

A Selection of Books, Websites, Film, and Video for Luminous Things: African American Poetry

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1. General and Introductory Sources

Books and scholarly articles:

Andrews, William L., Frances Smith Foster and Trudier Harris. *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*. An outstanding compendium of information about African American literature, literary and cultural history, movements, authors, the African American experience and more. Superbly written articles on major issues and themes related to African American literature as well as biographies of major and minor authors.

Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk*. (1903) A collection of essays that is a seminal work in the history of sociology and a cornerstone of African American literary history and life. The complete book is available at the Gutenberg Project website, [here](#).

Franklin, John Hope. *Reconstruction after the Civil War*.

Franklin, John Hope, and Alfred A. Moss. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* (1947, 2000)

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr., and Jennifer Burton. *Call and Response: Key Debates in African American Studies* (2008). Gates is the author of twenty-one books on African American culture, history, and literature, as well as the editor of another twelve books, creator of films and video series, and the host of PBS's *Finding Your Roots*. A complete list of his work is on Wikipedia, [here](#).

Hannah-Jones, Nikole, and *The New York Times Magazine*. *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*. Compelling thematic articles retell and newly analyze the history and legacies of slavery in American from the first boat to arrive with captured Africans through to contemporary events.

Morrison, Toni, ed. *The Black Book*. (A scrapbook or album of Black history and culture)

Race in the Age of Obama from *Daedalus* (a quarterly journal, from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences) Winter 2011, Vol. 40 & 41. Two issues on this theme. [Vol #1](#); [Vol. #2](#) (For a download of a pdf file of Vol. #1, click [here](#) and then click on “View pdf”)

Washington, Booker T. *Up from Slavery*. (autobiography)

Websites and Videos:

[Black Past website](#): A huge, on-going, and easily accessed trove of essays, original documents, maps, photos, bibliographies, and other resources about African American history and about the African diaspora.

[“Booker T. Washington vs. W.E.B. DuBois”](#) This brief video compares the views of these two leading African American figures at the turn of the 20th century.

On Booker T. Washington’s [“Atlanta compromise” speech of 1895](#), a crucial speech in African American history.

Gates, Henry Louis. PBS. [The African Americans](#). A six-part series for PBS that chronicles the full sweep of the African American experience, from the origins of the transatlantic slave trade to the reelection and second inauguration of President Barack Obama. Episodes available through the PBS website and Amazon.

Hughes, Langston. [“Two Hundred Years of African American Poetry.”](#) Essay. An historical examination of the trajectory of African American poetry, beginning with the work of Lucy Terry, a slave, in 1746, and continuing the rising generation of African American poets in the 1950s and 60s.

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2. Black poets

Books, Anthologies, and a Transcript

Hill, Patricia Liggins, ed. *Call and Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition*. (1998, 2003) with an audio cd

Leonard, Keith. D. *Fettered Genius: The African American Bardic Poet from Slavery to Civil Rights*. (2006)

Mueller, Timo. *The African American Sonnet* (2020)

Poetry Society of America and The New School. ““What’s African American about African American Poetry?” Transcript of a panel of five writers—Elizabeth Alexander, Cornelius

Eady, Tracie Morris, and Harryette Mullen, along with moderator Kevin Young—to consider the question “What’s African American About African American Poetry?” (Transcript attached)

Redding, J. Saunders. *To Make a Poet Black* (1939)

Young, Kevin. *African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle and Song* (2020) an anthology

Websites and Videos

Alexander, Elizabeth. “[The Black Poet as Canon-Maker.](#)” Essay. On Langston Hughes’ anthology *New Negro Poets* and American poetry’s segregated past.

Essential American Poets Podcasts. Sound files with short biographies and the poet reading three or four poems. [Robert Hayden](#) [Gwendolyn Brooks](#) [Lucile Clifton](#)

Finney, Nikki. “[Playing by Ear, Praying for Rain: The Poetry of James Baldwin](#)” Essay on Baldwin.

Hughes, Langston. “[The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain.](#)” Essay in response to Countée Cullen’s comments about Hughes’s use of jazz in his poetry.

Jordan, June, “[The Difficult Miracle of Black Poetry in America.](#)” Essay, mostly on Phyllis Wheatley

Library of America. [Poet of the People: The Greatness of Langston Hughes.](#) Two scholars of African American poetry discuss Hughes’ achievements, influences and style.

Porter, Lavelle. “[Life Upon These Shores.](#)” Essay. How Robert Hayden came to write the most powerful poem about the transatlantic slave trade.

Harris, Trudier. “[African American Protest Poetry.](#)” Essay. An overview of African American protest poetry and poets during slavery, during Jim Crow and during the civil rights era. (Attached)

Smith, Tracy K. and Young, Kevin. “[The African American Poetic Tradition.](#)” A conversation between two major African American poets. Part of the website devoted to the anthology *African American Poetry: 250 Years of Struggle and Song*. The website has pdf files of chapters from the anthology plus other resources.

Links:

Editors of Poetry Foundation: [Celebrating Black History Month](#) A trove of links to poems, articles, and podcasts that explore African American history and culture.

The [Academy of American Poets](#) website and [The Poetry Foundation](#) website. Major websites for poems and articles on all major African American poets and for younger and lesser-known poets, too.

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2. Africa

Epics, Folklore, Novels and Plays

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. (novel by Nigerian author)

Black Past website: Section on the [global African Diaspora](#). [Traditional Zulu folktale](#). [Traditional Nigerian folktale](#).

Chimamanda, Ngozi Adichie. *Americanah*. (Nigerian novelist writes about Nigerians who come to America)

Emecheta, Buchi, *The Bride Price*. (1976). *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979). *Head Above Water*. (1986) autobiography.

Fugard, Athol. *A Lesson from Aloes*. (1981 drama). *Master Harold . . . and the Boys*. (1982 drama).

Harris, Trudier. [“The Image of Africa in the Literature of the Harlem Renaissance.”](#) Essay from the National Humanities Center on various Black writers’ relationship to and images of Africa in their writing.

Hughes, Langston and Arna Bontemps, eds. *The Book of Negro Folklore*. (1958). Folk tales of African origin, including the one about the Flying Africans, the slaves who flew back to Africa.

Laye, Camara. *The Radiance of the King*. (novel by a Guinean author)

Soyinka, Wole. *Death and the King’s Horseman*. (1975). Soyinka was a Nigerian novelist, playwright, and essayist. He won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1986.

Brittle Paper. [50 Notable African Books of 2021](#). Handy bibliography from an online literary magazine for readers of African Literature.

Wikipedia. [Folk Epics in African Languages](#). Links to summaries and context of several epic poems

Africapoems.net. [A collection of African epic poems](#)

Non-fiction critical studies

Berghahn, Marion. *Images of Africa in Black American Literature*. (2014).

Jennings, La Vinia Delois. *Toni Morrison and the Idea of Africa*. (2008)

Kamali, Leila. *The Cultural Memory of Africa in African American and Black British Fiction, 1970-2000*. (2016).

Mbiti, John. *African Religions and Philosophy*.

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4. Slavery

History:

Beckert, Sven. "[Ten Books on Slavery You Need to Read](#)." A short bibliography from a Harvard professor and author.

Dept. of History, Washington University's [Bibliography on Slavery and Freedom in the Making of America](#)

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*.

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. (autobiography)

Schwartz, Marie. *Born in Bondage*. (non-fiction)

Literature:

Coates, Ta-Nehisi *The Water Dancer*. (novel)

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. (novel)

Stowe, Harriet Beecher *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. (novel that Lincoln called the book that started the Civil War).

Weisenburger, Steven. *Modern Medea*. (the true story of Margaret Garner, the inspiration for Morrison's *Beloved*).

Whitehead, Colson. *The Underground Railroad* (novel), made into a highly rated film, available on Amazon Prime.

Websites and Videos:

[Black Past website](#): A huge, on-going, and easily accessed trove of essays, original documents, maps, photos, bibliographies, and other resources about slavery, found under in African American history section.

Library of Congress: [Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1938](#)

National archives: [The Emancipation Proclamation](#): Essay and photos of the original document and its predecessors

TED Education website: [The Atlantic Slave Trade](#): Video with links to questions and other resources

Film

Harriet, about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad. Available on Vudu, Amazon Prime and Apple TV

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5. Jim Crow and the Great Migration

Books and Scholarly Article

Alexander Michelle, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness*

Blackmon, Douglas A. *Slavery by Another Name: The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*

Ellison Ralph, *Invisible Man* (novel)

Gates, Henry Louis Jr. *Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow*

Litwack, Leon F. "The White Man's Fear of the Educated Negro. How the Negro was Fitted for his Logical and Natural Calling." *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, n20 p100-08. Thorough review of the white fear of the educated black man in the Jim Crow period and earlier. Theme: Curtailing educational opportunity was an important means of racial control. (Attached)

Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns*. The Great Migration.

Woodard, Colin. *American Nations*. The founding of American regions and their continuing cultural contexts.

Websites:

[Black Past website](#): A huge, on-going, and easily accessed trove of essays, original documents, maps, photos, bibliographies, and other resources about the Jim Crow era, found under in African American history section of the website.

Ferris University. [Jim Crow Museum](#). A website version of the museum's exhibits, documents, photos, and essays on the Jim Crow era. Comprehensive, easy to navigate.

[GoodReads: Jim Crow](#). A list of influential history and literary books on the Jim Crow era.

History.com. [The Green Book: The Black Travelers' Guide to Jim Crow America](#). This is about the travel guide that is featured in the film *The Green Book*. This [Atlantic Magazine article](#) compares the film to a Smithsonian documentary about the Green Book.

Lawrence, Jacob. [Migration Series](#). The site explores the lasting cultural, political, and societal impact of the Great Migration through the life and work of artist Jacob Lawrence.

National Park Service. "[Jim Crow Laws](#)." A listing with brief explanations of the many, many laws that governed everyday life for Blacks and whites during the Jim Crow era. Each law designed to keep the races segregated and the Blacks subjugated.

Wilkerson, Isabel. "[The Long-Lasting Legacy of the Great Migration](#)." *Smithsonian Magazine*. Article. Wide-ranging and authoritative article by an expert on this period of history.

Documentary:

"True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality." Illuminating and powerful, the documentary focuses on Alabama public interest attorney Bryan Stevenson's life and career-long effort to eradicate racial discrimination in the criminal justice system, particularly in the use of the death sentence. The film tracks the intertwined histories of lynching, segregation, and mass incarceration that characterize the Jim Crow era.

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6. Harlem Renaissance

Books and Essays:

Early, Gerald. "[Jazz and the African American Literary Tradition](#)." Essay tracing the influence of Jazz in Black literature and in Black and white culture. (Attached.)

Egar, Emmanuel. *Black Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance*. (2003)

Harris, Trudier. "[The Image of Africa in the Literature of the Harlem Renaissance](#)." Essay from the National Humanities Center on various Black writers' relationship to and images of Africa in their writing. (Attached)

Huggins, Nathan. *Harlem Renaissance*. (1971).

Hull, Gloria T. *Color, Sex, and Poetry: Three Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance*. (1987) (Alice Dunbar-Nelson, Angelina Grimke, and Georgia Douglas Johnson)

Library of America. [Poet of the People: The Greatness of Langston Hughes](#). Two scholars of African American poetry discuss Hughes' achievements, influences and style.

Lorde, Audre. "Poetry is Not a Luxury." Essay on poetry, change, Blackness, woman-ness, nature, and internal strength. [Pdf file here](#).

McKay, Nellie Y. and Maureen Honey, eds. *Shadowed Dreams: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance*. (2nd edition, 2006) See the entire text, [here](#) (scroll down), including a pdf of the important Introductory essay.

Websites:

Editors. The Poetry Foundation: [An Introduction to the Harlem Renaissance](#). Introductory essay, plus a trove of links to poems, articles, recordings, and videos that trace the poetic work of this crucial cultural and artistic movement.

Hughes, Langston "[Jazz as Communication](#)" Essay on jazz and poetry.

NPR. [3 Harlem Renaissance Novels Deliver An Ingenious Take On Race](#) Article and broadcast.

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7. Racism

Books and Essays

Harvard Gazette. "[A Reading List on Issues of Race](#)."

Haley, Alex. *Roots* (book); *Roots* (TV series). Hugely popular fictionalized account of one African American's family story, starting with the capture in Gambia and enslavement in the US of Kunta Kinte and ending in the onward to the 20th century. *Roots* the TV series is available on HBO Max.

Hearn, Michael Patrick. "Alex Haley Taught America About Race — and a Young Man How to Write." *NYTimes Magazine* (read article here) *In 1968, the celebrated author of "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" arrived at Hamilton College to teach and work on his magnum opus, "Roots." Now, on the centenary of his birth, a former student recalls Haley's class.*

Kendi. Ibram X. *How to be an Antiracist*. Explores racism through ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with a personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism.

Kendi, Ibram X. *Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*. A narrative/history of anti-Black racist ideas and their power over the course of American history. Focusing on Puritan minister Cotton Mather, Thomas Jefferson, William Lloyd Garrison, W. E. B. **Du Bois** and Angela Davis, Kendi shows how and why some of our leading pro-slavery and pro-civil rights thinkers have challenged or helped cement racist ideas in America.

López, Ian Haney. *Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class*. How politicians have relied on racially coded language to win over white voters and decimate social programs.

Owens, Deirdre Cooper. *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*. Stories of black women that have been overshadowed by the "discoveries" of white male doctors who experimented on them; and shows that baseless theories about black inferiority and higher pain tolerance still permeate medical schools today.

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* Chronicles how the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 failed to stop racist, exploitative mortgage lending practices. Nominated in 2020 for a Pulitzer Prize for History.

Tatum, Beverly Daniel. *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in The Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race*. Classic text on the psychology of racism.

Websites:

APA: The American Psychological Association. [Racism, bias, and discrimination resources](#). A look at racism through the lens of psychology and mental health.

History.com. [Tulsa Race Massacre](#). This event remains one of the worst incidents of racial violence in U.S. history, and, for a period, remained one of the least known. Site examines the incident, its causes and aftermath. Also see [Yale's Beineke Library site on the Tulsa massacre](#).

Library of Congress. [American Memory Project: African American Odyssey](#). Online version of exhibits related to the African American experience from slavery onward.

Smithsonian Magazine. [58 Resources to Understand Racism in America](#). An overview of racism in America with embedded links to other articles, videos, podcasts and websites from the Smithsonian chronicle the history of anti-black violence and inequality in the United States.

Smithsonian Magazine. ["Talking about Race."](#) A series of essays about topics related to racism in America, including: Bias, Whiteness, Social Identities and Systemic Oppression, Historic Foundations of Racism, and more.

Links

New York Times: [Racial Issues and Identities: A Guide to Resources on the Web](#). A comprehensive list of links to websites with information, documents, articles, statistics, images, and/or other resources about African American history, life, culture, arts, and more.

Films and TV

13th. Documentary. DuVernay Ava. about mass incarceration, Jim Crow and slavery as "the three major racialized systems of control adopted in the United States to date."

Colin in Black and White. The teenage years of retired NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick and the experiences that led him to become an activist. Famous for 'taking a knee' In 2016, he knelt during the national anthem at the start of NFL games in protest of police brutality and racial inequality in the United States. Available on Netflix

LA 92 About the Los Angeles riots that occurred in response to the police beating of Rodney King. The film is entirely comprised of archival footage

One Night in Miami. A fictionalized account of the night of Feb. 25, 1964, in Miami, when Cassius Clay met with Jim Brown, Sam Cooke and Malcom X, and they discuss the responsibility of being successful black men during the civil rights movement. Available on Amazon Prime.

Teach Us All. Questions why American schools are still segregated and talks to advocates working for change.

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8. The Fight for Civil Rights and The Rise of Black Power and the Black Aesthetic

Books and Essays

Branch, Taylor. Highly regarded, three-part biography of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, jr. *Parting the Waters: America in the King Years 1954-1963*. *Pillar of Fire*, which covers 1963-1965; and *At Canaan's Edge*, 1965-1968.

Carmichael, Stokely, and Charles V. Hamilton. *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation*. A document of the civil rights movement that provides and calls for a radical political framework of reform for African Americans and their independence from the preexisting order.

Cleaver, Eldridge. *Soul on Ice* A now-classic memoir and document of the civil rights era, and raw chronical of the Black experience.

Davis, Angela Y. *Women, Race & Class*. A powerful study of the women's liberation movement and the tangled knot of oppression facing Black women.

- Etheridge, Eric. *Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Mississippi Freedom Riders* by (2008): Using police mug shots from 1961 and contemporary photos, the stories of protesters, black and white, who came from across the USA to challenge segregation laws.
- Hampton, Henry. *Voices of Freedom*. This tells the Civil Rights movement's story in the words of its participants, from the famous to the obscure; draws upon 1,000 interviews with those who took part in the marches, sit-ins and Freedom Rides.
- Hinton, Elizabeth. *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America*. Argues that the 1965 Law Enforcement Assistance Act, part of Lyndon Johnson's Great
- Janken, Kenneth R. "[The Civil Rights Movement:1919-1960s](#)." Essay from the National Humanities Center that traces the fight for civil rights movement through to the civil rights legislation of 1968. (Attached)
- King, Martin Luther Jr. *Why We Can't Wait*. King's account of the civil rights movement in Birmingham during the spring and summer of 1963. King examines the history of the civil rights struggle and the generations must accomplish to bring about full equality. The book also includes the extraordinary "Letter from Birmingham Jail," This is one of a number of books, including compendia of speeches and other writing, by King. [This site lists many of them](#).
- MacLean, Nancy. "[The Civil Rights Movement:1968—2008](#)." Essay from the National Humanities Center that traces the fight to extend the civil rights movement and preserve its gains. (Attached)
- McWhorter, Diane. *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama, The Climatic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution* by (2001): Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, an investigation of the author's hometown and own segregationist family during 1963 when the civil rights movement came into its own.
- Nelson, Alondra. *Body and Soul: The Black Panther Party and the Fight against Medical Discrimination*. How the Black Panther Party's efforts to bring health care to minority communities brought attention to rampant discrimination within mainstream medicine. *Body and Soul* is available online for free.
- Olson, Lynne. *Freedom's Daughters* traces women's involvement in equal rights from the antebellum period through the beginnings of the Black Power movement, "the civil rights movement would not have gotten off the ground without its women. They were the movement's engine."

Peniel, Joseph. *Waiting 'Til the Midnight Hour: A Narrative History of Black Power in America*. Drawing on original archival research and more than sixty original oral histories, this narrative history invokes the way in which Black writers, artists, and activists redefined black identity and culture and redrew the landscape of American race relations.

Pinckney, Darryl. *Blackballed: The Black Vote and U.S. Democracy*. Addresses the struggle for voting rights and for racial equality more broadly, drawing on Pinckney's own experiences and writings of civil rights leaders to create a complicated picture of black political identity.

Wilson, August. *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. *Fences*. Two of Wilson's ten plays in his Pittsburgh Cycle of plays that document African American experiences in the 20th century. The plays chronicle the effect of social and historical situations of each decade on individual characters. *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* (available on Netflix), and *Fences* (available through Amazon Prime) were made into award winning movies.

Websites, Video, and film:

Black America Since MLK: And Still I Rise. A two-part series, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. chronicles the last 50 years of black history through a personal lens.

[Civil Rights Movement](#) from EdTechTeacher's Best History Websites. A Comprehensive list of history-oriented websites on the civil rights era.

[Civil Rights Movement](#) from History.com. A quick historical walk through the fight for civil rights, starting with a review of Jim Crow laws, WWII, Rosa Parks, the Little Rock Nine, onward through to the Fair Housing Act of 1968. With many links to a deeper exploration of each topic.

[The Civil Rights Era](#), part of the Library of Congress's *African American Odyssey* website, with images, photos and brief write-ups of people and events of the civil rights era.

Eyes on the Prize. America's Civil Rights Movement. Multi-part video series from American Experience, PBS. A major, comprehensive, and impactful video history of the movement. Available with PBS and WGBH membership.

I Am Not Your Negro. Film. Focused on racial conflict, using the words of James Baldwin (voice of Samuel L. Jackson) to connect the Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter.

Judas and the Black Messiah. Film. An electrifying dramatization of true events, how the FBI infiltrated the Illinois chapter of the Black Panthers, leading to their murder of activist Fred Hampton and others. Available on Amazon Prime and other streaming platforms.

Summer Of Soul (...Or, When The Revolution Could Not Be Televised) is a feature documentary about the legendary 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which celebrated African American music and culture, and promoted Black pride and unity. Available on Hulu.

[An Introduction to the Black Arts Movement](#) from the Poetry Foundation. A highly influential movement that was aesthetic and spiritual sister of Black Power political efforts. A trove of links to poems, articles, and podcasts that explore the Black Arts movement.

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9. Identity and Stereotypes

Books, Essays, and Scholarly Article

Baldwin, James. *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. Semi-autobiographical story tells the story of the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem. Explores the protagonist's spiritual, sexual, and moral struggle of self-invention

Baldwin, James. *Notes of a Native Son*. Ten essays exploring race and identity in America and Europe.

Ellison Ralph, *Invisible Man* (novel)

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. "[The New Negro and the Black Image: From Booker T. Washington to Alain Locke](#)." Essay from the National Humanities Center that traces the social construction of Black identities from the late 1800's to the Harlem Renaissance. (Attached)

Griffin, Larry. *Southern Cultures*. "The American South and the Self." Vol. 12, No. 3 (FALL 2006), pp. 6-28. Interesting scholarly article about whites and Blacks who choose to self-identify as "southern." (Attached)

Green, Laura. Jim Crow Museum. Ferris University. "[Negative Racial Stereotypes and Their Effect on Attitudes Toward African Americans](#)." Essay with list and exploration of the dominant popular stereotypes of African Americans, from the late 1800's to today. Helpful source list.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun*. Play. A drama in three acts, a psychological study of a working-class black family on the south side of Chicago in the late 1940s. Themes of racism, racial housing discrimination, and, also, a young Black man's struggle to come to terms with himself. Barebones version of the first text edition [here](#). 1961 film star-studded version available on Amazon Prime, Hulu, and Disney+. A 2008 film version available [here](#). A [reading of the script by actors](#) who performed the play on Broadway in 1959.

Hansberry, Lorraine. *To Be Young Gifted and Black: Lorraine Hansberry in her Own Words*, A play about Hansberry's life, adapted from her own writings.

Larson, Nella. *Passing* (novel). Short, complex novel on the stresses of African Americans who appear to be white. Source for the highly rated film version. Available on Netflix.

Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye*. (novel)

Morrison, Toni. *Jazz* (novel)

Petry, Ann. *The Street* (novel)

Walker, Alice. "[Everyday Use](#)" Short story, available in this Harper's archive.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. (novel)

Wright, Richard. *Black Boy* (novel)

Wright, Richard. *Native Son* (novel)

Websites:

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). [The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity](#). A study of the Black family from an organization dedicated to tracking the changes in how people of African descent in the United States have viewed themselves, the influence of social movements on racial ideologies, and the aspirations of the black community. The study is available in a free pdf.

On Africa: Black Past website: Section on the [global African Diaspora](#). [Traditional Zulu folktale](#). [Traditional Nigerian folktale](#).

National Humanities Center. "The Making of African American Identity." A fascinating collection of primary resources, historical documents, literary texts, and works of art — thematically organized with notes and discussion questions about the search for identity. . Organized into three eras: [Vol. #1](#). 1500 – 1865; [Vol. #2](#). 1865 – 1917; [Vol #3](#) 1917-1968. For each era,

Smithsonian Magazine. "[Race and Racial Identity](#)." Good basic essay on the social construction of race and racial identities.

The Smithsonian Museum, "[Blackface: The Birth of An American Stereotype](#)." Brief essay on Blackface. with images and links on the history of Blackface portrayals of African Americans.