

# **Explore the literature of power, passion and possession in Africa**

## at the Westchester Great Books Council's

### **Annual Day of Discussion**

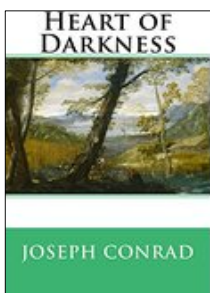
**Saturday, January 21, 2017\***

**9:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**Briarcliff High School, Briarcliff Manor, NY**

Plan to join us at our 24<sup>th</sup> annual day-long discussion of two outstanding works of fiction. Stories by Joseph Conrad and V.S. Naipaul draw on their personal experiences in Africa at two very different times of the continent's history. The authors examine how power, colonialism, post-colonialism, race, and human interactions affect the course of history and the people of Africa.

*Heart of Darkness* will be discussed in the morning and *Bend in the River* will be tackled in the afternoon after a gourmet, catered lunch. Our skilled discussion leaders and other inquisitive readers will help you gain new insights into these novels through thoughtful dialogue and respectful debate.



#### **Heart of Darkness** by Joseph Conrad

Set during the era of heightened competition for imperial territories in central Africa, *Heart of Darkness* tells the story of Charles Marlow's experience as an ivory transporter down the Congo River. In the course of his travel, Marlow becomes obsessed with Mr. Kurtz, a mysterious figure who holds power over the natives. The story is a complex exploration of the attitudes people hold on what constitutes a barbarian versus a civilized society and the attitudes on colonialism and racism that were part and parcel of European imperialism.

*Excerpted from Amazon*

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (November 29, 2014)    78 pages    ISBN: 978-1503275928

#### **Bend in the River** by V.S. Naipaul

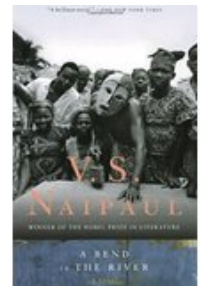
V.S. Naipaul takes us deeply into the life of one man -- an Indian who, uprooted by the bloody tides of Third World history, has come to live in an isolated town at the bend of a great river in a newly independent African nation. Naipaul gives us the most convincing and disturbing vision yet of what happens in a place caught between the dangerously alluring modern world and its own tenacious past and traditions.

*Excerpted from Amazon*

Vintage; Reissue edition (March 13, 1989)

288 pages

ISBN: 978-0679722021



### **Registration Details**

**\*Snow date is Sunday, January 22nd**

**Cost:** \$45 for session with books purchased through WGBC. (Register by December 31, 2016)

\$30 for session with attendee providing own books. (Register by January 16, 2017)

Catered continental breakfast and lunch are provided for all participants.

*Note: Books may be purchased through WGBC only as a set and must be ordered by 12/31/16. You will be notified when they are available for pick-up at the Briarcliff Manor Public Library. Using the editions noted above facilitates your active participation in the day's discussion and is strongly encouraged.*

**Questions?** Contact Mary Ann Baiyor at [westchestergreatbooks@gmail.com](mailto:westchestergreatbooks@gmail.com) or 914-631-4833

To register, complete the form below and mail it along with your check to:

**Westchester Great Books Council, P.O. Box 630, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510**

**Westchester Great Books 2017 Day of Discussion Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print clearly

Phone number to contact me if event is postponed to January 22nd: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed.  I am registering and buying books.  I am registering but will provide my own books.