

## **“Reading Allowed: Storytime with Cornerstone.”**

*By: Nati Tapia*

Director of Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts Melinda Zook saw how much her students appreciated reading aloud in class. When she read in an article that students don’t like being alone, even to read, she had an idea. Why not bring students back to the nostalgia of storytime they loved as children? She also thought it may be an opportunity to introduce great short stories, the only genre that can be considered uniquely American.



“Reading Allowed” is an opportunity for faculty to share life-changing American literature from various movements such as realism, modernism, and postmodernism. Throughout the semester, Cornerstone faculty will host Reading Allowed events that spotlight a short story, read aloud to students. Each event features a theme that complements the story, along with treats that tie into the story's theme or aesthetic!

Professor Samuel Bennett hosted the first event reading, “The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas,” by Ursula K. Le Guin. The story explores the moral dilemma of choosing to stay or leave a Utopian society where the happiness of the residents depends on the suffering of a single child. This posed the question, would you leave Omelas, or would you stay? The students made their decision by choosing a green cookie/green soda if they would leave, or a red cookie/red soda if they would stay, and they discussed their choices as a group.



Future events are open to Cornerstone students and faculty, and the Purdue community at large.

### **Upcoming events**

Location for all events: Cornerstone Reading Room, HSSE Library

Friday, September 26th at 4:00 PM

*Ted Chiang, "What's Expected of Us"*

Read By: Prof. Elise Frketich

Thursday, October 9th at 4:30 PM

*Ray Bradbury, "The Last Night of the World"*

Read By: Prof. James Mollison

Friday, Halloween, October 31st at 4:00 PM

*Edgar Allan Poe, "The Black Cat"*

Read By: Prof. Tulin Tosun

Thursday, November 20th at 4:30 PM

*Cormac McCarthy, "A Wake for Susan."*

Read By: Prof. Raleigh Heth

Thursday, December 4th at 4:00 PM

*David Sedaris, "Santaland Diaries"*

Read By: Prof. Tom Robson