

5/1-5/31

[2021 NEA Big Read Beanstack Challenge](#)

Toms River Regional Schools' NEA Big Read program, in partnership with Ocean County Library, is going virtual for 2021!

This year's book selection is *An American Sunrise* by Joy Harjo, a collection of poetry based on Harjo's Mvskoke people were forcibly removed from their original lands east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory, which is now part of Oklahoma. Two hundred years later, Joy Harjo returns to her family's lands and opens a dialogue with history. In *An American Sunrise*, Harjo finds blessings in the abundance of her homeland and confronts the site where her people, and other indigenous families, essentially disappeared.

The Beanstack Challenge will allow the community to connect to Joy Harjo's *An American Sunrise* digitally. The participants will complete activities and attend programs to learn about Native American history and culture and engage with Harjo's stories. Please register through OCL's Beanstack page.

Preregistration for the challenge starts May 1. [Click here](#) to access the OCL's Beanstack page.

All participants need an Ocean County Library card in order to complete the activities in this challenge.

Click [this link](#) for a library card application.

T/A – 5/1-5/31

[NEA Big Read: Native American History and Culture Trivia Quiz](#)

Test your knowledge of Native American Culture with a Kahoot Trivia.

T/A – 5/1-5/31

[NEA Big Read: Escape Room](#)

Follow prompts, solve puzzles, and find answers to "escape" from this virtual form and learn all about Toms River's 2021 NEA Big Read!

T/A – 5/5, 6 pm, Wednesday

[Jasilyn Charger, Water Protector](#)

Join us for a presentation from Jasilyn Charger, a water protector and founding member of the youth group that started the encampment at Standing Rock in prayerful opposition of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Jasilyn will discuss their journey, as well as their current efforts with the nonviolent direct-action protests of Enbridge Line 3 in northern Minnesota.

A/BD – 5/12, 6pm, Wednesday

[NEA Big Read Book Discussion: *An American Sunrise* by Joy Harjo](#)

Join OCL Staff and fellow readers for the NEA Big Read book discussion of *An American Sunrise* by Joy Harjo, the current US Poet Laureate and first-ever Native American to hold the position.

T/A - 5/19, 6 pm, Wednesday

[Indigenous Music with Cliff Matias](#)

Learn about the instruments that Indigenous peoples used and still use today for ceremony and celebration.

T/A – 5/25, 2pm, Tuesday

[Black Out Poetry Take & Make](#)

Tap into your creativity by creating a poem using book pages. These kits are available for pickup at the Toms River Branch, while supplies last.