

# GREAT AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS

## Reading List

### Program 1: 1761 - 1901

Jupiter Hammon

- 'An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ, with Penitential Cries'
- *An Address to the Negroes in the State of New York*
- 'An Address to Phillis Wheatley'

Phillis Wheatley

- *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*
- 'On Being Brought From Africa To America'

Frederick Douglass

- *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*
- *My Bondage and My Freedom*

Paul Laurence Dunbar

- *Oak and Ivy*
- *Lyrics of Lowly Life*
- *The Sport of the Gods*
- 'Sympathy'
- 'A Christmas Folksong'

Booker T. Washington

- *Up From Slavery*

### Program 2: 1902 - 1924

W.E.B. Du Bois

- *The Souls of Black Folk*
- *Black Reconstruction in America*
- *Dark Princess*
- *Dusk of Dawn*

James Weldon Johnson

- *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*
- *God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse*
- *Black Manhattan*
- *Negro Americans, What Now?*

Alain LeRoy Locke

- *The New Negro: An Interpretation*

- *Harlem: Mecca of the New Negro*
- *The Negro's Contribution to American Art and Literature*

Langston Hughes

- 'The Negro Speaks of Rivers'
- 'I, Too, Sing America'
- *The Weary Blues*
- *Not Without Laughter*
- *The Big Sea*

Alice Dunbar Nelson

- *Violets and Other Tales*
- "The Colored United States," *The Messenger*. 1924
- *Give Us Each Day: The Diary of Alice Dunbar-Nelson*

### **Program 3: 1925 - 1937**

Countee Cullen

- 'Yet Do I Marvel'
- *Color*
- *One Way to Heaven*
- *Harlem Wine*
- *The Lost Zoo*

Jessie Redmon Fauset

- "Impressions of the Second Pan-African Congress," *The Crisis*. November 1921
- *There is Confusion*
- *Plum Bun*
- *Comedy: American Style*

Sterling A. Brown

- *Southern Road*
- 'Sister Lou'
- 'Strong Men'
- *No Hiding Place*

Arna Bontemps

- *Black Thunder: Gabriel's Revolt: Virginia 1800*
- 'A Black Man Talks of Reaping'
- *Story of the Negro*

Zora Neale Hurston

- *Mules and Men*
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
- *Dust Tracks on a Road*

## **Program 4: 1938 - 1953**

Richard Wright

- *Uncle Tom's Children*
- *Native Son*
- *Black Boy*
- *The Color Curtain*
- *American Hunger*
- *Black Power*

Gwendolyn Brooks

- *A Street in Bronzeville*
- *Annie Allen*
- *Maud Martha*
- *In the Mecca*
- *Children Coming Home*
- *In Montgomery*
- 'The Mother'
- 'We Real Cool'
- 'Kitchenette Building'

Ralph Ellison

- *Invisible Man*
- *Shadow and Act*
- "What America Would Be Like Without Blacks" - *Time Magazine*
- *Three Days Before the Shooting ...*

James Baldwin

- "Everybody's Protest Novel"
- *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
- *The Amen Corner*
- *Blues for Mr. Charlie*
- *Notes of a Native Son*
- *Giovanni's Room*
- *Another Country*
- *The Fire Next Time*
- *Blues for Mister Charlie*
- *The Devil Finds Work*
- *Jimmy's Blues*
- *The Price of the Ticket*

## **Program 5: 1954 - 1967**

Chester Himes

- *If He Hollers Let Him Go*
- *Cotton Comes to Harlem*

- *Harlem Detective Novels*

Lorraine Hansberry

- *A Raisin in the Sun*
- *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*

Malcolm X

- 'The Ballot or the Bullet'
- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
- *Malcolm X Speaks: Selected Speeches and Statements*

Amiri Baraka

- *Blues People: Negro Music in White America*
- *The System of Dante's Hell*
- *A Black Mass*
- *Black Magic*
- *Somebody Blew Up America & Other Poems*

Nikki Giovanni

- *Black Feeling, Black Talk*
- *Black Judgement*
- *Re: Creation*
- *Love Poems*
- *Bicycles: Love Poems*
- 'Knoxville, Tennessee'

## **Program 6: 1968 - 1982**

Maya Angelou

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
- *Gather Together in My Name*
- *Singin' and Swingin' and Gettin' Merry Like Christmas*
- *The Heart of a Woman*
- *All God's Children Need Traveling Shoes*
- *A Song Flung Up to Heaven*
- *Mom & Me & Mom*
- *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie*

Toni Cade Bambara

- *Gorilla, My Love*
- 'The Lesson'
- *The Salt Eaters*
- *Those Bones Are Not My Child*

Alice Childress

- *Florence*
- *Trouble in Mind*
- *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich*

Ed Bullins

- *In the Wine Time*
- *Goin' a Buffalo*
- *The Taking of Miss Janie*

Alex Haley

- *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*
- *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*
- *Alex Haley's Queen*

Gloria Naylor

- *The Women of Brewster Place*
- *Linden Hills*
- *Mama Day*
- *Bailey's Café*
- *The Men of Brewster Place*
- *1996*

### **Program 7: 1982 - 1993**

Alice Walker

- *The Color Purple*
- *The Temple of My Familiar*
- *Possessing the Secret of Joy*
- *Warrior Marks*
- *The Cushion in the Road*
- *The World Will Follow Joy Turning Madness into Flowers*

Lucille Clifton

- *Good Times*
- *Good News About the Earth*
- *Three Wishes*
- *The Boy Who Didn't Believe in Spring*
- *Generations: A Memoir*
- *Two Headed Woman*
- 'homage to my hips'
- 'Dialysis'
- 'won't you celebrate with me'

August Wilson

- *The Pittsburgh Cycle*
  - *Gem of the Ocean*
  - *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*
  - *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*
  - *The Piano Lesson*
  - *Seven Guitars*
  - *Fences*
  - *Two Trains Running*
  - *Jitney*
  - *King Hedley II*
  - *Radio Golf*

Yusef Komunyakaa

- *I Apologize for the Eyes in My Head*
- *Dien Cai Dau*
- *Magic City*
- *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems*
- *Thieves of Paradise*
- *Talking Dirty to the Gods*
- *Pleasure Dome: New and Collected Poems, 1975-1999*
- *Taboo: The Wishbone Trilogy, Part I*

Walter Mosley

- *Devil in a Blue Dress*
- *Blue Light*
- *Fearless Jones*
- *Fortunate Son*
- *The Long Fall*

Toni Morrison

- *The Bluest Eye*
- *Song of Solomon*
- *Recitatif*
- *Beloved*
- *Paradise*
- *Playing in the Dark*

**Program 8: 1993 - Present**

Ernest J. Gaines

- *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*
- *A Gathering of Old Men*
- *A Lesson Before Dying*

Rita Dove

- *Museum*
- *Thomas and Beulah*
- *American Smooth*
- 'Parsley'

Cornelius Eady

- *Kartunes*
- *The Gathering of My Name*
- *You Don't Miss Your Water*
- *Brutal Imagination*
- *Victims of the Latest Dance Craze*
- *Hardheaded Weather*

Suzan-Lori Parks

- *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom*
- *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*
- *The America Play*
- *Venus*
- *Topdog/Underdog*
- *365 Plays/365 Days*

Natasha Trethewey

- *Native Guard*
- *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*
- *Thrall*

Olympia Vernon

- *Eden*
- *Logic*
- *A Killing In This Town*

Ayana Mathis

- *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*

Tayari Jones

- *Leaving Atlanta*
- *The Untelling*
- *Silver Sparrow*

Tony Medina

- *An Onion of Wars*