

# Why Fiction Matters: Two Pulitzer-Prize Winning Authors on the Truth-Telling Power of Literature

Arlington Public Library presents award winning authors Elizabeth Strout (April 20) and Viet Thanh Nguyen (May 3)

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- *Enjoy free author talks with Pulitzer-prize winning authors Elizabeth Strout (April 20) and Viet Thanh Nguyen (May 3) at Central Library*
- *Learn about Strout's newest novel "Anything is Possible" and Nguyen's new fiction work "The Refugees"*
- *Visit [Library.arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads](http://Library.arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads) for more information*

Library patrons are in for a treat this spring as Arlington Public Library presents two Pulitzer-prize winning authors — Elizabeth Strout and Viet Thanh Nguyen. Both authors will be discussing their new books while addressing the truth-telling power of literature. Strout will appear on April 20, 7 p.m. and Nguyen on May 3, 7 p.m., at Central Library, Auditorium.

Strout, novelist and short-story writer, winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Olive Kitteridge*, will discuss why she believes a reader can find "the truest things in good fiction, while gaining compassion through understanding the experience of others." Strout's newest novel in stories, *Anything is Possible*, to be released April 25, draws from the lives of residents of Amgash, Illinois, the same small-town setting used for *My Name is Lucy Barton*.

Nguyen, award winning author and recipient of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *The Sympathizer*, will be joined by Arlington Public Library Director Diane Kresh in a conversation about his writings and the role of fiction in illuminating issues of consequence. Nguyen's newest fiction work, *The Refugees*, is a collection of stories giving voice to those leaving one country for another, uncovering the dreams and hardships of immigration and desires for self-fulfillment that define our lives.

Arlington Reads, a signature community engagement program of Arlington Public Library, promotes literacy, the joy of reading, and intergenerational participation. "The program brings together people to talk about books and the important topics of our time," said Kresh.

Since its inception in 2006, the program has featured both national and international fiction and non-fiction authors and cultural icons, such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Wendell Berry, Junot Díaz, Anthony Doerr, Richard Ford, Colum McCann, Tim O'Brien, and Ann Patchett.

This program is made possible in part through the generous support of the Friends of the Arlington Public Library. To learn more about Arlington Reads, visit [library.arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads](http://library.arlingtonva.us/arlington-reads).

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