



# REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS

## PUBLIC LECTURE OFFERINGS

### **A QUESTION OF FREEDOM: LEARNING, SURVIVAL, AND COMING OF AGE IN PRISON**

In this lecture, Reginald Dwayne Betts chronicles the years he spent in prison, reflecting on his crime and sharing how his experiences and the books he discovered while incarcerated ultimately came to define him. It is an inspirational tale of transformation that speaks to the power of language and examines the important intersection of art and social justice.

### **THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF A PRISON: YOUTH, RACE, AND THE FAILURES OF THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Reginald Dwayne Betts knows the hazards of juvenile incarceration firsthand. Arrested at age sixteen, Betts served eight years in an adult prison, coming of age behind bars. Today, Betts uses his experiences to speak about the current state of the criminal justice system—including, sentencing juveniles as adults, solitary confinement, maximum security prisons, the collateral consequences of a criminal record—and presents promising ideas for reform.

### **AN EVENING OF POETRY WITH REGINALD DWAYNE BETTS**

An award-winning poet, Reginald Dwayne Betts will read from his critically-acclaimed collections of poetry, *Felon*, *Shahid Reads His Own Palm* and *Bastards of the Reagan Era*, and discuss the inspiration behind his works.

## CLASSROOM DISCUSSION TOPICS



- 1. ANY OF THE ABOVE LECTURES CAN ALSO BE USED AS DISCUSSION TOPICS**