and a Light-Up Mythology Jar for ages 8 & up. Thank you to the **Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation** for sponsoring a Petting Zoo in the adjacent Balfour Riverwalk Park. Please register in advance for a timed entrance to the petting zoo.



Safety Precautions for this year's NEA Big Read: Attleboro

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and current Massachusetts health regulations, most of this year's events will be offered virtually using the Zoom platform.

For those events that are being offered in-person, health and safety guidelines will be strictly enforced. All participants will be required to wear a face mask over their nose and mouth, frequent hand sanitizing will be encouraged, and social distancing must be practiced.

Attleboro's IABC committee thanks you for your anticipated cooperation!

Scylla: The Ugly Truth Revealed

An exhibition inspired by *Circe* at the Attleboro Arts Museum, 86 Park St., Attleboro



Exhibition: September 11—18, both in-gallery and online at www.attleboroartsmuseum.org

Gallery hours: Tuesday—Saturday, 10am—5pm

On *Saturday, September 12:* NEA Big Read 2020 Kickoff and two reservation-only exhibition viewings from 2—2:45pm and 3—3:45pm. *Space is limited, reserve your spot for one of the viewings by September 11: 508-222-2644 x10 or via email to office@attleboroartsmuseum.org



Take & Make: 15-Minute STEAM Project: Build an Ancient Greek Temple

September 14—18

Hosted by Attleboro Public Library

Kids can explore architecture with this fun *Circe*-inspired project, for families with children ages 3 & up. To register for a materials kit, please email attleborokids@sailsinc.org or call 508-222-7820 between September 14 and 18 only.

Votes for Women: Massachusetts Leaders in the Woman Suffrage Movement

Lecture by Author Barbara Berenson

September 16, 7—8:30pm

Barbara Berenson, the author of *Massachusetts in the Woman Suffrage Movement: Revolutionary Reformers*, will discuss Massachusetts' role at the center of the national struggle for woman suffrage. Berenson will give this state's suffragists the attention they deserve and discuss the battle over historical memory that long obscured the state's leading role.



Hunting the Forest Spirit: Mythological Anime

Panels by Geekgal

September 24, 7—8pm

Hosted by Attleboro Public Library

Anime is full of mythological themes. From Miyazaki's films to Princess Tutu. In this workshop, we explore its mythological roots, examining both Japanese myth, and world myth cycles. Come see how a new art form spins ancient stories. Presented by Sarah Hodge Wetherbe.

Camp Half Blood: Magic & Mythical Fun for Kids & Teens

September 29, 3:30—4:30pm

Hosted by Attleboro Public Library

Youth in grades 3-12 are welcome to join a fun-filled hour of mythical trivia and fun based on the Percy Jackson series! Before the meeting, registered participants will pick up supplies provided by the Attleboro Public Library to create a shield of their own design. This shield will protect you from all forms of mythical creatures! Everyone will share their design during the meeting, and one design will be chosen as the winner and will receive a small prize. Participants' knowledge will then be tested on all things Percy Jackson and myths in general with trivia!

A History of Witch Persecutions

Lecture by Author Ellen Evert Hopman

September 30, 7—8:30pm



From the Bronze Age through the witch hysteria of the Middle Ages to Salem and beyond is a lecture on the history of witch persecution throughout history and its relevancy to current world events. Based on Ms. Hopman's book *The Real Witches of New England - History, Lore and Modern Practice*. The author is a practicing Druid and Herbalist.

A Life of Journeys

Presented by the Students of The Literacy Center
October 1, 7—8pm

Hosted by The Literacy Center

Circe explores the concept of journeys from both an emotional and geographic lens. The Literacy Center will host an open-mic style event where students, volunteers, and the community will be invited to share presentations (in any form) about the journeys that they have undergone – whether it be a physical migration or emotional transition – which have shaped and defined their lives. Participants will be encouraged to prepare oral stories, songs, poems, or other presentations under 5 minutes and perform them via Zoom. The audience will be allowed to ask questions of the performers after each performance.

Art at the Market Book Distribution

Attleboro Farmers Market

Capron Park, O'Connell Field, Attleboro

October 3, 9am—1pm

Stop by the Attleboro Public Library's booth to pick up a free copy of *Circe* by Madeline Miller. *Art at the Market* is an event hosted by the Attleboro Farmers Market.

Odysseus: Revered, Reviled, and Still Relevant

Lecture by Professor Michael Geary

October 6, 7—8pm

Hosted by Bristol Community College



This presentation will focus on the Greek hero Odysseus, or Ulysses, and examine the way he is interpreted in the writings of Homer, Sophocles, Virgil, and Dante. These canonical interpretations will be compared and contrasted with Madeline Miller's depiction of the character in *Circe*.

Through the examination of his character, the relevance of Odysseus to today's society will be explored as well as the broad appeal that he maintains millennia after his inception.

Presenter Michael S. Geary is Associate Professor of English and Writing Center Coordinator at Bristol Community College.

Join a Book Discussion!

September 14, 7:15—8:15pm, **Family Book Club** will discuss *Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee. For youth in grades 5-8 with an accompanying adult.



September 23, 6—7pm, **Middle School Book Club** will discuss *Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee. For youth in grades 5-8.

September 23, 7—8:15pm, **APL Parents Book Club** will discuss *Circe* by Madeline Miller. Adults.

September 25, 3:30—4:30pm, **Teen Book Club** will discuss *Circe* by Madeline Miller. For teens, aged 13 and up.

September 28, 7—8pm, **Parent/Child Book Group** will discuss *The Entirely True Story of the Unbelievable FIB* by Adam Shaugnessy. For children in grades 2—4 with an adult.

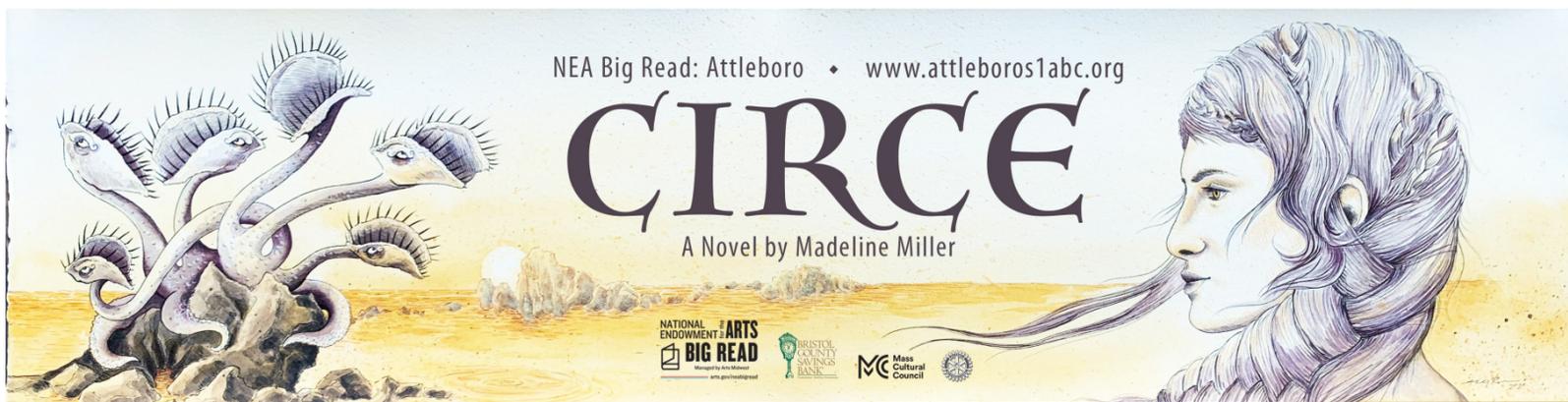
October 5, 7—8:15pm, **Circe Casual Book Discussion**, led by students from Bishop Feehan High School. For teens and adults.

October 7, 10—11:30am, **Wednesday Morning Book Group** will discuss *Circe* by Madeline Miller, outdoors at the Newell Shelter in Capron Park, Attleboro.

October 22, 6—7pm, **APL Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Group** will discuss *The Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller.



Visit www.attleboros1abc.org and click on the Events link to register. Participants will be provided with a copy of the book that can be picked up at the Attleboro Public Library. Most discussions are planned to be virtual and will be offered via Zoom. Registrants will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link prior to the event time.



Virtual Keynote Discussion with Author Madeline Miller and Dr. Kevin Kalish
 October 8, 7:30—8:30pm
 Hosted by Attleboro Public Library in partnership with Bridgewater State University



The community is invited to a virtual discussion between *Circe* author Madeline Miller and Dr. Kevin Kalish, Associate Professor of English at Bridgewater State University, to explore the many themes of this year's NEA Big Read title and to learn more about the author's inspiration for the novel.

Madeline Miller's first novel, *The Song of Achilles*, was awarded the 2012 Orange Prize for Fiction and was a New York Times bestseller. Her second novel, *Circe*, was an instant #1 New York Times bestseller. Before she was a novelist, Madeline Miller earned her BA and MA in Classics from Brown University, and she taught and tutored Latin, Greek and Shakespeare to high school students for more than fifteen years. Her novels have been translated into over twenty-five languages, and her essays have appeared in the Guardian, Wall Street Journal, Lapham's Quarterly and on npr.org.

Dr. Kalish regularly teaches courses on the Classical Tradition and the Bible as Literature. His work has appeared in various scholarly journals. To learn more, visit <https://bridgew.academia.edu/KevinKalish>.

Virtual Mythology "G-Odyssey" Scavenger Hunt
 Hosted by the Attleboro Land Trust
 Exact Location To Be Determined, registrants will receive details in early October.
 October 9—18, dawn to dusk

Find the hidden gods and goddesses of *Circe*! Visit the Preserve during its open times on any of these ten days and complete your virtual mythical journey using the free Goose Chase EDU app. Visit the Land Trust website at attleborolandtrust.org for hours and directions. **Sign-up at attleboros1abc.org**, click on Events, to receive full instructions and a link to download the free Goose Chase app!

The Heroine's Journey
 A Women's Journaling Workshop with Pavlina Gatikova
 October 10, 10—11:30am
 "The task of today's woman is to heal the wounded feminine that exists deep within herself and the culture." Maureen Murdock, *The Heroine's Journey*

Would you like to join me on a woman's mythic quest to heal the deep wounding of her feminine nature on a personal, cultural, and spiritual level in a supportive group of other women seekers and healers?

As women, we continuously question who we are, how we make our way through life, what tribe(s) we belong to, and how we fit into the larger scheme of things. These questions relate to our personal mythology. In this 90-minute session, you will become familiar with Maureen Murdock's *The Heroine's Journey* model and find out the stage(s) of your own journey. In addition, with the support of guided imagery, you will re-experience various thresholds of your own life. Lastly, you will reflect upon and share the wisdom harvested from this exercise.

All participants will be entered into a free drawing for one of two copies of Maureen Murdock's *The Heroine's Journey*.

Pavlina Gatikova was born in the Czech Republic, yet she has been living in the United States for 20 years. She has taught ESL at the Attleboro Public Schools since 2007 and facilitates the monthly Attleboro Public Library Women's Journaling group. She's currently working on her first chapbook of poetry about her Czech roots while tending to wholeness.

Salves, Potions and Healing Practices for Pain & Stress
 Hosted by Community VNA
 Workshop with Dr. Jim Guo from the Healing Cove at the Acupuncture and Chiropractic Clinic
 October 14, 5:30—7pm
 Community VNA, 10 Emory St., Attleboro

Dr. Guo will explain the process used to create his *37 Healing Salve*. This program will include information on other healing practices, such as reiki, acupuncture, and massage. A small in-person audience will be permitted. Program will also be live streamed via Facebook.

Dr. Jim Guo, an acupuncturist, chiropractor, and herbalist, invented the *37 Healing Salve* in 2014. He formulated this salve in response to a colleague's request for a natural herbal product to help symptoms related to sports injuries. Incorporating feedback from patients and colleagues, it took more than a year to perfect the formula.

Mythology & Fantasy Virtual Trivia Night for Teens & Adults
 Hosted by Attleboro Public Library
 October 15, 7—8:15pm

Teens and Adults are welcome to join us for virtual mythology and fantasy-based trivia! Play alone or with a team of family members on the same device. This low key trivia will be a lot of fun, we hope to see you there!

Weaving Demonstration by Lisa Doucet
 Hosted by Attleboro Area Industrial Museum
 October 17, 12—1:15pm
 Attleboro Area Industrial Museum, 42 Union St., #2, Attleboro

During this weaving demonstration, local weaver Lisa Doucet will demonstrate 4 different types of simple looms; rigid heddle, inkle, tapestry, and tablet. She will also provide an overview of the weaving process and show samples of her work. Lisa Doucet has been weaving for 7 years. She studied at the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, MA, and is a past member of both the RI Weaver's Guild and the Weaver's Guild of Boston. A small in-person audience will be permitted. Program will also be live streamed via Facebook.

"Greek to Go" Finale Dinner
 October 22, 6—7pm
 Pick-up at Attleboro High School, 100 Rathbun Willard Dr., Attleboro

Due to current COVID precautions and uncertainty as regards to the availability of the Attleboro High School's Blue Pride Bistro, details about this year's planned Finale Dinner are unknown at this time. Please visit our program website at attleboros1abc.org for more information in October.

Thank You to the Generous Funders for Our 2020 NEA Big Read: Attleboro

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

El proyecto NEA Big Read es una iniciativa del National Endowment for the Arts (el Fondo Nacional para las Artes de Estados Unidos) en cooperación con Arts Midwest.

Hawk, Circe, for my yellow eyes... by Abby Rovaldi is an original illustration inspired by *Circe*. Pen & ink wash on paper. This is Rovaldi's 13th year creating book-specific brand images for the NEA Big Read: Attleboro. *Hawk, Circe, for my yellow eyes...* will be on view during the *Scylla* exhibition at the Attleboro Arts Museum, September 11-18.

Program Registration and Information
 Unless specified, most programs for our 2020 NEA Big Read: Attleboro will be offered virtually using the Zoom platform.

Visit our program website at attleboros1abc.org and click on the Events links to connect to the program calendar. A registration link will provided in the calendar listing for each program.

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/AttleboroLibrary. Have questions? Please call the Attleboro Public Library at 508-222-0157.

Thank you for joining our odyssey as we explore *Circe* by Madeline Miller.

Learn more about the NEA Big Read by visiting www.arts.gov/national-initiatives/nea-big-read

Attleboro's 1ABC Community & Media Partners