of place in world that does not acknowledge or embrace her. She is female, poor, black, and abused, and relationships buoyed by dysfunction. Pecola, the protagonist, struggles to find self-acceptance and a sense of belonging.

Morrison's prose artfully describes the disdain and contempt society exhibits toward those who live in transitioned it into a book in 1965. Though published in 1970, the novel's themes still ring true almost a reminder that everyone needs to speak out against the tide of censorship.

A surge in the number of challenges to popular books in schools, bookstores, and libraries. Banned Books Week observed September 23-29, 2018. This event was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden increase in censorship. The event was created by the American Library Association (ALA) and the American Booksellers Association (ABA) to draw attention to the issues of freedom of expression and the importance of a free and accessible literary culture.

The Birmingham Public Library, in partnership with the Birmingham Children's Theatre (BCT) and Junior League of Birmingham (JLB), would like to invite you to attend From Page to Stage: A Reader's Theater Workshop for Children. In anticipation of the upcoming BCT performance of School House Rock Live!, BPL will be hosting free workshops at several of its area libraries. Children, aged 7 to 12, will learn how stories come alive through the magic of theater. JLB members will coach the participants in the art of public speaking and stage presence.

A workshop for Pecola, at Southside Branch Library is among many led throughout the year by Parker aka Ms. Eve, Avondale Lead Librarian. Few minutes earlier Parker had been reading a book called "Happy," then stopping the music and coaxing the children to hug their neighbor. It was a fitting scene as a reminder of the importance of community and the need to support one another.

Eve Parker was in the zone, leading about two dozen kids in a dance to the Pharrell Williams hit song "Happy." The music was upbeat, the dance was lively, and the children were engaged and smiling. It was a reminder of the power of music and the importance of community engagement.

Diabetes prevention workshops are designed for diabetics, caregivers, and those interested in learning more about managing diabetes. The workshops are free and provide information on lifestyle changes, medication management, and other strategies for controlling blood sugar levels. The workshops are led by experts in the field of diabetes and are available at select BPL branch libraries.

The Birmingham Public Library is now offering US passport services at select branch locations. This is an important service for those who need to travel internationally, as well as for those who want to renew or replace their passports. The library is committed to providing a convenient and accessible location for those who need to obtain a passport.

Teens Engineer BHM is a program for middle and high school students with a passion for engineering. The program offers opportunities to program robots, learn about coding, and explore other engineering concepts. The program is led by experts in the field and is designed to inspire and challenge young people to pursue careers in STEM fields.

BPL Reads Banned Books is an annual national event celebrating the freedom to read. This event is held in response to a sudden increase in censorship and is designed to draw attention to the importance of a free and accessible literary culture. The event is part of Banned Books Week, observed September 23-29, 2018.

The Magic City Classic is an annual event that celebrates the rich history and culture of the Magic City. The event features live music, food, and entertainment, and is a reminder of the importance of community engagement and the need to support local artists and performers.