

Author Lawrence Hill will speak at Vanier College

Montreal, January 25, 2012. As a warm-up and pre-taste of Black History Month at Vanier College, Laurence Hill, author of *The Book of Negroes*, an award-winning book that examines the history of slavery in Canada, will speak at Vanier on January 27, 2012.

The Book of Negroes, published in the United States under the title of *Someone Knows my Name* and in French as *Aminata*, has received literary acclaim and won several awards including CBC Radio's 2009 *Canada Reads*, the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. It was also a finalist for the Hurston/Wright LEGACY Award and long listed for both the Giller Prize and the IMPAC Award.



The Book of Negroes describes the atrocities of slavery and focuses on the desire of former slaves to maintain their dignity and preserve their heritage in spite of all the difficulties they had to contend with.

Much of Lawrence Hill's writing touches on issues of identity and belonging. He is the son of a black father and a white mother who immigrated to Canada in 1953 from the United States. Growing up in Don Mills, Ontario, in the sixties, Hill was influenced by his parents' work in the human rights movement.

Mr. Hill has worked as a reporter with *The Globe and Mail* and parliamentary correspondent for *The Winnipeg Free Press*. He has lived and worked across Canada, in Baltimore, and in Spain and France.

Mr. Hill has a B.A. in Economics from Laval University in Québec City and an M.A. in writing from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Hill lives in Hamilton, Ontario.

Lawrence Hill will speak at 11:30am-12:45pm in the Amphitheatre, Room B-223.