

# African American Literature

## \*Required Readings

- \*Baldwin, James. *Go Tell It on the Mountain* (1953), selected essays
- \*Baraka, Amiri (LeRoi Jones). *Dutchman & the Slave* (1964), selected poems, selected essays
- \*Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Maud Martha* (1953), selected poems
- \*Brown, Sterling. Selected poems
- \*Chesnutt, Charles W. *The Conjure Woman* (1899), *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)
- \*Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself* (1845), *The Heroic Slave* (1853)
- \*Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folk* (1903)
- \*Dunbar, Paul Laurence. Selected poems
- \*Ellison, Ralph. *Invisible Man* (1952), selected essays
- \*Equiano, Olaudah. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa* (1789)
- \*Hansberry, Lorraine. *A Raisin in the Sun* (1959)
- \*Harper, Frances E. W. *Iola Leroy; Or, Shadows Uplifted* (1892), selected poems
- \*Hayden, Robert. Selected poems
- \*Hughes, Langston. *The Big Sea* (1940), selected poems
- \*Hurston, Zora Neale. *Mules and Men* (1935), *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937)
- \*Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861)
- \*Johnson, James Weldon. *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1912), *God's Trombones* (1927)
- \*Larsen, Nella. *Quicksand* (1928), *Passing* (1929)
- \*Lorde, Audre. *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1982), selected poems
- \*Marshall, Paule. *Brown Girl, Brownstones* (1959)

- \*Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye* (1970), *Beloved* (1987)
- \*Murray, Albert. *Trainwhistle Guitar* (1974)
- \*Petry, Ann. *The Street* (1946)
- \*Reed, Ishmael. *Flight to Canada* (1976), selected poems
- \*Shange, Ntozake. *for colored girls who have considered suicide /when the rainbow is enuf* (1977)
- \*Toomer, Jean. *Cane* (1923)
- \*Walker, Alice. *Meridian* (1976)
- \*Washington, Booker T. *Up from Slavery* (1901)
- \*Wheatley, Phillis. Selected poems
- \*Wright, Richard. *Native Son* (1940), *Black Boy* (1945)

#### For Further Reading

##### Fiction

- Baldwin, James. *Another Country* (1962)
- Bambara, Toni Cade. *Gorilla, My Love* (1972)
- Baraka, Amiri (LeRoi Jones). *The System of Dante's Hell* (1965)
- Bradley, David. *The Chaneyville Incident* (1981)
- Brown, William Wells. *Clotel; Or The President's Daughter* (1853)
- Butler, Octavia. *Kindred* (1979)
- Delany, Martin R. *Blake; Or the Huts of America* (1859-61)
- Demby, William. *The Catacombs* (1965)
- Du Bois, W. E. B. *The Quest of the Silver Fleece* (1911)
- Dunbar, Paul Laurence. *The Sport of the Gods* (1902)
- Fauset, Jessie R. *There Is Confusion* (1924) or *Plum Bun* (1929)

Gaines, Ernest J. *Of Love and Dust* (1967), *Bloodline* (1968)

Griggs, Sutton E. *Imperium in Imperio* (1899)

Haley, Alex. *Roots* (1976)

Himes, Chester. *If He Hollers Let Him Go* (1945)

Hopkins, Pauline E. *Contending Forces* (1900)

Hughes, Langston. *The Best of Simple* (1931)

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Jonah's Gourd Vine* (1934)

Johnson, Charles. *Oxherding Tale* (1982), *The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Tales and Conjurations* (1986)

Jones, Gayl. *Corregidora* (1975)

Kelley, William Melvin. *dem* (1967), *A Different Drummer* (1937)

Lee, Andrea. *Sarah Phillips* (1984)

Marshall, Paule. *Praisesong for the Widow* (1983)

McKay, Claude. *Home to Harlem* (1928)

McPherson, James Alan. *Hue and Cry* (1969)

Morrison, Toni. *Sula* (1973)

Naylor, Gloria. *The Women of Brewster Place* (1982)

Polite, Carlene H. *The Flagellants* (1967)

Reed, Ishmael. *Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down* (1969)

Schuyler, George. *Black No More* (1931)

Shange, Ntozake. *Sassafras, Cypress & Indigo* (1982)

Thurman, Wallace. *The Blacker the Berry* (1929), *Infants of the Spring* (1932)

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple* (1982)

Walker, Margaret. *Jubilee* (1966)

Williams, John A. *The Man Who Cried I Am* (1967)

Williams, Sherley Anne. *Dessa Rose* (1986)

Wilson, Harriet E. *Our Nig; Or, Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* (1859)

Wright, Richard. *Uncle Tom's Children* (1938)

### Poetry

Baraka, Amiri (LeRoi Jones). *The Amiri Baraka / LeRoi Jones Reader* (1991)

Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Blacks* (1987)

Cullen, Countee. *On These I Stand* (1947)

Dove, Rita. *Thomas and Beulah* (1986)

Dumas, Henry. *Play Ebony, Play Ivory* (1974)

Evans, Mari. *I Am the Black Woman* (1970)

Giovanni, Nikki. *Black Feeling, Black Talk/Black Judgement* (1970)

Harper, Frances E. W. *Complete Poems* (1988)

Harper, Michael. *Images of Kin: New and Selected Poems* (1977)

Henderson, ed., Stephen E. *Understanding the New Black Poetry* (1973)

Honey, ed., Maureen. *Shadowed Dreams: Women's Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance* (1989)

Hughes, Langston. *Selected Poems* (1959)

Knight, Etheridge. *The Essential Etheridge Knight* (1986)

Johnson, ed., James Weldon. *The Book of American Negro Poetry* (1922)

Jordan, June. *Things That I Do in the Dark: Selected Poetry* (1977)

Lorde, Audre. *Chosen Poems, Old and New* (1982)

Madhubuti, Haki [Don L. Lee]. *Directionscore: Selected and New Poems* (1971)

McKay, Claude. *Selected Poems* (1953)

Rodgers, Carolyn. *How I Got Ovah: New and Selected Poems* (1975)

Sanchez, Sonia. *I've Been a Woman: New and Selected Poems* (1978)

Tolson, Melvin. *Harlem Gallery* (1965)

Walker, Margaret. *For My People* (1942)

Wheatley, Phillis. *Complete Works* (1988)

Williams, Sherley Anne. *Some One Sweet Angel Chile* (1982)

Wright, Jay. *Selected Poems* (1987)

### Autobiography

Andrews, ed., William. *Sisters of the Spirit* (1986)

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969)

Grimke, Charlotte Forten. *The Journals of Charlotte Forten Grimke* (1988)

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Dust Tracks on a Road* (1942)

Malcolm X and Alex Haley. *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* (1965)

Northup, Solomon. *Twelve Years a Slave* (1853)

Wideman, John Edgar. *Brothers and Keepers* (1984)

### Drama

Childress, Alice. *Trouble in Mind* (1955)

Elder, Lonne. *Ceremonies in Dark Old Men* (1969)

Fuller, Charles. *A Soldier's Play* (1982)

Gordone, Charles. *No Place to be Somebody* (1969)

Grimke, Angelina. *Rachel* (1920)

Hughes, Langston. *Mulatto* (1935)

Kennedy, Adrienne. *Funnyhouse of a Negro* (1964)

Wilson, August. *Fences* (1986), *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* (1988)

Oral Literature, Essays, Etc.

Baker, Jr., Houston A. *The Journey Back: Issues in Black Literature and Criticism* (1980), "Generational Shifts and the Recent Criticism of Afro-American Literature." *Black American Literature Forum* 15 (Spring 1981): 3-21

Baldwin, James. *Notes of a Native Son* (1955), *Nobody Knows My Name* (1961)

Baraka, Amiri (LeRoi Jones). *The Amiri Baraka/LeRoi Jones Reader* (1991)

Bell, Roseann P., Bettye J. Parker, Beverly Guy-Sheftall, eds. *Sturdy Black Bridges: Visions of Black Women in Literature* (1979)

Brown, Sterling. *The Negro in American Fiction / Negro Poetry and Drama* (1937)

Carby, Hazel. "On the Threshold of Woman's Era: Lynching, Empire, and Sexuality in Black Feminist Theory." In *"Race," Writing, and Difference*, ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (1986)

Christian, Barbara. "The Race for Theory." *Cultural Critique* 6 (1987): 51-63. (Also in *The Nature and Context of Minority Discourse*, ed. Abdul JanMohamed and David Lloyd, 1990)

Cooper, Anna Julia. *A Voice from the South* (1892)

Cruse, Harold. *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual* (1967)

Douglass, Frederick. *Selected Speeches*

Ellison, Ralph. *Shadow and Act* (1964)

Fisher, Dexter and Robert B. Stepto, eds. *Afro-American Literature: The Reconstruction of Instruction* (1979)

Gates, Jr., Henry Louis. *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Literary Criticism* (1988)

Gayle, Jr., ed., Addison. *The Black Aesthetic* (1971)

Goss, Linda and Marian E. Barnes, eds. *Talk That Talk: An Anthology of African-American Storytelling* (1989)

Hughes, Langston. "The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain." *Nation* 23 (June 1926): 692-94

Hull, Gloria T., Patricia Bell Scott, and Barbara Smith, eds. *But Some of Us Are Brave: Black Women's Studies* (1982)

Hurston, Zora Neale. "Characteristics of Negro Expression." In *Negro: An Anthology*, ed. Nancy Cunard (1934)

King, Jr., Martin Luther. *Selected Speeches*

Levine, Lawrence. *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom* (1977)

Locke, ed., Alain. *The New Negro* (1925)

Lorde, Audre. *Sister Outsider* (1984)

Schuyler, George S. "The Negro Art-Hokum." *Nation* 16 (June 1926): 662-63

Spiller, Hortense J. "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book" *Diacritics* (Summer 1987): 65-81

Stepto, Robert. *From Behind the Veil: A Study of Afro-American Narrative* (1979)

Walker, Alice. *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose* (1983)

Walker, David. *David Walker's Appeal, in Four Articles* (1829)

Wall, ed., Cheryl A. *Changing Our Own Words: Essays on Criticism, Theory, and Writing by Black Women* (1989)

Wright, Richard. "Blueprint for Negro Writing." *New Challenge* 2 (Fall 1937): 53-65 (Also in *Richard Wright Reader*, ed. Ellen Wright and Michel Fabre, 1978)

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