



Small Great Things* Course Cluster Reading and Discussion Group - *Health, Healing and Humanity

Please join us in celebrating this year's Course Cluster theme of *Health, Healing and Humanity* by participating in reading a stunning novel with richly layered characters who lend unflinching, real, raw and candid insight as they grapple with moral dilemmas relating to race. This book and the discussion which follows is an event you don't want to miss.

When: Wednesday, February 3, 2021, 4-6 pm

Where: via [Zoom](#)

RSVP: [here](#)

I can think of no better excuse to take a break, relax, and unwind with a hot cup of something over winter break than “needing” to read *Small Great Things* in preparation for spring semester (see description below).

Looking forward to a great discussion,
Amanda Hopkins

Small Great Things by [Jodi Picoult](#)

Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white

supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?

Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime. Kennedy McQuarrie, a white public defender, takes her case but gives unexpected advice: Kennedy insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. Conflicted by Kennedy's counsel, Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family—especially her teenage son—as the case becomes a media sensation. As the trial moves forward, Ruth and Kennedy must gain each other's trust, and come to see that what they've been taught their whole lives about others—and themselves—might be wrong.

With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion—and doesn't offer easy answers. *Small Great Things* is a remarkable achievement from a writer at the top of her game.

<https://www.jodipicoult.com/small-great-things.html>