



## African-American Bibliography

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The following titles were nominated for the Best Books for Young Adults list over the past nine years. Those with an asterisk made the list.

**Angelou, Maya. *Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now* . Random House, 1993. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

Meditations and essays about charity, the spirit, death and the power of the word.

**\*Ashe, Arthur. *Days of Grace* . Random House, 1993. Biography. (Adult)**

From tennis champion to AIDS activist, an inspirational and remarkable memoir.

**Ayres, Katherine. *North by Night* . Delacorte, 1998. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 5-9)**

Lucy (16) has been helping on the Underground Railroad for years, but now she is faced with two suitors and whether or not to risk her own life on the trek north.

**Barnes, Joyce Annette. *Promise Me the Moon* . Dial, 1997. Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

Although Annie (13) is quite smart, she is confused by so many things: boyfriend, best friend, whether or not to apply to a tough high school, and a father who works too much.

**Bell, William. *Zack* . Simon & Schuster, 1999. Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)**

Zack, a senior, is the son of a Jewish father and a black mother who knows nothing about his black heritage until he travels to Mississippi to meet his grandfather.

**Belton, Sandra. *McKendree* . Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2000. Fiction. (Gr. 6-9)**

McKendree, a nursing home for African Americans in rural West Virginia in 1948, helps a group of African-American teen volunteers become friends and discover some truths about themselves.

**Berry, James. *Everywhere Faces Everywhere* . Simon & Schuster, 1997. Poetry. (Gr. 6-10)**

Diversity is explored in this brief, eclectic collection of poems.

**Brown, Kevin. *Malcolm X: His Life and Legacy* . Millbrook, 1995. Biography. (Gr. 8+)**

Biography of Malcolm X and his influences.

**Burks, Brian. *Wrango* . Harcourt Brace & Co., 1999. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 4-8)**

George McJunkin joins a cattle drive on the Chisholm Trail at the close of the Civil War and faces the hardship of being a black cowboy while earning the respect of his fellow trailsmen.

**Butler, Octavia E. *Parable of the Talents . Seven Stories, 1998. Science Fiction. (Adult)***

In this sequel to *Parable of the Sower* , letters, diaries and flashbacks are used to continue the story of Lauren's efforts to establish her "Earthseed" community and its belief system in the face of repression and active persecution.

**\* Butler , Octavia E. *Parable of the Sower . Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993. Science Fiction. (Adult)***

Lauren, an empath who can feel both the pleasure and the pain of those around her, leads a band of survivors north after their home in Los Angeles is destroyed.

**Caines, Bruce. *Our Common Ground: Portraits of Blacks Changing the Face of America . Crown, 1994. Biography. (Adult)***

The lives of African-American men and women of all ages are celebrated in sixty-five photographic portraits and biographical narratives.

**\*Carbone, Elisa. *Stealing Freedom . Knopf, 1998. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)***

Ann Maria Weems endured the horrors of slavery until she stole her freedom by taking the Underground Railroad to Canada . Based on a true story.

**Carroll, Rebecca. *Sugar in the Raw: Voices of Young Black Girls in America . Crown, 1997. Non-Fiction. (Adult)***

Fifteen young black girls talk about growing up and race in America .

**\*Chambers, Veronica. *Mama's Girl . Riverhead Books, 1992. Non-Fiction. (Adult)***

A powerful story of survival, perseverance, love, understanding, forgiving, and moving ahead in spite of her dysfunctional family.

**Clair, Maxine. *Rattlebone . Farrar Straus Giroux, 1994. Short Stories. (Adult)***

Loosely interwoven short stories, narrated by a sensitive young girl, that bring to life the inhabitants of an African-American neighborhood in Kansas City in the 1950s.

**\*Clinton, Catherine. *I, Too, Sing America : African American Poetry . Houghton Mifflin, 1998. Poetry. (Gr. 7+)***

Historical perspective and shimmering artwork in this remarkable collection.

**Corwin, Miles. *And Still We Rise: The Trials and Triumphs of Twelve Gifted Inner City Students . William Morrow, 2000. Non-Fiction. (Adult)***

Twelve students in the Los Angeles ghetto try to overcome the difficulties that life has handed them, finish high school and enroll in college.

**\*Curtis, Christopher Paul. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963* . Delacorte, 1995. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 6+)**

To straighten older brother Byron out, who seems to be on the road to becoming a juvenile delinquent, Kenny's family drives to Birmingham to visit grandmother and are there for the bombing in the summer of 1963.

**\*Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Bud, Not Buddy* . Delacorte, 1999. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 4-7)**

Bud, an orphan on a quest to find his father, enters the blues world of the 1930s.

**\*D'Aguiar, Fred. *The Longest Memory* . Pantheon Books, 1995. Historical Fiction. (Adult)**

When a young slave attempts to flee the Virginia family who owns him, his father tries to save him but winds up betraying him.

**Davis, Ossie. *Just Like Martin* . Simon & Schuster, 1992. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

Ike finds it difficult to follow in the footsteps of his hero, Martin Luther King, Jr., when two of his friends are killed in a church bombing.

**Davis, Thulani. *1959* . Grove Weidenfeld, 1992. Historical Fiction. (Adult)**

Willie Tarrant (12) experiences early changes in herself and in her community as desegregation comes to her small Virginia town.

**\*Delany, Sarah and A. Elizabeth. *Having Our Say* . Kodansha, 1993. Biography. (Adult)**

Two sisters who lived for over a century describe what life was like for the black middle class.

**Dove, Rita. *On the Bus with Rosa Parks* . W. W. Norton, 1999. Poetry. (Adult)**

An affirming collection of poems by a former Poet Laureate of the United States.

**\*Draper, Sharon. *Forged by Fire* . Atheneum, 1997. Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

Gerald, who has managed to survive in spite of an abusive drug-addict mother, must now protect his half-sister from the advances of his step-father.

**Draper, Sharon. *Romiette and Julio* . Atheneum, 1999. Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)**

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, meet in an Internet chat room, discover they go to the same high school, fall in love, and then are harassed by a gang because of their interracial dating.

**\*Draper, Sharon. *Tears of a Tiger* . Atheneum, 1994. Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

Andy and his friends go out drinking and driving to celebrate their basketball victory. The car goes off the road and his best friend is killed, leaving Andy to struggle against grief and overpowering guilt.

**Eady, Cornelius. *Autobiography of a Jukebox* . Carnegie Mellon, 1997. Poetry. (Adult)**

Rhythmic and compassionate poems about contemporary Black American life.

**Easter, Eric, ed. *Songs of My People: African Americans: A Self-Portrait* . Little Brown, 1992. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

All aspects of African-American life are recorded by fifty African-American photographers who traveled across the United States.

**\*Edelman, Marian Wright. *The Measure of Our Success* . Beacon Press, 1992. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

A powerful mix of moral conviction, angry anecdote and a touch of humor with a message that could turn lives around.

**\*Elders, Joycelyn & David Chanoff. *Joycelyn Elders, M.D. Morrow*, 1996. Biography. (Adult)**

This Surgeon General of the United States was born to a family of poor black farmers in Arkansas, won a college scholarship and became a dedicated doctor and advocate for the poor.

**\*Feelings, Tom. *Soul Looks Back in Wonder* . Dial Books, 1993. Poetry. (Adult)**

Colorful, stunning, collage-effect illustrations by Tom Feelings beautifully complement African-American poetry by Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and others.

**\*Feelings, Tom. *Middle Passage* . Dial, 1995. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

After an introduction by historian Jon Henrik Clarke, Tom Feelings uses only his magnificent paintings, no words, to interpret this tragic and cataclysmic period of history.

**\*Flake, Sharon G. *The Skin I'm In* . Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 1998. Fiction. (Gr. 7-9)**

Maleeka (13) finds that her extremely dark skin makes her the butt of jokes and an outcast among her peers until a new teacher helps her to accept herself.

**\*Fogelin, Adrian. *Crossing Jordan* . Peachtree, 2000. Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

Their families are prejudiced towards one another, but the daughters, one African-American and one white, become friends after running on the "chocolate milk" team.

**\*Fradin, Dennis Brindell and Judith. *Ida B. Wells: Mother of the Civil Rights Movement* . Clarion Books, 2000. Biography. (Gr. 5+)**

Born a slave, Ida B. Wells fought hard against lynching and became an early leader in the fight for Civil Rights.

**Frank, E. R. *Life Is Funny* . Dorling Kindersley, 2000. Fiction. (Gr. 9+)**

Eleven Brooklyn teens, whose lives intertwine, share their hopes and tragedies over a period of years.

**French, Albert. *Holly* . Viking, 1995. Fiction. (Adult)**

Holly is a twenty-year-old white girl who falls in love with an African-American disabled veteran in 1945.

**\*French, Albert. *Billy* . Viking, 1993. Fiction. (Adult)**

A ten-year-old black boy, who accidentally kills a teenage white girl, faces the electric chair in Mississippi in the 1930s.

**\*Frey, Darcy. *The Last Shot: City Streets, Basketball Dreams* . Houghton Mifflin, 1994. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

A journalist spends a year following the struggles of four hoop stars at Coney Island's Abraham Lincoln High School to win college scholarships and a better life.

**Fuqua, Jonathon Scott. *The Reappearance of Sam Webber* . Bancroft Press, 1999. Fiction. (Adult)**

Sam looks back on the year his father disappeared, when the black janitor at his tough new school took the young boy under his wing and helped him get back on track.

**\*Gaines, Ernest. *A Lesson Before Dying* . Alfred Knopf, 1993. Fiction. (Adult)**

When Jefferson, a young black man, is sentenced to die for a crime he did not commit, his grandmother comes to another black man, a local teacher, and asks him to help her grandson die like a man, rather than the "hog" the defense attorney called him.

**Gardner, Robert and Dennis Shortelle. *The Forgotten Players: The Story of Black Baseball in America* . Walker, 1993. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

Sports history and race relations combine in this treatment of the segregated Black baseball leagues, including their personalities and their contribution to the game.

**\*Gaskins, Pearl Fuyo. *What Are You? Voices of Mixed-Race Young People* . Henry Holt, 1999. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 8+)**

Forty-five young people write about being biracial in essays and poetry.

**Gates, Henry. *Colored People* . Knopf, 1994. Biography. (Adult)**

This reminiscence of growing up "colored" in the 1950s and 1960s in rural West Virginia shows how family and community changed during the Civil Rights movement.

**Giovanni, Nikki, ed. *Grand Mothers: Poems, Reminiscences and Short Stories about the Keepers of Our Traditions* . Henry Holt, 1994. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

Writings about the many different roles of grandmothers by a culturally diverse group of authors.

**\*Glover, Savion and Bruce Weber. *Savion: My Life in Tap* . Morrow, 2000. Biography. (Gr. 5+)**

The inspiring rise to fame of a talented Tony Award-winning tap dancer.

**Golden, Marita. *And Do Remember Me* . Doubleday, 1992. Fiction. (Adult)**

A troubled young black woman is running away from a sexually abusive father when she meets a young civil rights activist and gains love and a purpose in her life.

**Greene, Patricia Baird. *The Sabbath Garden* . Lodestar/Dutton, 1993. Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

The hostility between a black teenage girl and her elderly Jewish neighbor is transformed to friendship by their efforts to nurture a neighborhood garden.

**\*Guy, Rosa. *The Music of Summer* . Delacorte, 1992. Fiction. (Gr. 9+)**

Spoiled, rich, lighter-complected blacks ostracize dark-skinned Sarah, but her courage and a new love help her overcome their racism and a near-death experience.

**Haizlip, Shiree Taylor. *The Sweeter the Juice: A Family Memoir in Black & White* . Simon & Schuster, 1994. Biography. (Adult)**

The author of this memoir reveals that her heritage is Black, White and Indian.

**\*Hamilton, Virginia. *Her Stories: African American Folktales, Fairy Tales and True Tales* . Scholastic, 1995. Short Stories. (Gr. 5-8)**

The imagination of African American women is celebrated in this collection.

**Hamilton, Virginia. *Plain City* . Blue Sky Press/Scholastic, 1993. Fiction. (Gr. 5-7)**

Buhlaire (12) finds the courage to search for her unknown father's identity and in return learns a lot about herself.

**Hamilton, Virginia. *Second Cousins* . Blue Sky Press, 1998. Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

Events from last summer and this year's reunion result in strong family ties, in spite of a family secret that is suddenly revealed.

**Haskins, Jim. *Black, Blue and Gray: African Americans in the Civil War* . Simon & Schuster, 1998. Biography. (Gr. 6+)**

Biographical information on many famous African Americans in the Civil War.

**Haskins, Jim. *The Geography of Hope: Black Exodus from the South after Reconstruction* . Twenty-First Century, 1999. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 6+)**

The demise of African Americans before, during and after the Civil War and the migration of the exodusters.

**Haskins, Jim. *The March on Washington* . HarperCollins, 1993. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 5-9)**

Excellent presentation of a pivotal event of the Civil Rights movement.

**\*Haskins, Jim. *One More River to Cross: Stories of Twelve Black Americans* . Scholastic, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 5-9)**

The lives of twelve black Americans, some well-known and others not, and the impact they had on society.

**Haskins, Jim. *The Scottsboro Boys* . Henry Holt, 1994. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

A carefully-documented treatment of what happens to nine black youths charged with the assault of two white women in Scottsboro, Alabama in 1931.

**Haskins, Jim. *Thurgood Marshall: A Life for Justice* . Henry Holt, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 6-9)**

An informative overview of Marshall's life and the history of the Civil Rights movement in the twentieth century.

**\*Haynes, David. *Right By My Side* . New Rivers Press, 1993. Fiction. (Adult)**

This African-American "Holden Caulfield" works through a difficult year as his mother leaves home and he and his father struggle to make new lives for themselves.

**Hazelgrove, William Elliott. *Tobacco Sticks* . Pantonne, 1995. Historical Fiction. (Adult)**

Lee (14) witnesses both human cruelty and strength in the summer of 1945, when his father risks everything to defend a falsely-accused young black woman.

**Hewett, Lori. *Lives of Our Own* . Dutton, 1998. Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

After her parents' divorce, Shawna decides to spend a year with her dad in a small Georgia town and experiences considerable cultural shock as a result of this decision.

**Hewett, Lori. *Soulfire* . Dutton Children's Books, 1996. Fiction. (Gr. 9+)**

A family of brothers and cousins finds it difficult to grow up in Denver without destroying themselves or others when some of them get involved in gang activity.

**\*Hewett, Lori. *Dancer* . Dutton, 1999. Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)**

Stephanie (16), struggling against her parents' lack of support for her dedication to ballet, gets unexpected help from a former ballerina and her handsome nephew.

**Higginson, Vy. *Mama, I Want to Sing* . Scholastic, 1992. Fiction. (Gr. 6+)**

A young girl's beginnings in the church and gospel singing carry her into the world of show business, with all its pitfalls and traps. Based on an off-Broadway musical.

**\*Horrigan, Kevin. *The Right Kind of Heroes: Coach Bob Shannon and the East St. Louis Flyers* . Algonquin Books, 1992. Biography. (Adult)**

Coach Bob Shannon works valiantly to create an oasis of achievement possibilities for the young black men on his high school football team in the neglected urban environment of East St. Louis.

**Hughes, Dean. *End of the Race* . Atheneum, 1993. Fiction. (Gr. 6-8)**

Jared and Davin compete in 400 meter races and search for answers about race.

**\*Hughes, Langston. *Block* . Viking, 1995. Poetry. (Gr. 5+)**

Striking pictures illustrate Hughes' poetic treatment of a block in Harlem.

**Hunter, Latoya. *The Diary of Latoya Hunter: My First Year in Junior High* . Crown, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 6-8)**

One year in the life of Jamaican-born Latoya, her impressions of junior high, first love, changes in her family and witnessing a murder, all faithfully recorded in her diary.

**Johnson, Angela. *Humming Whispers* . Orchard, 1995. Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

Sophy (14) is afraid that she will follow in her older sister's footsteps and develop schizophrenia, an illness that has ruined her sister's life.

**\*Johnson, Angela. *Toning the Sweep* . Orchard, 1993. Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)**

Emmie and her mother come to the desert to help dismantle her dying grandmother's house, a trip that proves to be a healing process for two strong women.

**\*Johnson, Angela. *Heaven* . Simon & Schuster, 1998. Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

Marley (14) has her idyllic life in the small town of Heaven disrupted when she discovers that her father and mother are not her real parents.

**\*Jones, Maurice K. *Say It Loud! The Story of Rap Music* . Millbrook, 1994. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

The entertainers and the world of rap, from its historical roots to its rise as a musical phenomenon of the 1990s.

**\*Kalergis, Mary Motley. *Seen and Heard: Teenagers Talk about Their Lives* . Stewart, Tabor & Chang, 1998. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

Fifty-one teens talk candidly about what their lives are like, presenting a variety of viewpoints from a cross-section of wonderfully unique individuals.

**\*Kimble, Bo. *For You, Hank: The Story of Hank Gathers and Bo Kimble* . Delacorte, 1992. Biography. (Adult)**

Hank Gathers and Bo Kimble were inseparable friends and basketball teammates from high school through college, until Hank collapsed and died on a basketball court.

**Kotlowitz, Alex. *The Other Side of the River: Story of Two Towns* . Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 1998. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

The points of view with regard to race of two Michigan towns, one wealthy and predominately white, the other poor and predominately black, after the body of a black teenager is found floating in the river between them.

**\*Lanier, Shannon and Jane Feldman. *Jefferson's Children: The Story of One American Family* . Random House, 2000. Biography. (Gr. 8+)**

The two branches of the Thomas Jefferson family, one Black and the other White, are reunited by a journey that spans the country and several centuries.

**\*Levine, Ellen. *Freedom's Children* . Putnam, 1993. Biography. (Gr. 6+)**

Personal narratives of those who were involved in desegregation and the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

**Lupoff, Richard A. *The Bessie Blue Killer* . St. Martin's, 1994. Mystery. (Adult)**

A humorous mystery with wacky characters that provides a thought-provoking commentary on race relations as well as a fascinating look at the flyboys of WW II.

**\*Lyons, Mary E. *Letters from a Slave Girl* . Scribner, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 5-9)**

A fictionalized account of the life of Harriet Jacobs, a young African-American slave woman who hid in an attic for years waiting for a chance to gain her freedom.

**Major, Clarence, ed. *Calling the Wind: Twentieth Century African-American Short Stories* . Edward Burlingame/HarperPerennial, 1993. Short Stories. (Adult)**

Short stories that provide testimony to the truths in African-American culture.

**Mathabane, Mark and Gail. *Love in Black and White* . HarperCollins, 1992. Biography. (Adult)**

The author of *Kaffir Boy* and his wife tell their story -- how an affluent white woman fell in love with and married a poor South African black man.

**McBride, James. *Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* . Riverhead Books, 1996. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

James' mother, the daughter of an Orthodox Rabbi, ran away to Harlem and married a black Baptist minister.

**\*McCall, Nathan. *Makes Me Wanna Holler* . Random House, 1994. Biography. (Adult)**

With brutal honesty the author recounts his experiences from his childhood in a working class African-American neighborhood, full of anger at the white world, to a three-year prison term and finally to his job as a journalist with the Washington Post.

**\*McKissack, Patricia and Frederick. *Sojourner Truth: Ain't I a Woman* . Scholastic, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 5-8)**

The life of Sojourner Truth, an eloquent orator for the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women.

**\*McKissack, Patricia and Frederick. *Red-Tail Angels: The Story of the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II* . Walker and Company, 1995. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 6+)**

A fascinating history of the role these African-American pilots played in WWII.

**\*McKissack, Patricia and Frederick. *Young, Black and Determined: A Biography of Lorraine Hansberry* . Holiday House, 1998. Biography. (Gr. 8+)**

A biography of the young black playwright who gave us *A Raisin in the Sun* , played an active role in the Civil Rights movement and died in her thirties.

**\*McKissack, Patricia C. *Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts* . Scholastic, 1996. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 6+)**

Profiles of the leaders of resistance movements against slavery in North America.

**\*Meyer, Carolyn. *Jubilee Journey* . Harcourt Brace, 1997. Fiction. (Gr. 6-9)**

Emily (13) learns about family history and racism when her family takes a trip to a small town in Texas from their home in Connecticut.

**\*Meyer, Carolyn. *White Lilacs* . Gulliver Books/Harcourt Brace, 1993. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 5-7)**

Rosa Lee is very upset when the whites in her Texas town in the 1920s decide to turn her black neighborhood into a park and force the black families to move to a much less desirable area outside of town.

**\*Miller, E. Ethelbert, comp. *In Search of Color Everywhere: A Collection of African-American Poetry* . Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1994. Poetry. (Adult)**

Organized in sections by themes, this anthology of African-American poetry ranges from spirituals to contemporary poets and rap artists.

**Morrison, Toni. *Jazz* . Knopf, 1992. Historical Fiction. (Adult)**

Violet tries to understand why her middle-aged husband got involved with and then killed his eighteen-year-old lover in 1920s Harlem.

**Mowry, Jess. *Six Out Seven* . Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1993. Fiction. (Adult)**

Young Corbitt comes of age as he travels from Mississippi to California and learns firsthand about his African heritage and the possibilities for his future.

**\*Mowry, Jess. *Way Past Cool* . Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1992. Fiction. (Adult)**

Rival black gangs in Oakland, California, are made up 12 and 13-year-old boys.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *The Glory Field* . Scholastic, 1994. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

An epic history of the Lewis family, from the capture and enslavement of an African boy through subsequent generations to the present-day reunion of his descendants on the family farm, known as "The Glory Field."

**Myers, Walter Dean. *The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy* . Scholastic, 1999. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

The adventures of young Joshua Loper on a cattle drive along the Chisholm Trail.

**Myers, Walter Dean. *Shadow of the Red Moon* . Scholastic, 1995. Fantasy. (Gr. 5-9)**

When the Fens attack his home in New City, Jen (15) flees into the wilderness with other young Okalians to search for the Ancient City.

**Myers, Walter Dean. *Darnell Rock Reporting* . Delacorte, 1994. Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

When he becomes a reporter for the school newspaper, Darnell discovers that people begin to pay attention to him.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *Somewhere in the Darkness* . Scholastic, 1992. Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

Jimmy is shocked when his father, who has been in prison for eight years, shows up and insists on his son coming with him to Chicago, a journey of discovery for both.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary* . Scholastic, 1993. Biography. (Gr. 6-10)**

The man and the legend are brought together, in clear, concise prose.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *Slam!* Scholastic, 1996. Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

"Slam" Harris (17), a talented basketball player living in Harlem, dreams of fame and fortune as an NBA star, but first he has to pass the courses in his tough new school.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *The Righteous Revenge of Artemis Bonner* . HarperCollins, 1992. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

Teenage Artemis goes to Tombstone to track down the killer of his uncle and look for a buried treasure.

**Myers, Walter Dean. *Amistad: The Long Road to Freedom* . Dutton, 1998. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)**

An examination of the circumstances surrounding the Amistad, the slave ship under the control of African slaves found off the coast of Long Island in 1839.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *One More River to Cross: An African-American Photograph Album* . Harcourt Brace, 1996. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

Minimal text accompanies carefully-chosen photographs of people, both famous and unknown, in this celebration of the African-American presence in this country.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *Harlem* . Scholastic, 1997. Poetry. (Gr. 6+)**

Rich, vibrant verse and striking illustrations bring Harlem to life.

**Myers, Walter Dean. *At Her Majesty's Request: An African Princess in Victorian England* . Scholastic, 1999. Biography. (Gr. 5-8)**

An African princess, saved from death by a British naval officer, is taken to England and placed under the care of Queen Victoria.

**Myers, Walter Dean. *145 th Street* . Delacorte, 2000. Short Stories. (Gr. 6+)**

Life on a block in Harlem is the subject of this collection of stories.

**\*Myers, Walter Dean. *Monster* . HarperCollins, 1999. Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

On trial for being part of a robbery that resulted in a murder, Steve sits in his cell and in the courtroom and describes what is happening to him in the form of a screenplay.

**Nero, Clarence. *Cheekie: A Child out of the Desire* . Council Oak, 1998. Fiction. (Adult)**

Coming of age in a New Orleans housing project amid violence and poverty, Cheekie nevertheless develops the strength to believe in himself.

**Nordan, Lewis. *Wolf Whistle* . Algonquin Books, 1993. Historical Fiction. (Adult)**

A young black boy is killed simply because he wolf whistled at a white lady.

**\*Okutoro, Lydia. *Quiet Storm: Voices of Young Black Poets* . Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 1999. Poetry. (Gr. 6+)**

A moving collection of original poetry in which the young poets express themselves, their culture and their heritage.

**\*Parks, Rosa with Jim Haskins. *Rosa Parks: My Story* . Dial, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 6-10)**

Rosa Parks relates the story of her life, which includes the events that led to the beginning of the modern Civil Rights movement.

**\*Paulsen, Gary. *Nightjohn* . Delacorte, 1993. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

Nightjohn, an escaped slave who returns to the South and risks his life to teach other slaves how to read, inspires a lifelong thirst for knowledge in young Sarny.

**Pinckney, Andrea Davis. *Raven in a Dove House* . Harcourt Brace, 1998. Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

The raven in this case is a gun, and when Nell (14) finds it hidden in the doll house, she realizes just how much trouble her cousin Foley and his friend Slade are in.

**Porter, A. P. *Jump at de Sun: The Story of Zora Neale Hurston* . Carolrhoda Books, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 5-9)**

Photographs and text describe the exciting, turbulent life of a remarkable woman.

**\*Porter, Connie. *Imani All Mine* . Houghton Mifflin, 1999. Fiction. (Adult)**

Teenage Tasha has a baby after being raped, a baby that she loves fiercely and wants to protect, but with a drug dealer living next door, that proves next to impossible.

**Prather, Ray. *Fish and Bones* . HarperCollins, 1992. Fiction. (Gr. 6-9)**

When a bank robbery casts suspicions on practically everyone in his small town, Bones (13) uncovers hidden secrets.

**Revoyr, Nina. *Necessary Hunger* . Simon & Schuster, 1997. Fiction. (Adult)**

Hoop dreams, but this time from the point of view of a high school girl on a team in inner-city Los Angeles.

**\*Rinaldi, Ann. *Hang a Thousand Trees with Ribbons: The Story of Phillis Wheatley* . Harcourt Brace, 1996. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

A novel based on the life of Phillis Wheatley, the first black American poet.

**\*Rivers, Glenn and Bruce Brooks. *Those Who Love the Game: Glenn "Doc" Rivers on Life in the NBA and Elsewhere* . Henry Holt, 1993. Biography. (Gr. 7+)**

Shows the determination, the competitive fire, and the brains "Doc" Rivers needed to succeed in the NBA and elsewhere.

**Robinet, Harriette. *If You Please, President Lincoln* . MacMillan, 1995. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 6-9)**

A slave boy who runs away from his mother is put on a boat with a group of ex-slaves to start a black colony on an island.

**Rutberg, Becky. *Mary Lincoln's Dressmaker* . Walker & Company, 1995. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 8+)**

Elizabeth Keckley, who began life as a slave, ended up as dressmaker and confidante to the First Lady.

**Sanders, Dori. *Her Own Place: A Novel* . Algonquin Books, 1993. Historical Fiction. (Adult)**

From a black teen in rural South Carolina who hopes her high school sweetheart will ask her to marry him before going to fight in WWII to a woman in her sixties.

**Sapphire. *Push* . Knopf, 1996. Fiction. (Adult)**

Precious (16), a black teenage girl who is pregnant for the second time with her father's child, finds the hope she needs for a new life in an alternative school.

**\*Schwartz, Virginia Frances. *Send One Angel Down* . Holiday House, 2000. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

A young slave tries to protect his younger cousin from the hardships of slavery.

**Seabrooke, Brenda. *Bridges of Summer* . Cobblehill/Dutton, 1992. Fiction. (Gr. 6-9)**

Zarah, forced to leave her ballet behind and spend the summer with her Gullah grandmother on a small South Carolina island, is surprised to learn of her proud heritage.

**Senna, Carl. *Colin Powell* . Walker, 1992. Biography. (Gr. 6-10)**

Career biography of the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs-of-Staff.

**Senna, Danzy. *Caucasia* . Riverhead/PenguinPutnam, 1998. Fiction. (Adult)**

Birdie, light enough to pass as white, has to go on the run with her civil rights activist mother, while her dark-skinned sister gets to go to Brazil with their father.

**Shakur, Tupac. *The Rose That Grew from Concrete* . Pocket Books, 2000. Poetry. (Adult)**

Before he became a rap star, teenage Tupac wrote these poems that explore love, friendship, politics and loyalty.

**Sherman, Charlotte. *One Dark Body* . HarperCollins, 1993. Fiction. (Adult)**

A mystical coming-of-age novel in which two African-American teens in rural Washington state search for their true identity.

**\*Sinclair, April. *Coffee Will Make You Black* . Hyperion, 1994. Fiction. (Adult)**

A young black girl's humorous coming-of-age story that points out the universality of the human experience.

**\*Southgate, Martha. *Another Way to Dance* . Delacorte, 1996. Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

Vicki Harris, one of two African-American students selected to attend the School of American Ballet, thinks it's a dream come true until she encounters racism and disappointment there.

**Staples, Brent. *Parallel Time: Growing Up in Black and White* . Pantheon, 1994. Biography. (Adult)**

In this memoir Staples contemplates his experiences as a youth, his life in two worlds, his break with his family and the violent death of his brother.

**\*Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Dangerous Skies* . Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1996. Mystery. (Gr. 7+)**

It was bad enough to discover a dead body while fishing in the back creeks of the Chesapeake Bay, but then Buck learns that the African-American girl who is his best friend has been accused of the murder.

**\*Stolz, Mary. *Cezanne Pinto* . Knopf/Borzoi, 1994. Historical Fiction. (Grades 6-9)**

Cezanne, an old man, recalls his youth as a slave who escapes on the Underground Railroad, goes out west to look for his mother and becomes a cowboy.

**Straight, Susan. *I Been in Sorrow's Kitchen & Licked Out All the Pots* . Hyperion, 1992. Fiction. (Adult)**

Marietta is unhappy and oppressed in her home in South Carolina, so she goes to California to try to find comfort and acceptance there.

**Strickland, William. *Malcolm X: Make It Plain* . Viking, 1994. Biography. (Adult)**

Text, photographs and oral histories explore the many facets of Malcolm X's character and philosophy.

**Tervalon, Jervey. *Understand This* . Morrow, 1994. Fiction. (Adult)**

Margot and Francois struggle with the perils of the "hoods" of Los Angeles.

**Thomas, Joyce Carol. *When the Nightingale Sings* . HarperCollins, 1992. Fiction. (Gr. 6-8)**

This African-American "Cinderella" is born in a swamp, treated like a servant by her "Auntie" and "cousins" and longs to sing in the gospel choir.

**\*Thornton, Yvonne S. as told to Jo Coudert. *Ditchdigger's Daughters: A Black Family's Astonishing Success Story* . Birch Land Press, 1995. Biography. (Adult)**

A poor black man raises five daughters who succeed against incredible odds.

**Todras, Ellen H. *Angelina Grimke: Voice of Abolition* . Shoe String Press, 1999. Biography. (Gr. 7+)**

An exemplary biography of an intelligent, outspoken woman.

**Trice, Dawn. *Only Twice Have I Wished for Heaven* . Crown, 1997. Fiction. (Adult)**

In the 1970s Tempestt (11) moves with her family to Lakeland, a black-class-conscious living community in Chicago, where she feels so out of place she has to search for her sense of self elsewhere.

**Verdelle, A. J. *Good Negress* . Algonquin, 1995. Fiction. (Adult)**

Called home to Detroit to keep house in 1963, Denise is inspired by a magnetic new teacher to "reach beyond her station."

**Walter, Mildred. *Mississippi Challenge* . Bradbury, 1992. Non-Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

The history of the Civil Rights struggle in Mississippi, from slavery to the freedom summer of the 1960s.

**Walter, Mildred. *Second Daughter* . Scholastic, 1996. Historical Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)**

Mum Bet, a slave girl in 1781, takes her owner to court and wins her freedom because she has heard that the new constitution says that all men are created equal, including black men, women and slaves. Based on a true story.

**\*Whitmore, Arvella. *Trapped between the Lash and the Gun* . Dial Books, 1999. Science Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

Jason (12) is trying to buy a gun and get into a gang when he is suddenly transported back in time to the days of slavery and meets his ancestors.

**Williams, Lori Aurelia. *When Kambia Elaine Flew in from Neptune* . Simon & Schuster, 2000. Fiction. (Gr. 8+)**

When Shayla befriends the new girl next door, she learns that her stories of lizard people and memory beetles are her way of coping with unbearable abuse at home.

**\*Williams-Garcia, Rita. *Like Sisters on the Homefront* . Dutton Lodestar, 1995. Fiction. (8+)**

Gayle (14), pregnant for the second time by a married man, is forced by her mother to get an abortion and then is sent south with her son to live with her uncle's family, where she discovers that her straight-laced cousin can be like a sister to her.

**Wilson Wesley, Valerie. *Where Do I Go From Here?* Scholastic, 1993. Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

Nia, one of only a few African-American students at exclusive Endicott boarding school, gets into a fight after her friend Marcus disappears and is suspended, after which she has to decide whether or not to return to school.

**Wilson, Jackie Napoleon. *Hidden Witness: African-American Images from the Dawn of Photography to the Civil War* . St. Martin's Press, 2000. Non-Fiction. (Adult)**

Seventy images in daguerreotype and ambrotype of African-Americans during the pre- and post-Civil War era.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *Autobiography of a Family Photo* . Dutton, 1995. Fiction. (Adult)**

Disquieting snapshots of an African American girl's formative years in the 60s and 70s.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *Between Madison and Palmetto* . Delacorte, 1993. Fiction. (Gr. 5-7)**

The friendship between Maizon and Margaret is tested by a new girl on the scene, the return of Maizon's absent father, and Margaret's flirtation with bulimia.

**Woodson, Jacqueline. *The House You Pass on the Way* . Delacorte, 1997. Fiction. (Gr. 7-10)**

The daughter of a black father and a white mother feels she doesn't belong in either world.

**\*Woodson, Jacqueline. *I Hadn't Meant to Tell You This* . Delacorte, 1994. Fiction. (Gr. 6-9)**

Marie and Lena's friendship crosses race and class barriers but cannot protect Lena from the terrifying secret that threatens her as well as her younger sister.

**\*Woodson, Jacqueline. *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun* . Scholastic, 1995. Fiction. (Gr. 6-9)**

In his beautifully and sensitively-written notebooks, Melanin Sun describes his life after he discovers that his mom's new boyfriend is a white woman.

**\*Woodson, Jacqueline. *If You Come Softly* . Putnam, 1998. Fiction. (Gr. 7+)**

Jeremiah, who is black, and Ellie, who is white, run into each other in the halls of their exclusive private school, fall head over heels in love, and spend a few idyllic months together before tragedy strikes.

**\*Woodson, Jacqueline. *Maizon at Blue Hill* . Delacorte, 1992. Fiction. (Gr. 5-8)**

Maizon gets a minority scholarship to exclusive Blue Hills Boarding School but finds it difficult to fit in, with the few black students as well as the white ones.

**\*Woodson, Jacqueline. *Miracle's Boys* . Putnam, 2000. Fiction. (Gr. 6-10)**

Three brothers have to cope with their mother's death.

**Wright, Bill. *Sunday You Learn How to Box* . Scribner, 2000. Fiction. (Adult)**

Louis has an abusive stepfather who is determined to teach him how to box, but the young boy would rather find out why he feels the way he does about handsome Ray Anthony in his purple polyester pants.

**Wright, Richard. *Rite of Passage* . HarperCollins, 1994. Fiction. (Gr. 8+)**

A single night in the life of a young boy who is betrayed by the NYC foster care bureaucracy and winds up joining a gang.