100 Years of Black Literature

Black Pride in Elementary School
Black History

Actor Chadwick Boseman:
Black Panther, Jackie Robinson, James Brown, Thurgood Marshall
Literary Icons: Ralph Ellison, Langston Hughes, Toni Morrison, Alice Walker, Maya Angelou

Classics
3 Generations of Black Lit: James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, Ta-Nehisi Coates

“Say Their Names” 6/22/20
Ta-Nehisi Coates Edits “The Great Fire”  Vanity Fair 9/20/20 Special

Ta-Nehisi Coates
Ta-Nehisi Coates: Essays, Comic Books, Fiction

Lincoln Meets Frederick Douglass
Marcus Garvey/ Booker T. Washington

The Soul of Black Folk: W.E.B. DuBois (John Edgar Wideman Intro.)
The Harlem Renaissance

Harlem Renaissance Writers
Langston Hughes: “I, Too”

I, Too
by Langston Hughes

I, too, sing America.
I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I’ll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody’ll dare
Say to me,
“Eat in the kitchen.”
Then,
Besides,
They’ll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.
Richard Wright: “Native Son”

James Baldwin
James Baldwin Great Books

Lorraine Hansberry Playwright
Gwendolyn Brooks Poet

Gwendolyn Brooks: “We Real Cool”
Gyendolyn Brooks

“Every Negro poet has ‘something to say,’ simply because he is a Negro; he cannot escape having important things to say. His mere body, for that matter, is eloquence. His quiet walk down the street is a speech to the people. In a rebuke, is a plea, is a school.”

Professor Gyendolyn Brooks

Ralph Ellison: Invisible Man

INVISIBLE MAN
A NOVEL
BY RALPH ELLISON

By Ralph Ellison
Bellow and Ellison: A Great Friendship

Post-War Jazz
Claude Brown: “Manchild in the Promised Land”

Freedom Riders: 1962
MLK and Mississippi Murders 1964

Malcolm X
The Black Panthers and Angela Davis

Angela Davis: Activist and Academic

“...We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society...”

Angela Davis
Toni Morrison: Nobel Laureate

Toni Morrison: “The Future of African American Literature”
Toni Morrison Edits The Black Book

Alice Walker
Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones)

The Black Arts Movement
Black Arts: Alice Walker (Poet, Novelist, and Radical Critic)

Maya Angelou: Poet and Autobiography
“Still I Rise” : Maya Angelou

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
But still, like dust
I rise.

Does my boldness upset you?
Why are you bent with misery?
‘Cause I walk like I’ve got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my holiness offend you?
Don’t you take it awful hard
‘Cause I laugh like I’ve got gold mines
Diggin’ in my own back yard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may fill me with your hatreds,
But still, like dust, I rise.

Does my strength terrify you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I’ve got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history’s shame
I rise
Up from a past that’s rooted in pain
I rise
I’m a black ocean, leaping and wide,
Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.
Leaving behind nights of terror
And fear
I rise
Into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear
I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the strove
I rise
I rise
I rise.

August Wilson: Playwright
Wilson’s Pittsburgh Cycle
An American Century

August Wilson

Fences
By August Wilson
Directed by Diane White
October 2-10, 2018
Westside Theatre
Los Angeles, CA

Ticketmaster
Caesar the Performing Arts box office (509) 458-1585
Alex Haley Popular Novelist

TIME
WHY \textit{ROOTS} HIT HOME

Rita Dove: Poet Laureate

Selected Poems
INCLUING THE PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING THOMAS AND BELLAH
Rita Dove
U.S. Poet Laureate 1993-1995
Walter Mosley Mystery Writer

An Easy Rawlins Mystery
Ishmael Reed: Poet and Novelist

Jazz Art
Ishmael Reed (Playwright and Critic)

Jamaica Kincaid: Poet and Critic
Girl (Poem)

Jamaica Kincaid: “The Disturbances of the Garden” (New Yorker 9/7/20)
USF Black Lit Bookshelf

Jesmyn Ward
Edwidge Danticat

Raven Leilani
Tiffany Yanique

Yaa Gyasi (5 under 35)
Bryan Washington

David Wright Falade:
Rion Amilcar Scott

Colson Whitehead
Colson Whitehead

Time Magazine: “America’s Storyteller”
Darryl Pinckney and Zadie Smith: Novelists and Public Intellectuals

Darryl Pinckney: High Cotton
Darryl Pinckney
“We Must Act Out Our Freedom”
(NY Review of Books 8/20/20)

Zadie, Ta-Nehisi, Jesmyn
Zadie Smith Stories: “Escape from New York”/ “Crazy, They Call Me”

Edward P. Jones
Edward P. Jones: Storyteller

Bell Hooks Poet

I will not have my life narrowed down. I will not bow down to somebody else’s whim or to someone else’s ignorance.

- bell hooks
Bell Hooks: Feminist Critic

Black Lives Matter
Cultural Appropriation?

While it has become “cool” for white folks to hang out with black people and express pleasure in black culture, most white people do not feel that this pleasure should be linked to unlearning racism.

Black Feminists

[Image of a protest with the text “Feminists for equality”]
Empowering Women’s Lit

Tayari Jones
“An American Marriage”

John Edgar Wideman: Storyteller, Memoirist, Essayist
James Emanuel
Long Life of a Poet and Scholar

James Emanuel
Jazz Haikus

He dug what she said:
bright jellies, smooth marmalade
spread on warm brown bread.

"Jazz" from drowsy lips
orchids lift to honeybees
floating on long alps.

"Jazz": quick fingerpops
pancake on a griddle-top
of memories. Stop.

"Jazz": mysterious
as nutmeg, missing fingers,
gold. Less serious.
Isabel Wilkerson: The Great Migration and The Origins of Our Discontents (2020)

Leon Litwack: Jim Crow South
Cornell West: Philosopher, Social Critic (with Toni Morrison)

Ta-Nehisi Coates and Cornell West
Norton Anthology of African American Literature: Ed. Henry Louis Gates

PBS: “The African Americans” Essential Documentary
Henry Louis Gates Jr.
Literary Critic, Filmmaker, Scholar

Skip Gates & Carmello Anthony
“Finding Your Roots”
James McBride, Spike Lee, Carmello Anthony: Red Hook Summer (Brooklyn)

James McBride: Novelist, Biographer, Critic, Musician
James McBride on James Brown

James McBride: “Good Lord Bird” Jazz Ensemble
John Coltraine—Giant Steps

James McBride “The Color of Water” (Biography of His Jewish Mother)
“Deacon King Kong”
(Fromm Showcase Novel)

Cultural Appropriation?
William Styron
“The Confessions of Nat Turner”

William Faulkner’s Black Heroine (Dilsey)

Dilsey stroked Ben’s head, slowly and steadily, smoothing the bang upon his brow. He waited quietly, unhurriedly.

- WILLIAM FAULKNER -
William Faulkner on “Truth”

Truth — that long clean clear simple undeniable unchallengeable straight and shining line, on one side of which black is black and on the other white is white, has now become an angle, a point of view.

(William Faulkner)

Bob Dylan “Only a Pawn in the Game”
Mississippi, 1963 (Medgar Evers)
Bob Dylan and The Obamas

“A More Perfect Union”
Barack Obama: Race in America
Philip Roth and The Plot (David Simon Adaptation Anticipates 2020 Dystopia)

Paul Theroux: Black and White

E. L. Doctorow Imagines Coalhouse Walker Jr.—History Repeats Itself

E.L. DOCTOROW
RAGTIME
Lin Manuel Miranda: Hamilton

Richie Havens: From the Beats to Folk Music to Woodstock and Beyond
Legacy: Richie Havens

The University of Chicago
“Back in the Day” (1965-1970)
John Hope Franklin: Historian

Albert Murray (1916-2013)
Chicago Blues

Paul Butterfield in Hyde Park, Chicago (1966)
Muddy, Buddy, and the Stones: Southside Chicago Blues

Buddy Guy: The Last of the Bluesmen