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The Big Read in Birmingham

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Communities all over the country are participating in a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Big Read, an initiative designed to encourage reading for pleasure among Americans.

BirminghamMoms and Alabamians in general have a unique opportunity to participate in this cultural event, since one of the novels featured in The Big Read is To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Perhaps we take for granted the greatness of the story, set in segregated Alabama and recognized as a classic in American literature. The book is required reading for most 9th graders in the city, and has been selected as The Big Read novel of choice for communities from Buffalo, NY, to Orange County, CA.

The culmination of The Big Read in Birmingham will include a showing of the movie at the Alabama Theater on Thursday, April 10th at 7 p.m. (\$4 admission includes popcorn and a soft drink). Other events at area public libraries are also scheduled. There are even overnight tours departing from Brookwood Mall that will include significant sites in Montgomery, Monroeville, and Selma, as well as a live performance of the stage production. (Registration must be submitted by April 10th.) If you can't go, look over the itinerary for inspiration on how to plan a short educational trip sometime.

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Screenshot from Birminghammom.com

Searching around the web to see what we haven't seen about Birmingham always brings some interesting results. The most recent discovery was that of a blog started to help make life easier for area moms. Birminghammom.com started last October as what has become a resource for area families to spend more time together. I'd try to do a better job describing it, but [I will leave that to the original Birmingham Mom herself.](#)