African American History Month
Book List
February 2012

2012 Theme: "Black Women in American History and Culture"

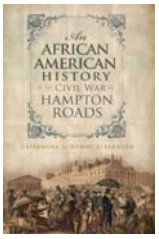
African-American History Month is celebrated each February since 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson sought to commemorate the contributions of people of African descent in the United States through the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). In 1976 President Gerald Ford extended the celebration from two weeks into a month for the bicentennial of our country. "Black Women in American History and Culture" is this year's theme.

The following is a selected list of books, videos, and websites that will help you learn more about African American history. All books and videos are available at the Norfolk Public Library and the websites may be viewed online at any of the public computer stations located in the library or from home. Additional assistance is available by asking at your local branch library. The Sargeant Memorial Collection staff members at the Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library can also provide assistance researching local African American history and genealogy.

In collaboration with the Virginia Stage Company's upcoming presentation "Black Pearl Sings" a companion booklist about spirituals and the Gullah culture is also available on the NPL website

Notable Titles of Interest

The following is a selected list of nonfiction and fiction books that provide an overview of the African American experience in the United States.



African American History of the Civil War in Hampton Roads
(Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander) Through a fascinating narrative and stunning vintage photographs, readers will discover the struggles and triumphs of the African Americans of Hampton Roads, hundreds of whom gained their freedom via the teeming wharves that were a major station on the Underground Railroad and during the Civil War.

Autobiography of Malcolm X
(*Alex Haley*) Chosen by *Time Magazine* as one of the "ten most important nonfiction books of the century," this powerful account tells the life of one of America's most misunderstood men.

Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America
(*Lerone Bennett*) Bennett begins his study in western Africa and continues his historical timeline from the Colonial period through the 1970s.

Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965
(*Juan Williams*) This book traces the movement from the landmark *Brown v. the Board of Education* case in 1954, to the March on Selma and the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965.

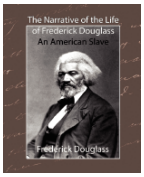
From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans
(*John Hope Franklin*) Considered one of the most popular texts on African-American History.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings

(*Maya Angelou*) Presents the story of a spirited and gifted, but poor, black girl growing up in the South in the 1930s. Tells how she came into her own, experiencing prejudice, family difficulties, and a relationship with a teacher who taught her to respect books, learning, and herself.

The Mis-Education of the Negro
(*Carter G. Woodson*) Woodson inspired black Americans to demand relevant learning opportunities that were inclusive of their own culture and heritage laying the foundation for more progressive and egalitarian educational institutions.

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass



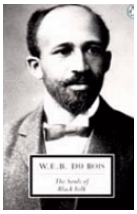
(*Frederick Douglass*) This literary masterpiece of a three part memoir tells the story of a young man held in slavery, his self discovery, and his successful journey to freedom.

The Norfolk 17: A Personal Narrative on Desegregation in Norfolk, Virginia, in 1958-1962
(Andrew I. Heidelberg) Chronicles the heroic efforts of 17 students who were the first to desegregate six previously all-white public schools in Norfolk, Virginia.

A Raisin in the Sun

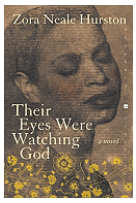
(*Lorraine Hansberry*) Hansberry's award-winning drama deals with the Younger family's search for the American dream.

Souls of Black Folk



(*W.E. B. DuBois*) A classic study of race, culture, and education at the turn of the twentieth century, Du Bois' combination of essays, memoir, and fiction, makes a forceful case for the access of African Americans to higher education and extols the achievements of black culture.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

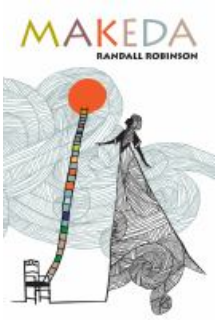


(*Zora Neale Hurston*) Through her classic novel of poetic American literature, Hurston tells the story of Janie's universal experiences of pain and happiness and love and loss, through humor and compassion.

Adult Fiction

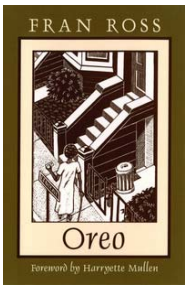
The following is a selected list of recent fiction books that provide an insight into the African American experience in the United States through literature and storytelling.

Makeda



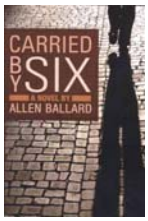
(Randall Robinson) Makeda Gee Florida Harris March is a proud and graceful matriarch, the anchor and emotional bellwether who holds together a hard-working African American family living in 1950s Richmond, Virginia. Published in 2011, part coming-of-age story, part spiritual journey and part love story, Makeda is a universal tale of family, heritage and the ties that bind. It is about the people who help to shape and mould each other and lead them into the light.

Oreo



(Fran Ross) Born to a Jewish father and black mother who divorce before she is two, Oreo grows up in Philadelphia with her maternal grandparents while her mother tours with a theatrical troupe. Soon after puberty, Oreo heads for New York with a pack on her back to search for her father; but in the big city she discovers that there are dozens of Sam Schwartzes in the phone book, and Oreo's mission turns into a wickedly humorous picaresque quest. Mostly ignored when published in 1974, the book approaches biracial identity with a feminist odyssey at the height of the masculine Black Power movement.

Carried by Six



(Allen Ballard) Character-based, authentic, and gripping, this novel exposes the difficulties and danger of working to rid a neighborhood of drugs and violence so that future generations can grow up safe and secure. 2010 BCALA Literary Awards honor book.

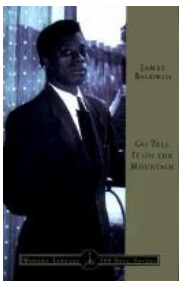
Glorious : A Novel

(*Bernice L. McFadden*) Combining original characters with fictionalized versions of historical figures, tells the story of African-American author Easter Bartlett's journey through the Jim Crow South to the vibrant cultural scene of New York's Harlem Renaissance.

Gloryland: A Novel

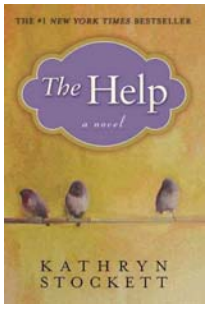
(Shelton Johnson) This novel details the story of Elijah Yancy, a fictional Buffalo Soldier, from Reconstruction to the Nebraska plains. During his military career he must subdue Native Americans, which causes him to grapple with persecuting people of color.

Go Tell It on the Mountain



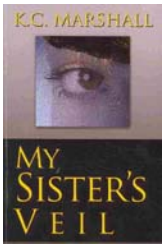
(James Baldwin) First published in 1953, is Baldwin's first major and best-known work, *Go Tell It on the Mountain* is a novel that with lyrical precision, psychological directness, resonating symbolic power, and a rage that is at once unrelenting and compassionate, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a storefront Pentecostal church in Harlem one Saturday in March of 1935.

The Help



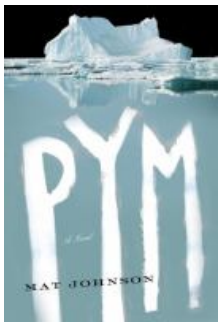
(Kathryn Stockett) Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African-American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend, and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project.

My Sister's Veil



(*K.C. Marshall)* This debut novel is an inspirational and motivating story about the trials and tribulations of three strong Black women. Their lives are separated yet connected through their friendship and consequential environment. Using their inner strength or spiritual "veil", the main characters show how their ancestral culture shapes their drive to overcome adversities thus giving them the fortitude to make a difference changing themselves and their circumstances. A 2010 BCALA Literary Award winner.

Pym



*(Mat Johnso*n*)* A comic journey into the ultimate land of whiteness by an unlikely band of African American adventurers. College professor Jaynes is obsessed with Edgar Allan Poe's only novel, to the point that it threatens his academic career. When he discovers a crude slave narrative that seems to confirm the reality of Poe's fiction, he resolves to seek out Tsalal, imagining it to be a key to his personal salvation. The adventurous satirical novel probes notions of racial identity and offers observations on Literature, tenure, and more.

Sag Harbor: A Novel

(Colson Whitehead) Colson Whitehead provides readers with a humorous inside view of what it means to be black and affluent, but mainly what it means to be a teenage boy. Whitehead clearly captures 1980s popular culture as well as tapping into the African American vernacular and oral traditions.

When the Sun Goes Down

(*Gwynne Foster)* The award-winning author of *Blues from Down Deep* conjures a riveting story of fractured ties, secrets, and forgiveness in this powerful family drama.

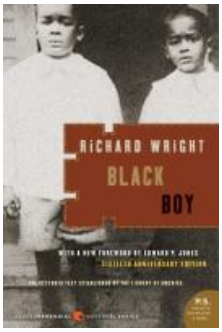
Adult Nonfiction

The following is a selected list of nonfiction books that provide an overview of the African American experience in the United States.

African Americans and the Civil War
(*Ronald A. Reis and Tim McNeese*) Northern blacks sought to contribute to the war effort from the moment volunteers were called. Initially taken in as contraband, free blacks and ex-slaves eventually donned uniforms and fought in more than 400 battles on land and sea to reunite the Union and free their brethren from bondage. With their willingness and ability to fight initially questioned, African Americans repeatedly proved their valor.

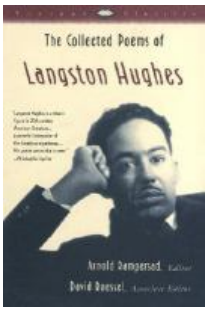
Africana: The Encyclopedia of the African and African American Experience
(Kwame Anthony Appiah, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., editors) Written for high school level readers and above and for a non-specialist audience, this five-volume set covers a vast geographic area and encompasses the complex histories of Africans in Africa and the Americas.

At the Dark End of the Street
(Danielle L. McGuire) A history of America's civil rights movement traces the pivotal influence of sexual violence that victimized African American women for centuries, revealing Rosa Parks's contributions as an anti-rape activist years before her heroic bus protest.



Black Boy: (American Hunger): A Record of Childhood and Youth
(Richard Wright) An enduring story of one young man's coming off age during a particular time and place, "Black Boy" remains a seminal text in history about what it means to be a man, black, and Southern in America.

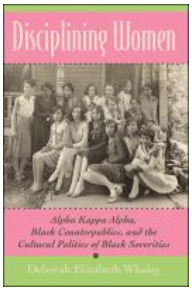
Black Genius: Inspirational Portraits of America's Black Leaders
(Dick Russell) Russell connects and weaves each figure with the next, while deftly exploring themes of family, community, spirituality, activism, and struggle.



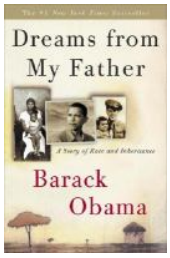
The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes
Spanning five decades and comprising 868 poems (nearly 300 of which have never before appeared in book form), this magnificent volume is the definitive sampling of a writer who has been called the poet laureate of African America--and perhaps our greatest popular poet since Walt Whitman.

No Higher Honor: A Memoir of My Years in Washington
(Condoleezza Rice) A former national security advisor and Secretary of State offers the compelling story of her eight years serving at the highest levels of government, including the difficult job she faced in the wake of 9/11. This follows her 2010 autobiography, *Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family.*

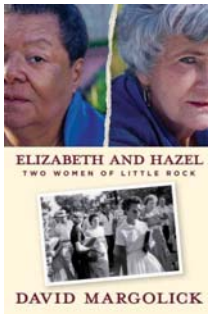
The Conversation: How Black Men and Women Can Build Loving, Trusting Relationships
(Hill Harper) Counsels parents on how to counter disturbing trends in single-parent African-American households, addressing such topics as maturity, dating, and communication.



Disciplining Women: Alpha Kappa Alpha, Black Counterpublics, and the Cultural Politics of Black Sororities /
(Deborah Elizabeth Whaley) Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), established in 1908, is the oldest Black Greek-letter sorority. Whaley presents a balanced view of the role of such sororities in Black women's lives. While not ignoring criticism of AKA's initiation rites, the author emphasizes the group's activist responses to racism and sexism and sources of cultural pride.

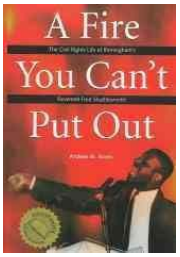


Dreams from My Father : A Story of Race and Inheritance
(Barack Obama) The son of an African father and white American mother discusses his childhood in Hawaii, his struggle to find his identity as an African American, and his life accomplishments.

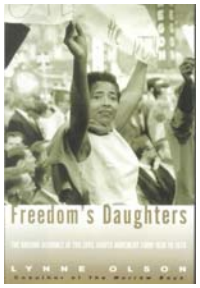


Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock
(David Margolick) Looks at the lives of the two women at the center of a famous historic photograph taken during the Little Rock school desegregation crisis in 1957--one, a black girl being harassed by a mob; the other, a white teen at the center of the mob--in a book that discusses how each dealt with the fallout from that fateful day.

Faith in the Fire: Wisdom for Life
(Gardner C Taylor) A co-founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom shares inspirational lessons gleaned from his career as a forefront preacher and civil-right activist that encourage readers to pursue lives of deep spirituality and trust in God, in a volume complemented by a CD recording of the author's conversation with Tavis Smiley.



A Fire You Can't Put Out: The Civil Rights Life of Birmingham's Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth
(Andrew M. Manis) In this first full-length biography of Birmingham civil rights leader Fred Shuttlesworth who died October 2011, Manis emphasizes Shuttlesworth's multifaceted attacks on segregation, particularly during the 1950s and 1960s. Manis also argues that although Shuttlesworth worked for civil rights in numerous ways, his ministry as pastor was the driving force behind his fiery desire for equality.

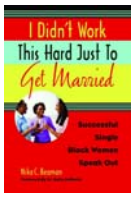


Freedom's Daughters: The Unsung Heroines of the Civil Rights Movement from 1830 to 1970
(Lynne Olson) In this groundbreaking book, credit finally goes where credit is due -- to the bold women who were crucial to the movement's success and who refused to give up the fight.

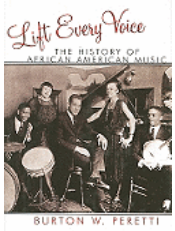
Freedom's First Generation: Black Hampton, Virginia, 1861-1890
(*Robert Francis Engs*) This pioneering study of Hampton, Virginia, tells the story of what race relations in America "might have been" after the Civil War. Here, if only for a time, the promises of Emancipation and Reconstruction were fulfilled. Engs follows a community of freedmen over a thirty-year period to answer a compelling question: why was the American Dream realized by blacks in Hampton and not elsewhere?

Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities
(Johnnetta Cole and Beverly Guy-Sheftall) Convinced of the need to address gender politics within the African American community, Cole and Guy-Sheftall survey African-American culture, from the halls of academia to hip-hop records, in an effort to assess the current state of the African American gender landscape and assert a black feminist viewpoint to help improve the lives of all African Americans.

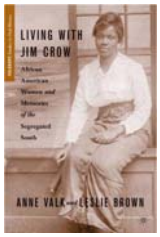
God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse
(James Weldon Johnson) In one of James Weldon Johnson's most celebrated works, inspirational sermons of African American preachers are re-imagined as poetry, reverberating with the musicality and splendid eloquence of the spirituals. (Foreword by Maya Angelou; Henry Louis Gates, Jr., ed.)



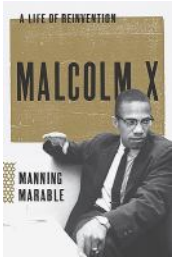
I Didn't Work This Hard Just to Get Married: Successful Single Black Women Speak Out *(Nika C. Beamon)* Written in the best tradition of women talking to women, and girlfriend to girlfriend, the book delivers tales of lessons learned, hard times and good times, told by women who found ways to achieve their dreams by defying convention.



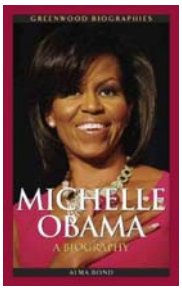
Lift Every Voice: The History of African American Music
(Burton W. Peretti) Looks at the history of African-American music from its roots in Africa and slavery to the present day and examines its place within African-American communities and the nation as a whole.



Living with Jim Crow: African American Women and Memories of the Segregated South
(Anne Valk and Leslie Brown) Using first-person narratives, collected through oral history interviews, the book emphasizes women's role in their families and communities, treating women as important actors in the economic, social, cultural, and political life of the segregated South.



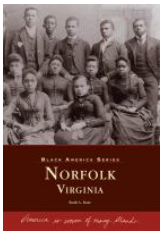
Malcolm X : A Life of Reinvention
(Manning Marable) This authoritative biography of Malcolm X draws on new research to trace his life from his troubled youth through his involvement in the Nation of Islam, his activism in the world of Black Nationalism, and his assassination. This National Book Award finalist was selected by *The New York Times Book Review* as a 2011 Notable Book of the Year.



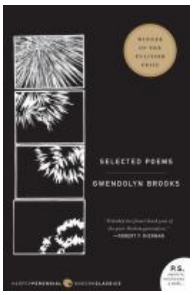
Michelle Obama: A Biography
(Alma Bond) This book details the fascinating life story of Michelle Obama, emphasizing her own personal and professional accomplishments, her life partnership with President Barack Obama, and her distinctive approach to the role of First Lady.

My Long Trip Home: A Family Memoir
(Mark Whitaker) In a dramatic, moving work of historical reporting and personal discovery, an award-winning journalist sets out to trace the story of what happened to his parents, a fascinating but star-crossed interracial couple, and arrives at a new understanding of the family dramas that shaped their lives--and his own.

The Negro's Civil War: How American Blacks Felt and Acted During the War for the Union
(James M. McPherson) In this classic study, Pulitzer Prize-winning author James M. McPherson, author of *Battle Cry of Freedom*, deftly narrates the experience of blacks--former slaves and soldiers, preachers, visionaries, doctors, intellectuals, and common people--during the Civil War.



Norfolk Virginia
(Ruth A. Rose) This book in the Black America series documents how the African-American population has emerged, through a remarkable combination of hard work, perseverance, and faith, as a vibrant community and an integral component to the identity and success of Norfolk and surrounding areas.



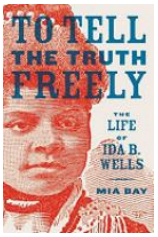
Selected Poems
(Gwendolyn Brooks) The classic volume by the distinguished modern poet, winner of the 1950 Pulitzer Prize, and recipient of the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters, showcases an esteemed artist's technical mastery, her warm humanity, and her compassionate and illuminating response to a complex world.

Sister Citizen
(Melissa V. Harris-Perry) Harris-Perry shows that the shared struggle to preserve an authentic self and secure recognition as a citizen links together black women in America, from the anonymous survivors of Hurricane Katrina to the current First Lady of the United States.

Thomas and Beulah: Poems

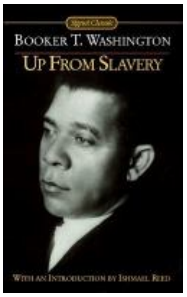
(Rita Dove) Based on lives of her grandparents, this book of poems tells the story of a married black couple from the early part of the century, through the great Depression, the great migration of blacks from rural south to urban north, and WWII. Rita Dove served as Poet Laureate of the United States and Consultant to the Library of Congress from 1993 to 1995 and as Poet Laureate of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 2004 to 2006.

To Tell the Truth Freely: The Life of Ida B. Wells



(Mia Bay) Though she helped found the NAACP in 1910 after resettling in Chicago, she would not remain a member for long. Always militant in her quest for racial justice, Wells rejected not only Booker T. Washington's accommodationism but also the moderating influence of white reformers within the early NAACP.

Up From Slavery

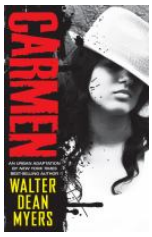


(Booker T. Washington) For the 50 years that followed its publication in 1901, *Up from Slavery* was the most widely known book written by an African American. The life of Booker T. Washington embodied the legendary rise of an American self-made man, and his autobiography gave voice for the first time to a vast group that had to pull itself up from nothing.

Juvenile & YA Fiction

The following is a selected list of fiction books that provide an overview of the African American experience in the United States through historical fiction and American stories for children and young adults (YA) ages 13 and up.

Carmen: An Urban Adaptation of the Opera (YA)



(Walter Dean Myers) A policeman's obsessive love for a tempestuous wig factory worker ends in tragedy in this updated version of Bizet's Carmen, set in Spanish Harlem, and told in screenplay format filled with high drama and full of sharp wit.

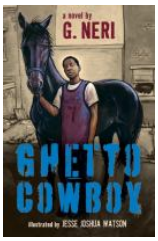
Flygirl (YA)

(Sherri L. Smith) Ida Mae Jones dreams of flight. Her daddy was a pilot and being black didn't stop him from fulfilling his dreams. But her daddy is gone now, and being a woman, and being black, are two strikes against her. During World War II, she "passes" for white in order to join the Women Airforce Service Pilots. While Ida Mae chases her dream, she must also decide who it is she really wants to be.

Finding My Place

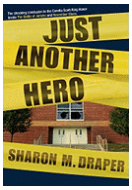
(Traci L. Jones) After moving to an affluent suburb of Denver in 1975, ninth-grader Tiphanie feels lonely at her nearly all-white high school until she befriends another "outsider" and discovers that prejudice exists in many forms.

Ghetto Cowboy: A Novel



(G. Neri) Inspired by the little-known urban riders of Philadelphia and Brooklyn, this compelling tale is about 12-year-old Cole's behavior that causes his mother to drive him from Detroit to Philadelphia to live with a father he has never known, who soon has Cole involved with a group of African-American "cowboys" who rescue horses and use them to steer youths away from drugs and gangs.

Just Another Hero (YA)



(Sharon M. Draper) As Kofi, Arielle, Dana, November, and Jericho face personal challenges during their last year of high school, a misunderstood student brings a gun to class and demands to be taken seriously.

Lockdown (YA)

(Walter Dean Myers) Teenage Reese, serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past. Coretta Scott King Book Award honor book.

Meet Cécile

(Denise Lewis Patrick ; illustrations, Christine Kornacki)
Introducing a new American Girl character, Cécile Rey, whose prosperous family are free people of color, makes friends with Marie-Grace Gardner, a doctor's daughter who has just returned to her native New Orleans in 1853, and persuades her to change places at their separate Mardi Gras balls.

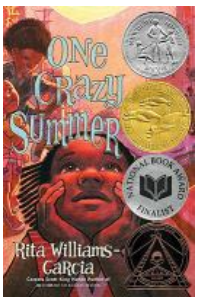
Never Forgotten

(Patricia C. McKissack; illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon)
In eighteenth-century West Africa, a boy raised by his blacksmith father and the Mother Elements--Wind, Fire, Water, and Earth--is captured and taken to America as a slave.

Ninth Ward

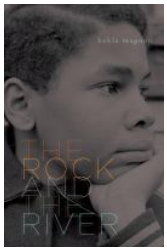
(Jewell Parker Rhodes) Twelve-year-old Lanesha doesn't have a fancy house like her uptown family or lots of friends like the other kids on her street. But what she does have is Mama Ya-Ya, her fiercely loving caretaker, wise in the ways of the world and able to predict the future. So when Mama Ya-Ya's visions show a powerful hurricane--Katrina--fast approaching, it's up to Lanesha to call upon the hope and strength Mama Ya-Ya has given her to help them both survive the storm.

One Crazy Summer

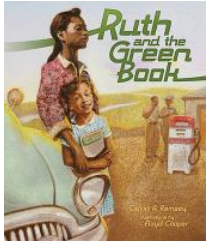


(Rita Williams-Garcia) In the summer of 1968, after travelling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

The Rock and the River (YA)
(*Kekla Magoon*) In 1968 Chicago, fourteen-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party.



Ruth and the Green Book
(Calvin Alexander Ramsey with Gwen Strauss; illustrations by Floyd Cooper)
This is the story of one black family's trip from Chicago to Alabama by car in the late 1940s. Along the way they encounter prejudice, but they also discover The Green Book, a real guide to accommodations which was published for decades to aid African-American travelers as they faced prejudice on the roads across the country. A 2011 Jefferson Cup honor book.



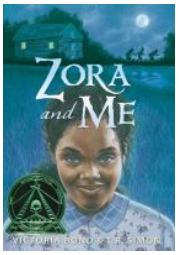
Saint Louis Armstrong Beach
(Brenda Woods) The Coretta Scott King Honor-winning author of *The Red Rose Box*, delivers a gripping story of a boy, a dog, and a hurricane. As Hurricane Katrina bears down on New Orleans, Saint is stuck in the city after escaping evacuation so he can look for his dog, Shadow, and he, Shadow, and an elderly neighbor, Miz Moran, take shelter in her attic.

The Sons of liberty (YA, series)
(Alexander Lagos) Teenage runaway slaves with superhuman powers, a Hessian giant, the most evil slave owners imaginable, and Benjamin Franklin: this story of the Revolution blends fact and fantasy in an imaginative reinterpretation of a critical time in American history

Step to this: A So For Real Novel (YA)
(Nikki Carter) Gia wants to make her sophomore year at Longfellow High unforgettable and after a makeover and an attitude adjustment, she gets on the school dance squad, makes new friends, and scores a date, but soon things go horribly wrong.

These Hands
(Margaret H. Mason; illustrated by Floyd Cooper)
An African-American man tells his grandson about a time when, despite all the wonderful things his hands could do, they could not touch bread at the Wonder Bread factory. In this powerful intergenerational story based on stories of bakery union workers, Joseph learns that people joined their hands together to fight discrimination.

Zora and Me
(Victoria Bond and T.R. Simon) A fictionalized account of writer Zora Neale Hurston's childhood with her best friend Carrie, in Eatonville, Florida, as they learn about life, death, and the differences between truth, lies, and pretending. This book of adventure, history, and magic is the winner of the 2011 John Steptoe New Talent Award.

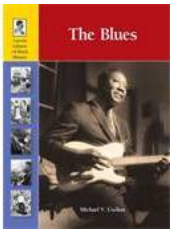


Juvenile & YA Nonfiction

The following is a selected list of nonfiction books of history, biography, and poetry that provide an overview of the African American experience in the United States.

Black Women Activists
(Karin S. Coddon, ed.) Whether lobbying against slavery or challenging segregation and discrimination, many prominent black women have recognized that the fight for racial equality is deeply entwined with the fight for sexual equality. The selections in this volume profile 11 of history's most influential black women activists without shying away form some of the unflattering aspects of their personality or style.

The Blues
(Michael V. Uschan) This title in the Lucent Library of Black History series explores blues music and African American history, from their beginning to modern resurgence, and the men and women artists who sing and play the blues.

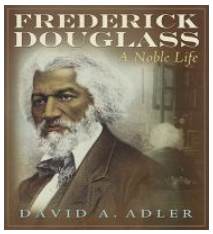


Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice
(Phillip Hoose) Presents the life of the Alabama teenager who played an integral but little-known role in the Montgomery bus strike of 1955-1956, once by refusing to give up a bus seat, and again by becoming a plaintiff in the landmark civil rights case against the bus company.

Condoleezza Rice: A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me
(Condoleezza Rice) Rice's portrait of her parents, John and Angelena, highlights their ambitions and frustrations and shows how much they sacrificed to give their beloved only child the best chance for success. Rice also discusses the challenges of being a precocious child who was passionate about music, ice skating, history, and current affairs. Her memoir reveals with vivid clarity how her early experiences sowed the seeds of her political beliefs and helped her become a vibrant, successful woman.

Coretta Scott
(Ntozake Shange) Examines the life of Martin Luther King's wife, Coretta, who in her own right, was a civil rights pioneer who experienced the injustices of the segregated South and who continued her husband's mission after his assassination.

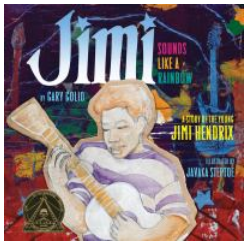
Dave, the Potter : Artist, Poet, Slave
(Laban Carrick Hill ; illustrated by Bryan Collier) This inspiring and lyrical portrayal presents the life of the nineteenth-century artist from South Carolina, Dave, a Southern slave who became a renowned potter known for signing his pots with poetry. Winner of the 2011 Coretta Scott King (Illustrator) Book Award.



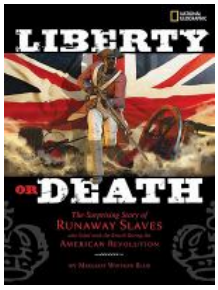
Frederick Douglass: A Noble Life
(David A. Adler) Born into slavery in 1818 and raised on a Maryland plantation under brutal conditions, Frederick Douglass, against all odds, grew up to become a famous orator, journalist, author, and adviser to U.S. presidents.

Harriet Tubman, Secret Agent: How Daring Slaves and Free Blacks Spied for the Union During the Civil War
(*Thomas B. Allen*) This compelling biography tells the amazing tale of Harriet Tubman using details uncovered from military and intelligence archives, diaries and little-known memoirs from ex-slaves.

Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans
(Kadir Nelson) A simple introduction to African-American history, from Revolutionary-era slavery up to the election of President Obama. This new book is on multiple 2011 best-of-the-year lists.



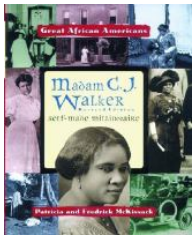
Jimi: Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix
(Gary Golio ; illustrated by Javaka Steptoe) Jimi Hendrix was a boy who loved to paint and listen to records, and who asked himself an unusual question: could someone paint pictures with sound? Valuable lessons underlie this account of Hendrix's life: important work can be done by young people; artistry develops slowly, through careful work; and surroundings that appear hostile to creativity can just as well nurture it.



Liberty or Death : The Surprising Story of Runaway Slaves Who Sided with the British During the American Revolution
(Margaret Whitman Blair) The little-known story of the American Revolution told from the perspectives of the African-American slaves who fought on the side of the British Royal Army in exchange for a promise of freedom.

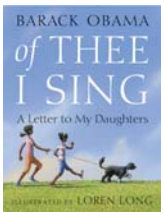
Lola Loves Stories
*(Anna McQuinn)*Adorable Lola is back in this companion to *Lola at the Library*. Lola and her daddy go to the library and load up on great books. Daddy reads to her at bedtime each night and the stories fuel her imaginative adventures the next day.

Madam C.J. Walker: Self-made Millionaire



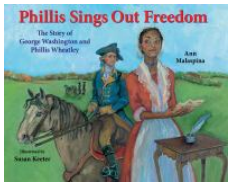
(Patricia and Fredrick McKissack) In a large print, open style the McKissacks profile Sarah Breedlove Walker who, though born in poverty, pioneered hair and beauty care products for black women and became a financial success.

Michelle
(*Deborah Hopkinson)* Describes the life and accomplishments of Michelle Obama, from her childhood and early achievements in education to her career in law and community service, as well as her family life and marriage to Barack Obama.

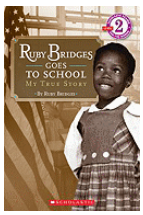


Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters
(*Barack Obama*) In this tender, beautiful letter to his daughters, President Barack Obama has written a moving tribute to thirteen groundbreaking Americans and the ideals that have shaped our nation.

Phillis Sings Out Freedom: The Story of George Washington and Phillis Wheatley
(Ann Malaspina; illustrated by Susan Keeter)
Words can be powerful allies during war, suggests this warm tribute to African-American poet Wheatley, who wrote an impassioned poem to Gen. George Washington during the American Revolution. Taken by slave ship to Boston and sold to an affluent couple, Phillis learns to read and write; after proving the legitimacy of her poems, she is set free and writes to Washington to show her support.

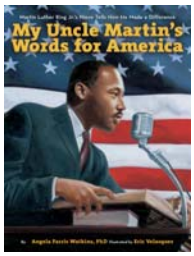


Profiles in Black: Phat Facts for Teens
(Marvin A. McMickle) A youthful Christian history of black America, this vital resource for educators, parents, and students alike spans from the first African slaves to the first black professional athletes, from the revival at Azusa Street to the civil rights movement and popular culture in the 21st century.



Ruby Bridges Goes to School: My True Story
(Ruby Bridges) In 1960, six-year-old Ruby Bridges walked through an angry crowd and into a school where she changed history. This is the true story of an extraordinary little girl who helped shape our country when she became the first African-American to attend an all-white school in New Orleans.

Sunrise Over Fallujah (YA)
(*Walter Dean Myers*) Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.



My Uncle Martin's Words for America: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Niece Tells How He Made a Difference
(Angela Farris Watkins; illustrated by Eric Velasquez) Explains how Martin Luther King used his message of love and peace to fight for civil rights for African Americans.

Who was Rosa Parks?
(Yona Zeldis McDonough; illustrated by Stephen Marchesi) In 1955, Rosa Parks refused to give her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. This seemingly small act triggered civil rights protests across America and earned Rosa Parks the title "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement."

DVD

The following is a selected list of mostly historical videos that provide an overview of the African American experience in the United States.

The Express: The Ernie Davis Story
Rising from humblest of beginnings, Ernie Davis overcame impossible odds to become the first African-American to win college football's greatest honor, the Heisman Trophy.

For Colored Girls
Adapted from the play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf: A Choreopoem" by Ntozake Shange. In a vibrant world where friends and strangers dream, fear, cry, love, and laugh out loud in an attempt to find their true selves, this gripping film paints an unforgettable portrait of what it means to be a woman of color in the modern world" Rated R.

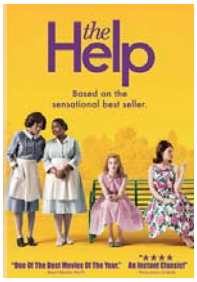
Freedom's Song: 100 Years of African-American Struggle and Triumph.
Ten episodes, one for each decade of the 20th century, highlight stories in African American history from the 20th century that were either omitted from or marginally discussed in history textbooks to date.

Gifted Hands
Follows the life of Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, who overcame problems in school and obstacles in life to become a world-renowned neurosurgeon. His lifelong journey led him to become director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center, a bestselling author, and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Go Tell It on the Mountain
James Baldwin's semi-autobiographical novel is movingly translated to the screen in this well-crafted production in which a young black boy in the 1930's tries to win the respect of his stepfather.

Glory
Based on the true story of the first black regiment to fight for the North in the Civil War. Robert Gould Shaw and Cabot Forbes are two idealistic young Bostonians that lead the regiment; Sgt. Maj. John Rawlins is the inspiration who unites the troops; Pvt. Trip is a runaway slave who joins the regiment.

The Help



Limited and persecuted by racial divides in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, three women, including an African-American maid, her sassy and chronically unemployed friend and a recently graduated white woman, team up for a clandestine project against a backdrop of the budding civil rights era. Based on the book by Kathryn Stockett.

Ida B. Wells: Crusader for Human Rights

Profiles the life and work of African-American journalist, Ida B. Wells (1862-1931), a community organizer, grass roots leader and precursor of the modern civil rights movement who waged a relentless public battle against the injustices of lynching and violence against Blacks.

Jumping the Broom

In this comedy of class and culture, at a weekend wedding in Martha's Vineyard, two African American families from divergent socioeconomic backgrounds clash during their first meeting before the big event.

The Minority

Jake Jackson is the nicest, most honest person anyone could ever meet. So when he gets accused of stealing a co-worker's purse, and then bombarded with racial biases, he really has to struggle to maintain some sort of normal life. Just when he finds himself traveling toward a path of insanity he manages to capture a wanted serial killer, that causes his luck to change and he finally gets the respect he deserves.

One Bad Cat: The Reverend Albert Wagner Story

Outsider artist, Reverend Albert Wagner, in his own words recounts his humble sharecropping origins as well as his tempestuous ways. On his 50th birthday, Albert felt called to God to create art and used this gift to renounce his life of sin and inspire others. He expresses a unique perspective on life and faith that is sometimes surrounded by controversy.

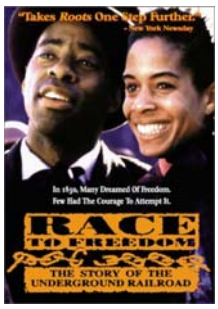
Paul Robeson: Songs of Freedom

Covers the songs and life of Paul Robeson and the attempts of various American agencies to discredit him. Interviews include Henry Winston, Bayard Rustin, Paul Robeson Jr. and John Henrik Clarke.

Proud

The USS *Mason* entered WWII on a presumably doomed mission. The all African-American crew overcame the harsh realities of war abroad and segregation at home...and was finally honored for its heroism in 1994.

Race to Freedom: The Underground Railroad



This is the dramatic story of four slaves who escape from a cotton plantation in the South and travel along a clandestine network of escape routes, known as "the underground railroad," to freedom in Canada.

A Woman Called Moses
This is the story of Harriet Ross Tubman, founder of the Underground Railroad, who led hundreds of slaves to freedom in the North before the Civil War.

Online Databases

Use your Norfolk Public Library card number for access to these resources found on our database page <**www.npl.lib.va.us/reference/reference.html**>

Encyclopedia of African-American Culture and History
Click on the "Encyclopedias" tab and scroll down to "Multicultural Studies".
The Encyclopedia covers all aspects of the African-American experience from 1619 to the present day. Using biographies, historical essays, and thematic pieces-many by the foremost scholars in the field-it addresses a wide array of subjects in over 2,300 articles to fully define in one source the cultural roots and current condition of the African-American community.

Encyclopedia Virginia
A chronicle of the state's history, politics, and geography through the perspectives of all the ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse peoples who have lived there (Free database).

Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America
Click on the "Encyclopedias" tab and scroll down to "Multicultural Studies."
The Encyclopedia contains essays on specific culture groups in the United States, emphasizing religions, holidays, customs, and languages in addition to providing information on historical background and settlement patterns. Each essay lists organizations, research centers, and contact information for periodicals, radio, and television stations.

Heritage Quest Online: Freedman's Bank Records
Click on "History" tab to access the HeritageQuest Online resources that include the Freedman's Bank records. This is a database that documents more than 70,000 bank depositors and their dependants and heirs immediately following the Civil War. The Freedman's Bank Records is considered one of the most important resources for African-American genealogical research.

Websites

African American History: 17 collections
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/
Browse or search primary sources and reference information in 17 categories of African American history

African American Mosaic
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/
A resource developed by the Library of Congress which covers the library's vast collection of books, periodicals, prints, photographs, music, film and recorded sound.

African Americans in the Military:
Army **http://www.history.army.mil/html/topics/afam**
Navy **http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/prs-tpic/af-amer/afam-usn.htm**
Extensive information about black Americans who have served in the military, including archives, photos, primary documents and statistics.

African-American Newspapers and Periodicals
www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/aanp/freedom/
The digitized, full text issues the first African-American owned and operated newspaper, from 1827 to 1829.

Africans in America:
www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html
A four part, historical narrative of slavery by PBS, organized by era. Includes primary sources.

Atlantic Slave Trade
http://hitchcock.itc.virginia.edu/Slavery/index.php
The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and University of Virginia's site of visual records of slave trade in the US.

Blackpast.org
http://www.blackpast.org/
A comprehensive reference guide including 3,000 pages of information with an online encyclopedia, primary documents, famous speeches and hundreds of links.

Civil Rights Digital Library
http://crdl.usg.edu/
A searchable collection of websites collected by the University of Georgia.

Encyclopedia Smithsonian: African American History and Culture
http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/History_and_Culture/AfricanAmerican_History.htm
An African American History and Culture online encyclopedia.

Unknown No Longer: A Database of Virginia Slave Names
http://unknownnolonger.vahistorical.org/
A newly launched free database from the Virginia Historical Society of over 2,000 Virginia Slave names with digital images of hundreds of documents from which the information was extracted.

Ta-Nehisi Coates. ***"Why Do So Few Blacks Study the Civil War?*** *The Atlantic*. Civil War Special Issue, Feb. 2012. http://tinyurl.com/7krrzuf

Historian explores his own emotions about the Civil War and how it is now remembered by all Americans, particularly black American.

Juvenile & Young Adult Websites

Culture and Change: Black History in America
http://www.teacher.scholastic.com/activities/bhistory/
An interesting website by Scholastic Publishing which allows students to publish their own writings, listen to jazz music, and explore history through its interactive timeline.

History Channel: Black History Month
http://www.history.com/content/blackhistory
Contains an interactive timeline, videos, African American facts, milestones, maps, and 65 icons of black history.

Madison Voices
http://www.madisonvoices.com/africanamericanhistory/for_kids.htm
African American history online resources for kids.