African American Reading List

**Slave Narratives**

1. Frederick Douglass  
   *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845)
2. Olaudah Equiano  
   *Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa* (1789)
3. Harriet Jacobs  
   *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)

**Fiction**

4. Harriet E. Wilson  
   *Our Nig* (1859)
5. George Schuyler  
   *Black No More* (1931)
6. William Wells Brown  
   *Clotel: or, The President's Daughter* (1853)
7. Charles Waddell Chesnutt  
   *The Conjure Woman and Other Tales* (1899) and *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)
8. James Baldwin  
   *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953) and *Another Country* (1962)
9. Ralph Ellison  
   *Invisible Man* (1952)
10. Ernest Gaines  
    *The Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man* (1912)
11. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper  
    *Iola Leroy* (1892)
12. Zora Neale Hurston  
    *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
13. Charles R. Johnson  
    *Middle Passage* (1990)
14. James Weldon Johnson  
    *The Conjure Woman and Other Tales* (1899) and *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)
15. Nella Larsen  
    *Quicksand* (1928) and *Passing* (1929)
16. Paule Marshall  
    *Praisesong for a Widow* (1983)
17. Toni Morrison  
    *Song of Solomon* (1977) and *Beloved* (1987)
18. Gloria Naylor  
19. Ann Petry  
    *The Street* (1946)
20. Ishmael Reed  
    *Mumbo Jumbo* (1972)
21. Jean Toomer  
    *Cane* (1923)
22. Alice Walker  
    *The Color Purple* (1982)
23. David Bradley  
    *The Chaneysville Incident* (1981)
24. Octavia E. Butler  
    *Kindred* (1979)
25. Pauline Hopkins  
    *Contending Forces* (1900)
26. John Edgar Wideman  
    *Philadelphia Fire* (1990)
27. Sherley Anne Williams  
    *Dessa Rose* (1986)
28. Richard Wright  
    *Native Son* (1940)
29. Pauline Hopkins  
    *Of One Blood* (1902-03)
30. Edward P. Jones  
31. Danzy Senna  
    *Caucasia* (1999)
32. Trey Ellis  
    *Platitudes* (2003)
33. James Baldwin  *Blues for Mister Charlie* (1964) and *Amen Corner* (1954)
34. Amiri Baraka  *Dutchman and The Slave* (1964)
35. Ed Bullins  *In the Wine Time* (1968) and *Goin' a Buffalo* (1968)
36. Alice Childress  *Trouble in Mind* (1955)
37. S. Randolph Edmonds  *Six Plays for a Negro Theatre* (1934)
39. Lorraine Hansberry  *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)
40. Adrienne Kennedy  *Rat's Mass* (1965)
41. Willis Richardson  *The Chip Woman's Fortune* (1923) and *The Broken Banjo* (1925)
42. Ntozake Shange  *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf* (1976)
43. Douglas Turner Ward  *Happy Ending* (1965) and *Day of Absence* (1965)
44. August Wilson  *Fences* (1986) and *The Piano Lesson* (1990)
47. Anna Deavere Smith  *Fires in the Mirror* (1993)

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**Drama**

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**Poetry**

49. Lucy Terry  “Bar Fight”
51. Imamu Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones)  *Preface to a Twenty-Volume Suicide Note* (1961)
52. Gwendolyn Brooks  *A Street in Bronzeville* (1945) and *Annie Allen* (1949)
54. Countee Cullen  *Color* (1925)
55. Rita Dove  *Thomas and Beulah* (1986)
56. Paul Laurence Dunbar  *Lyrics of Lowly Life* (1896)
57. Robert Hayden  *Selected Poems* (1966)
58. Langston Hughes  *Selected Poems* (1959)
59. James Weldon Johnson  *God's Trombones* (1927)
60. Claude McKay  *Harlem Shadows* (1922)
61. Melvin Tolson  *Harlem Gallery* (1965)
62. Margaret Walker  *For My People* (1942)
63. Yusef Komunyakaa  *Neon Vernacular* (1994)
64. Nikki Giovanni  *The Selected Poems of Nikki Giovanni: 1968-1995*

Students should also be familiar with a representative sampling of poems by the following poets:

65. George Moses Horton
66. Etheridge Knight
67. Audre Lorde
68. Naomi Long Madgett
69. Sonia Sanchez
70. Anne Spencer
71. Alice Walker
72. George Douglas Johnson

Autobiography
73. Booker T. Washington
   Up From Slavery (1901)
74. Langston Hughes
   The Big Sea (1940)
75. Zora Neale Hurston
   Dust Tracks on a Road (1942)
76. Malcolm X
   The Autobiography of Malcolm X (1965)
77. Ann Moody
   Coming of Age in Mississippi (1968)
78. Richard Wright
   Black Boy (1945)
79. Maya Angelou
   I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (1970)
80. Audre Lorde
   Zami: A New Spelling of My Name (1982)
81. Veronica Chambers
   Mama’s Girl (1995)

Essays
82. David Walker
   David Walker’s Appeal, in Four Articles (1829)
83. Henry Highland Garnett
   “An Address to the Slaves of the United States of America” (1848)
84. Frederick Douglass
   “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July”
85. Alain Locke
   “The New Negro”
86. James Baldwin
   Notes of a Native Son (1955) and The Fire Next Time (1963)
87. W. E. B. Du Bois
   The Souls of Black Folk (1903)
88. Ralph Ellison
   Shadow and Act (1964) and Going to the Territory (1986)
89. Audre Lorde
   Sister Outsider (1964)
90. Larry Neal
   “The Black Arts Movement”
91. Stokley Carmichael
   “Black Power”
92. Martin Luther King
   “I Have a Dream”
93. Angela Davis
   “Reflections on the Black Woman’s Role in the Community of Slaves” (1971)
94. Alice Walker
   In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose (1983)
95. Toni Morrison
   Playing In the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination
96. Langston Hughes
   “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”
97. George Schuyler
   “Negro Art Hokum”
98. Barbara Christian
   “A Race for Theory”
99. Trey Ellis
   “The New Black Aesthetic”
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<td>2. Bernard Bell</td>
<td>The Afro-American Novel and Its Tradition</td>
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<td>3. Hazel Carby</td>
<td>Reconstructing Womanhood: The Emergence of the Afro-American, Woman Novelist</td>
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<td>5. Frances Smith Foster</td>
<td>Witnessing Slavery: The Development of Antebellum Slave Narratives</td>
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<td>7. Addison Gayle</td>
<td>The Black Aesthetic</td>
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<td>8. bell hooks</td>
<td>Ain't I A Woman: Black Women and Feminism</td>
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<td>9. Nathan Huggins</td>
<td>Harlem Renaissance</td>
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<td>10. David Levering Lewis</td>
<td>When Harlem Was in Vogue</td>
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<td>11. Robert Stepto</td>
<td>From Behind the Veil</td>
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<td>12. Paul Gilroy</td>
<td>The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness</td>
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<td>13. George Hutchinson</td>
<td>The Harlem Renaissance in Black and White</td>
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<td>14. Barbara Smith</td>
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<td>15. Dwight McBride</td>
<td>James Baldwin Now</td>
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