

Rae Chesny

STORYTELLER

DYNAMIC SPEAKER

ZORA NEALE HURSTON SCHOLAR

About Rae

Rae Chesny is an interdisciplinary storyteller working to amplify the stories of women and children of color. She is an award-winning Social Education Expert, author, Johns Hopkins University Literary Consultant, Zora Neale Hurston Scholar and the creator of the Junior Storyteller Program for children. Rae is a 2021 Baldwin House Urban Writer in Residence. She is a community partner and annual guest lecturer for Michigan State University.

Rae's goal as a speaker is to engage, educate, and inspire audiences of all ages with the legacy of Zora Neale Hurston. In January 2022, she served as the featured speaker for the Zora Neale Hurston: The Storyteller and Her Town Series hosted by Orange County Library System during the 33rd Annual Zora Neale Hurston Festival.

Rae's forthcoming memoir *Dear Zora* will be released in January 2022 under a work in progress experiment Rae created to combat the lack of representation in publishing.

Booking Information

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📘 Rae Chesny

Rae's Presentations

- Zora Neale Hurston: The Story of The Storyteller
- Zora Neale Hurston: Eatonville Around the World
- Zora Neale Hurston: Queen of the Harlem Renaissance

“ Testimonials

Whether you're a lover of Zora [Neale Hurston]'s literary works or hearing about the literary great for the first time, Rae Chesny shares Zora's life in a way that leaves listeners of all ages, from all walks of life, on the edge of their seats wanting more.

–Sara Brown, Eatonville Branch Library Manager

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I loved the presentation...I could tell that Rae is passionate about learning about Zora and educating others. Rae presents in a calm and relaxed manner with lots of enthusiasm, which is pleasing to an audience.

–Crystal Thomas, Presentation Attendee

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Rae Chesny's presentation Zora Neale Hurston was SO informative. I learned tons of new things, big and small. She's such an important literary figure, but her anthropological contributions got little play until now. I'm hoping [Rae] has a book on Zora coming soon.

–Arlene Walker, Presentation Attendee

Speaking Engagements / In The Press

