

Black History Month: A Reading List



Fiction

[*Americanah*](#), Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

[*Black Buck*](#), Mateo Askaripour

[*Conjure Women*](#), Afia Atakora

[*The Vanishing Half*](#), Brit Bennett

[*Kindred*](#), Octavia Butler

[*When No One is Watching*](#), Alyssa Cole

[*The Girl with the Louding Voice*](#), Abi Daré

[*Invisible Man*](#), Ralph Ellison

[*Lakewood*](#), Megan Giddings

[*The Care and Feeding of Ravenously Hungry Girls*](#), Anissa Gray

[*Transcendent Kingdom*](#), Yaa Gyasi

[*Hitting a Straight Lick with a Crooked Stick: stories from the Harlem Renaissance*](#), Zora Neale Hurston

[*The Kindest Lie*](#), Nancy Johnson

[*The Prophets*](#), Robert Jones Jr.

[*An American Marriage*](#), Tayari Jones
[*It's Not All Downhill From Here*](#), Terry McMillan
[*Beloved*](#), Toni Morrison
[*Such a Fun Age*](#), Kiley Reid
[*Real Life*](#), Brandon Taylor
[*The Hate U Give*](#), Angie Thomas
[*The Color Purple*](#), Alice Walker
[*Sing, Unburied, Sing*](#), Jesmyn Ward
[*The Nickel Boys*](#), Colson Whitehead
[*Remembrance*](#), Rita Woods
[*Another Brooklyn*](#), Jacqueline Woodson

Poetry and Plays

[*The Tradition*](#), Jericho Brown
[*Blessing the Boats: new and selected poems, 1988-2000*](#), Lucille Clifton
[*Be Holding: a poem*](#), Ross Gay
[*A Raisin in the Sun*](#), Lorraine Hansberry
[*The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*](#), Langston Hughes
[*A Strange Loop: a musical*](#), Michael R. Jackson
[*Sweat*](#), Lynn Nottage
[*Citizen: an American lyric*](#), Claudia Rankine
[*Fires in the Mirror*](#), Anna Deavere Smith
[*Don't Call Us Dead: poems*](#), Danez Smith
[*Fences*](#), August Wilson

Memoir/Autobiography/Biography

[*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*](#), Maya Angelou
[*Black is the Body: stories from my grandmother's time, my mother's time, and mine*](#), Emily Bernard
[*The Yellow House*](#), Sarah M. Broom
[*Ladysitting: my year with nana at the end of her century*](#), Lorene Cary

[*Eloquent Rage: a black feminist discovers her superpower*](#), Brittney Cooper
[*Think Black: a memoir*](#), Clyde W. Ford
[*Ordinary Hazards: a memoir*](#), Nikki Grimes
[*The Last Black Unicorn*](#), Tiffany Haddish
[*Barracoon: the story of the last “black cargo.”*](#) Zora Neale Hurston
[*How We Fight For Our Lives: a memoir*](#), Saeed Jones
[*When They Call You a Terrorist: a Black Lives matter memoir*](#), Patrisse Khan-Cullors
[*This is Major: notes on Diana Ross, dark girls, and being dope*](#), Shayla Lawson
[*March*](#), John Lewis
[*A Promised Land*](#), Barack Obama
[*Becoming*](#), Michelle Obama
[*Notes from a Young Black Chef: a memoir*](#), Kwame Onwuachi with Joshua David Stein
[*The Dead Are Arising: the life of Malcolm X*](#), Les Payne and Tamara Payne
[*Ordinary Light: a memoir*](#), Tracy K. Smith
[*The New Negro: the life of Alain Locke*](#), Jeffrey C. Stewart
[*Memorial Drive: a daughter’s memoir*](#), Natasha Trethewey

Other Nonfiction

[*The New Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness*](#), Michelle Alexander
[*The Fire Next Time*](#), James Baldwin
[*Between the World and Me*](#), Ta-Nehisi Coates
[*A Most Beautiful Thing: the true story of American’s first all-Black high school rowing team*](#),
Arshay Cooper
[*Black Futures*](#), ed. Kimberly Drew and Jenna Wortham
[*Long Time Coming: reckoning with race in America*](#), Michael Eric Dyson
[*Well-read Black Girl: finding our stories, discovering ourselves*](#), ed. Glory Edim
[*The Last Negroes at Harvard: the class of 1963 and the eighteen young men who changed Harvard forever*](#), Kent Garrett and Jeanne Ellsworth
[*Stony the Road: Reconstruction, white supremacy, and the rise of Jim Crow*](#), Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Wandering in Strange Lands: a daughter of the Great Migration reclaims her roots, Morgan Jerkins

Four Hundred Souls: a community history of African America, 1619-2019, ed. Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain

How to be an Antiracist, Ibram X. Kendi

Sister Outsider: essays and speeches, Audre Lorde

They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a new era in America's racial justice movement, Wesley Lowery

On the Other Side of Freedom: the case for hope, DeRay Mckesson

Mediocre: the dangerous legacy of white male America, Ijeoma Oluo

Do Better: spiritual activism for writing and healing from white supremacy, Rachel Ricketts

Hidden Figures: the American dream and the untold story of the Black women mathematicians who helped win the space race, Margot Lee Shetterly

Overground Railroad: the Green Book and the roots of Black travel in America, Candacy Taylor

The Fire This Time: a new generation speaks about race, ed. Jesmyn Ward

The Warmth of Other Suns: the epic story of America's great migration, Isabel Wilkerson