



The 2017-2018 Go Big Read selection, *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance, is a personal reflection on upward mobility in America seen through the lens of a white, working-class family in the Midwest. The memoir traces both Vance's family history and his own development from the hills of Jackson, Kentucky to the rustbelt town of Middletown, OH. The book touches on a number of themes, and has contributed to a national conversation about challenges faced in the pursuit of the American dream. Below, the Go Big Read program has assembled a list of themes and topics that the book addresses, as well as the page numbers on which these appear. This is not an exhaustive list, and is presented in no particular order. It is intended to support instructors and book discussion groups as they explore themes and connections to the book.

- Access to Higher Education, First Generation College Students (pgs. 197, 199, 216)
- American Dream (pgs. 36-26, 189, 237)
- Childhood Trauma (pgs. 2, 17-18, 45, 61-62, 88-89, 126)
- Drugs & Alcohol (pgs. 2, 18-19, 40, 75, 113, 116, 130, 145, 233)
- Education, Importance & Challenges (pgs. 55-56, 64, 127, 147)
- Family Structures, Single Parents (pg. 242)
- Gender Roles (pgs. 4, 7, 20-21, 24, 41, 58, 245-246)
- Globalization (pg. 54)
- Government Assistance, Welfare (pgs. 7-8, 21, 57, 139, 144-146)
- Hillbilly Stereotypes (pgs. 3, 146-147)
- Identity, Imposter Syndrome (pgs. 81, 201-202, 205)
- Love, Stability, Mentoring (pgs. 26, 60, 149, 159, 176, 217, 222, 253)
- Loyalty, Honor Culture (pgs. 14-15, 17, 19, 67-69, 78, 154)
- Media Mistrust, Fake News (pgs. 192-193)
- Migration (pgs. 21, 29-30, 134, 194, 206, 180)
- Military, Discipline (pgs. 174, 187)
- Patriotism (pgs. 189-190)
- Payday Lending (pg. 185)
- Perceived Oppression (pgs. 31, 97, 186-187, 191, 194)
- Political Views (pgs. 47, 140-143, 182)
- Poverty (pgs. 2, 5, 19, 50-52, 139, 142)
- Religion, Christianity (pgs. 2, 85-87, 92-99, 124, 242, 255)
- Social Class (pgs. 8, 63, 79, 203)
- Stress & Health (pgs. 89, 148, 228)
- Work Ethic, Personal Responsibility (pgs. 6-7, 19, 20-21, 176-177, 193, 240, 256)