

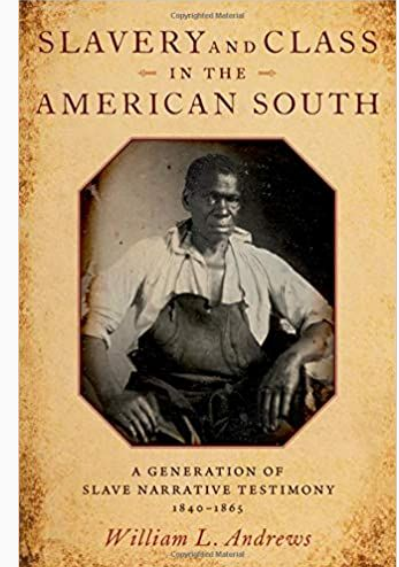
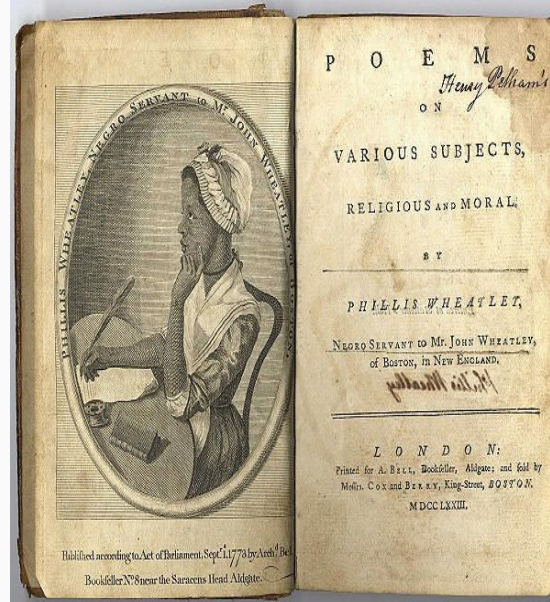
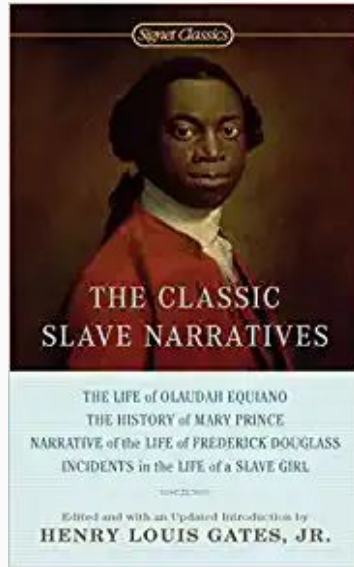
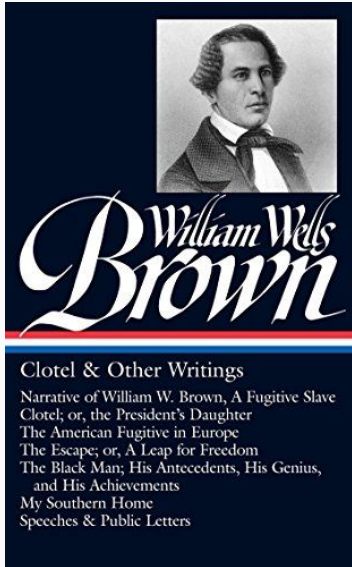
Building African American Collections: Past, Present & Future



WELCOME



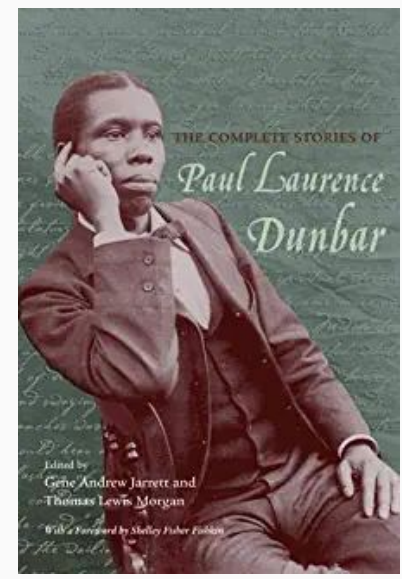
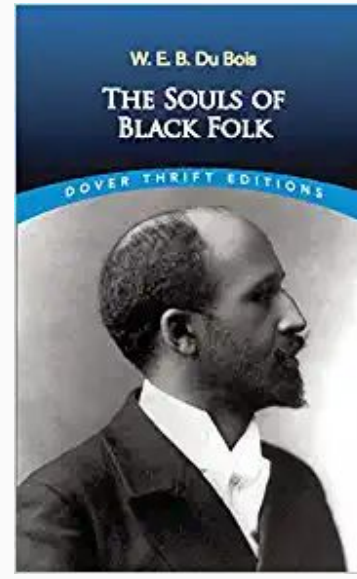
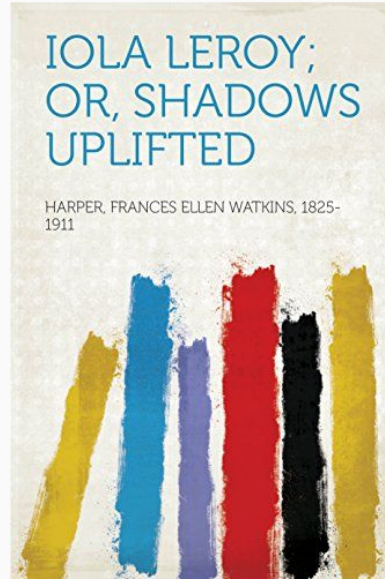
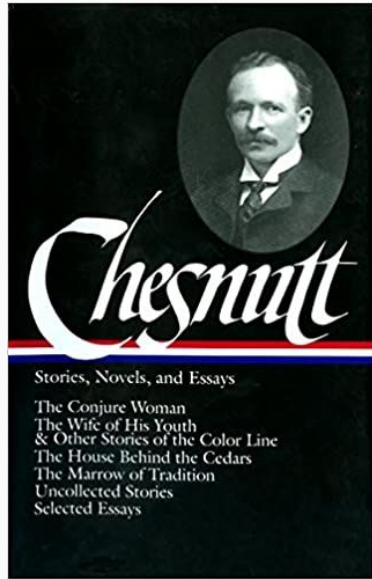
Our Future has a past ...





Our Future has a past

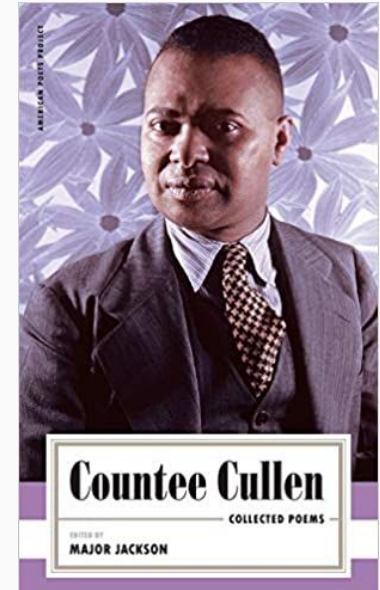
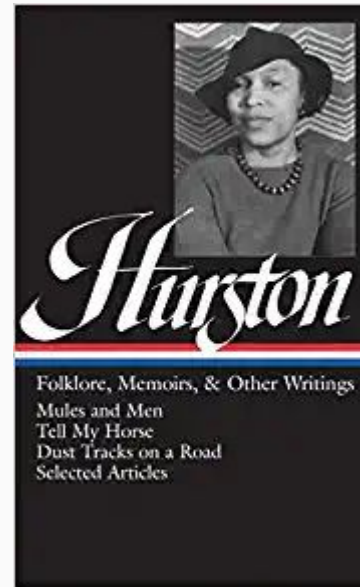
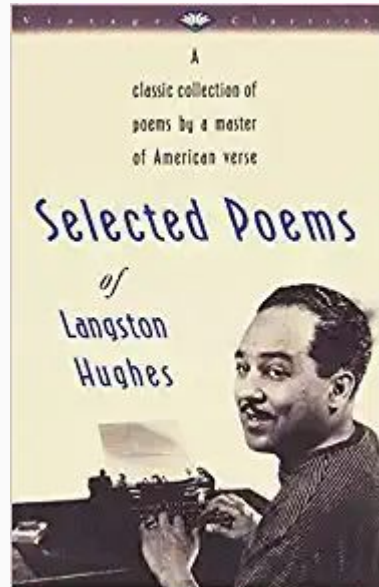
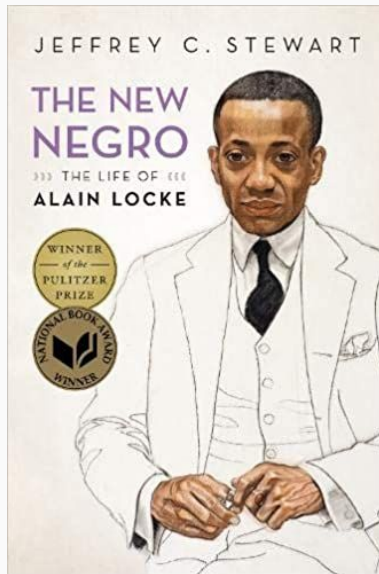
Literature of Reconstruction (1865-1877) to the New Negro Renaissance (1865-1919):



Our Future has a past



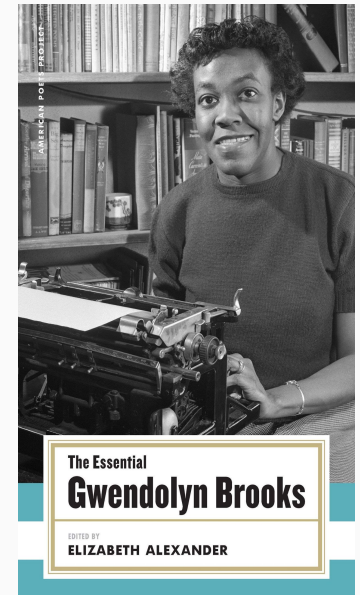
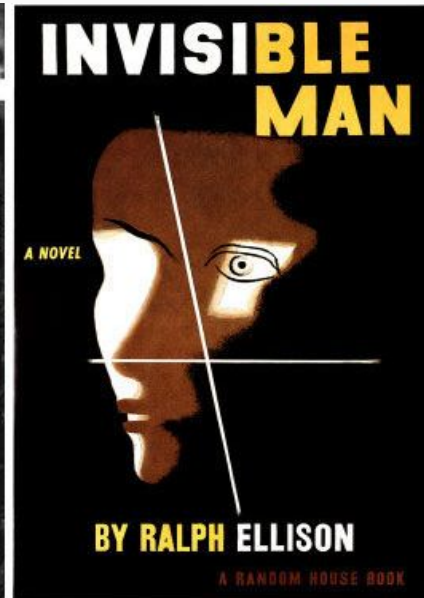
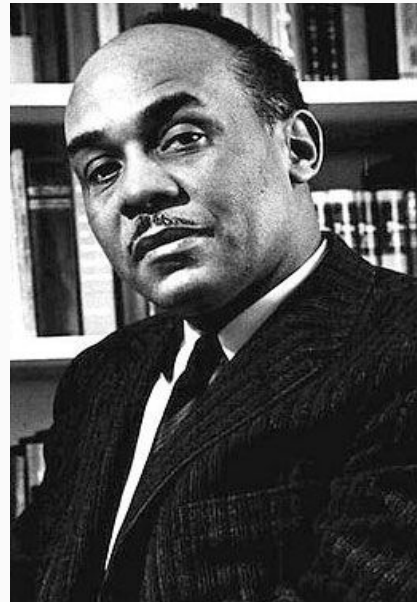
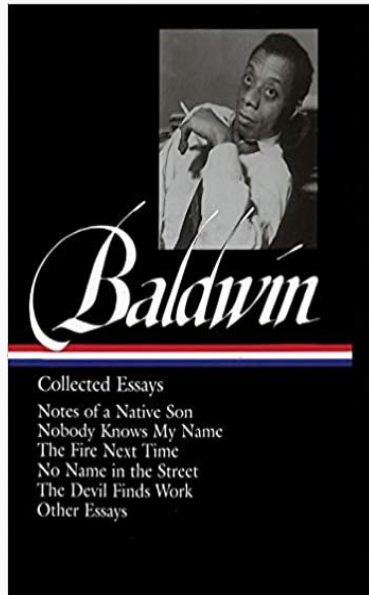
Harlem Renaissance (1919-1940)





Our Future has a past

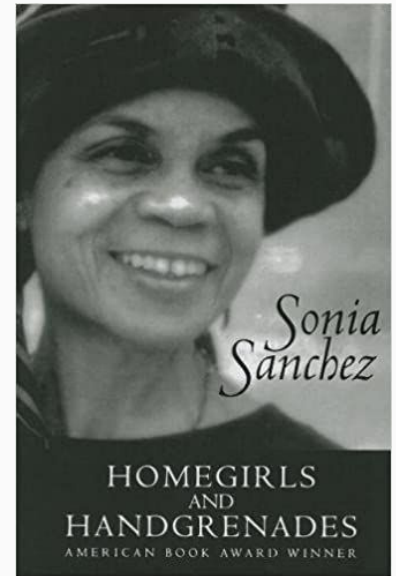
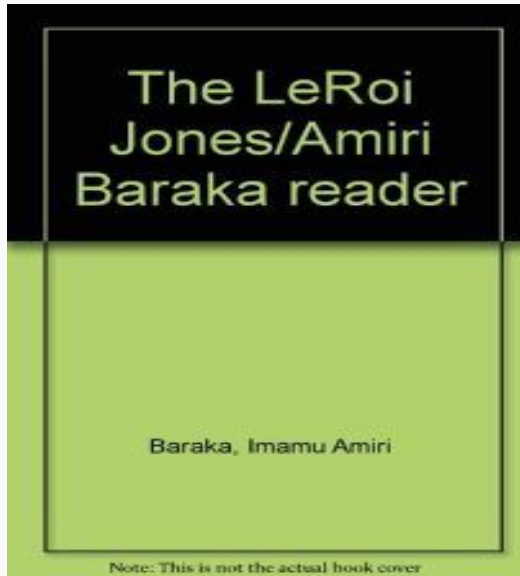
Realism, Naturalism, Modernism (1940-1960)





Our Future has a past

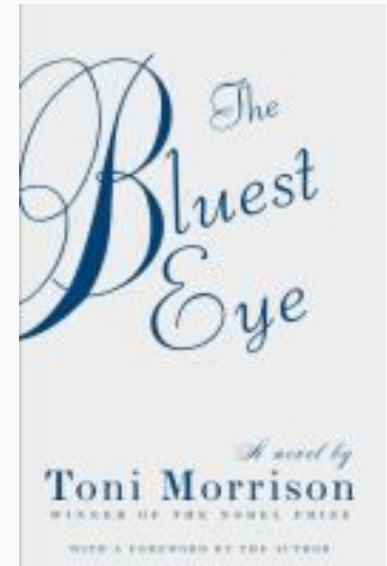
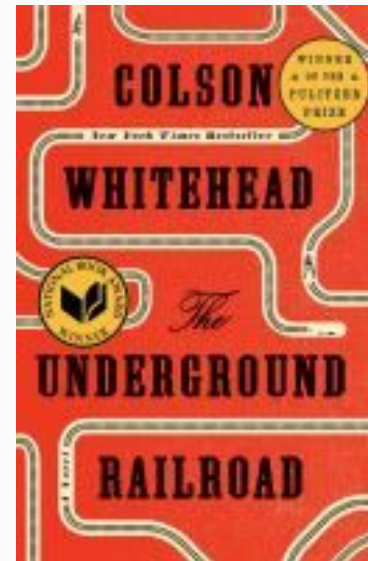
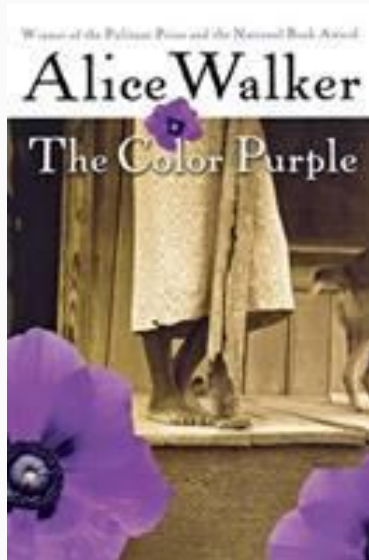
Black Arts Era (1960-1975)



Our Future has a past



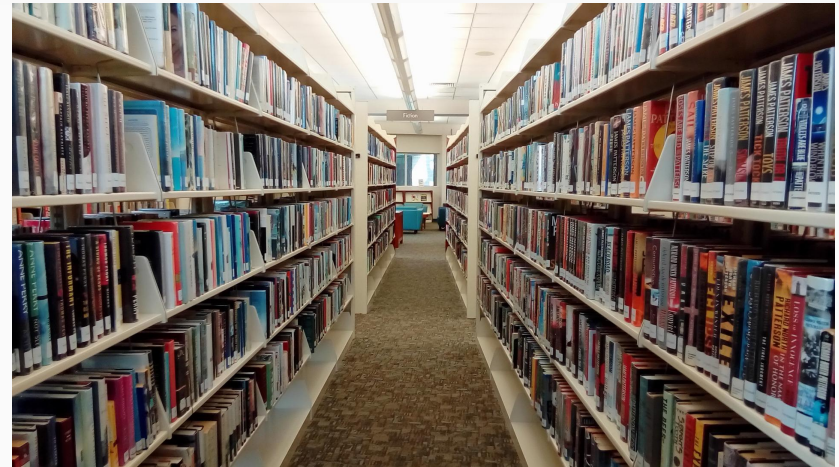
The Contemporary Period (1975-Present)



What might an African American Interest Collection Include?



- **Genre Fiction**
- **African American Literature**
- **Nonfiction Topics**



Courtesy of RHMLMarketing from Pixabay

There is more ...



African American Literature Is:



- Many written by African American authors
- Deals with race
- Overcoming obstacles
- Can be politically charged
- Includes themes of love and compassion
- Can transcend race and color



8 Primary Themes



- Real life and family
- Gospel, Jazz, R & B, Hip Hop
- History
- Slavery and Racism
- Freedom
- Urban Stories
- Black Romance
- Legends and Myths



****Mirika Mayo Cornelius: author, literary visionary, blogger*

The African American Interest Collection @ GCPL became



A Special Collection

Designed & Created Partially based on Customer Requests

Easily Accessible: Location and Visibility

A microcosm of favored genre fiction and nonfiction



African American Interest: Selected Highlights: African American Literature: Old & New Classics

Which two authors were leaders during the Harlem Renaissance?

James Baldwin

1924-1987



If Beale Street
Could Talk:
1974



Slave Narratives
1700s-1800s

Ralph Ellison

1914-1994



Invisible Man
1952

Their Eyes
Were Watching
God

1937



INTRODUCED BY ZADIE SMITH

1891-1960

Langston Hughes

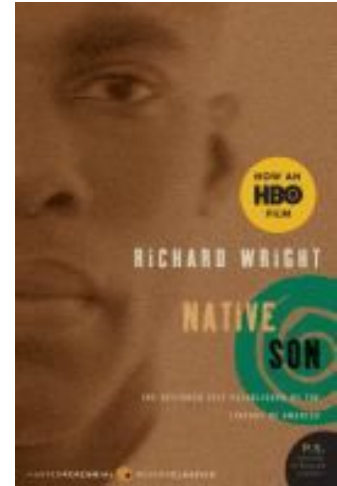
1902-1967



Not Without

Native Son

1940



Richard Wright
1908-1960

Answer: Zora Neale Hurston & Langston Hughes

African American Interest: Selected Highlights: African American Literature: Old

Which title is considered a precursor to feminist literature due to its female protagonist and themes?

Ernest J. Gaines

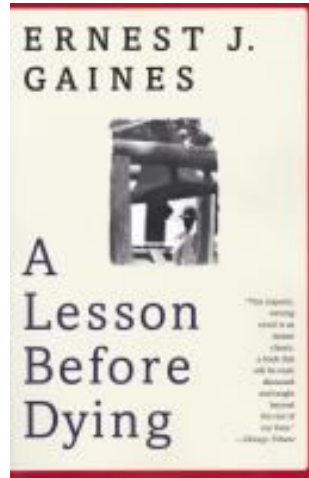
Paule Marshall

Terry McMillan

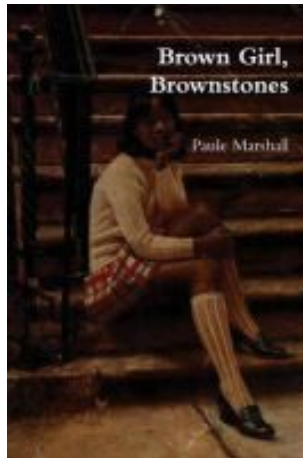
Toni Morrison

Alice Walker

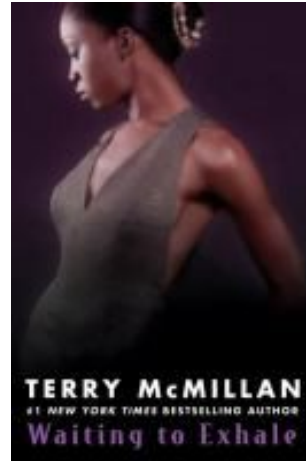
Colson Whitehead



A Lesson Before Dying: 1993



Brown Girl, Brownstones: 1959



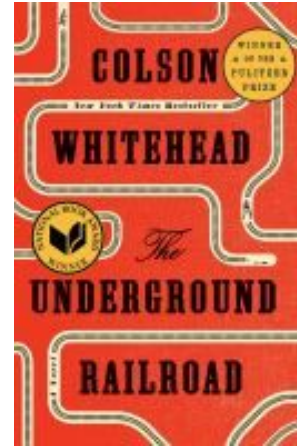
Waiting to Exhale: 1992



The Bluest Eye: 1969



The Color Purple: 1982



The Underground Railroad: 2016

Answer: Brown Girl, Brownstones originally written in 1959 by Paule Marshall.

African American Interest: Selected Highlights: Fiction: Your Opinion Sought

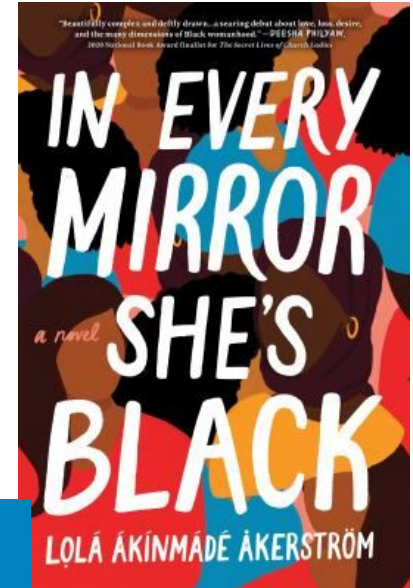
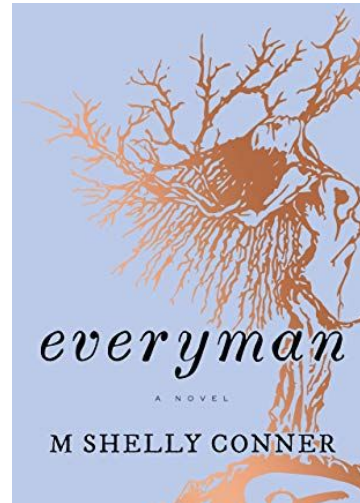
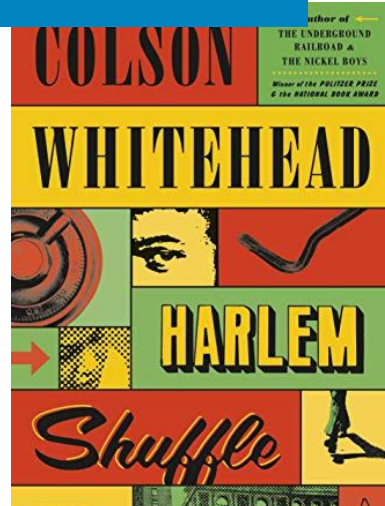
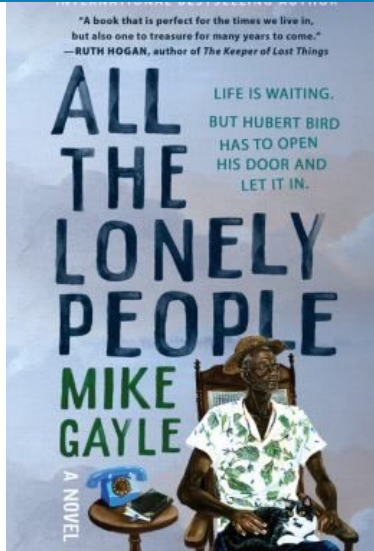
Mike Gayle

Colson Whitehead

M. Shelly Conner

Lola Akinmade
Akerstrom

Which one would you choose to read?



My Answer: Harlem Shuffle by Colson Whitehead

Can Hubert Bird obtain and live the life he's been pretending to have for so long?

"Family saga masquerading as a crime novel, a hilarious morality play, a social novel about race and power, and ultimately a love letter to Harlem."

A multigenerational story of one young woman's journey to discover her identity and life's loves.

"A fast-paced, richly nuanced yet accessible contemporary novel that touches on important social issues."

African American Interest: Selected Highlights: Mystery

Which author's series has been taught in courses at universities as varied as Howard University, Bryn Mawr, Old Dominion, Appalachian State University, and Guttenberg University in Mainz, Germany?

Nekesa Afia b. 1997

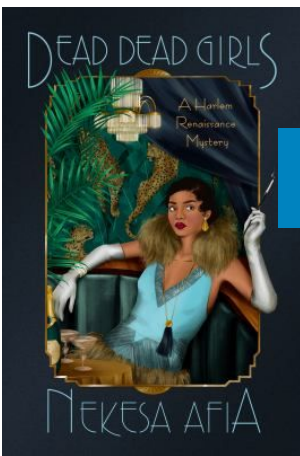
Tamron Hall: b. 1970

Walter Mosley: b. 1952

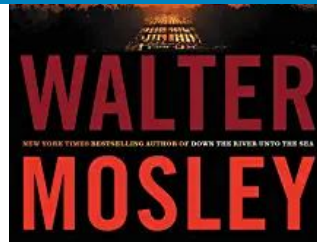
Dead Dead Girls: 2021

As the Wicked Watch: 2021

Blood Grove: 2021



Answer: Books in the *Blanche White* series by Barbara Neely



V.M. Burns: b. 1964

A Tourist's Guide to Murder: 2021

Chester B. Himes: 1909-1984

Crime Novels: 1997

Barbara Neely

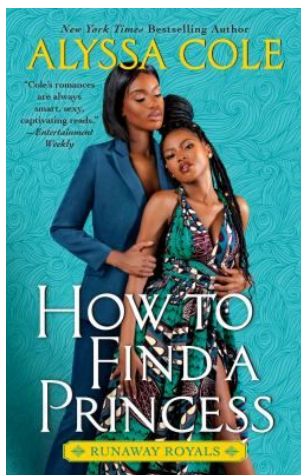
Blanche on the Lam: 1992

African American Interest: Selected Highlights: Romance

Which of these authors writes series?

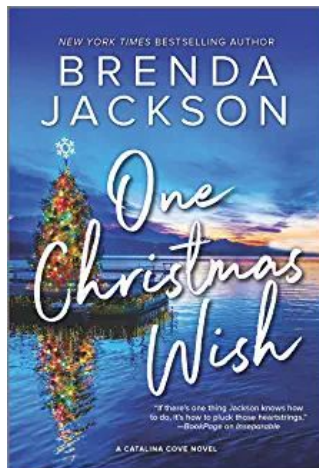
Alyssa Cole

How to Find a Princess



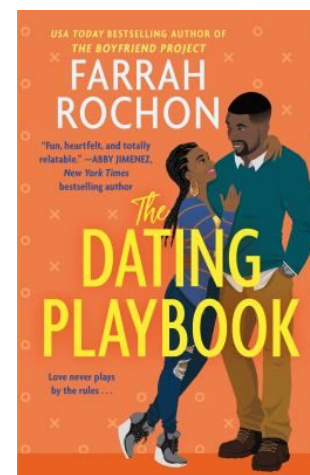
Brenda Jackson

One Christmas Wish



Farah Rochon

Dating Playbook



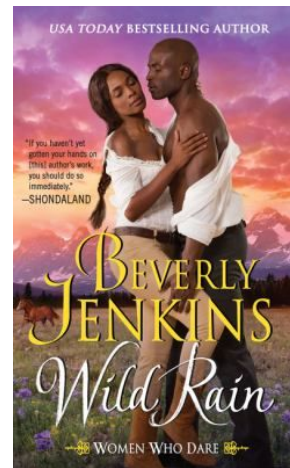
Donna Hill

Strictly Confidential



Beverly Jenkins

Wild Rain

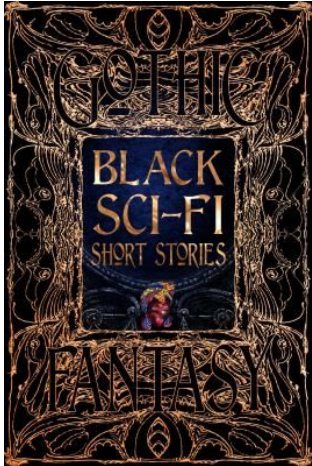


Answer: They All Do!

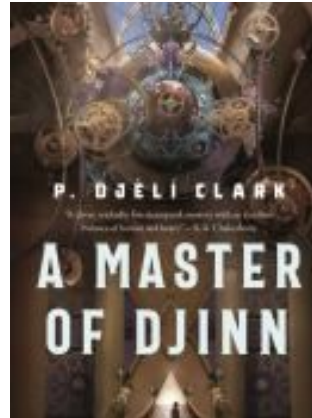
African American Interest: Selected Highlights: Science Fiction/Fantasy

Which of these authors is considered the first African American female science fiction writer?

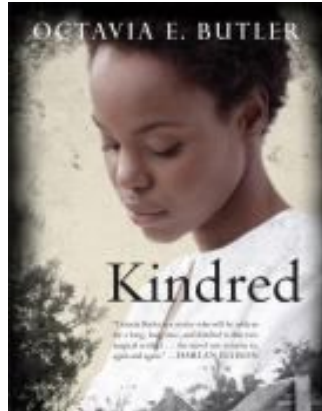
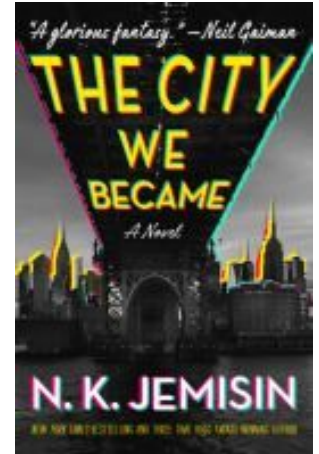
Black Sci-Fi Short Stories



P. Djeli Clark
A Master of Djinn



N.K. Jemisin
The City We Became



Answer: Octavia E. Butler 1947 - 2006

Octavia E. Butler

Kindred



Nicole Glover

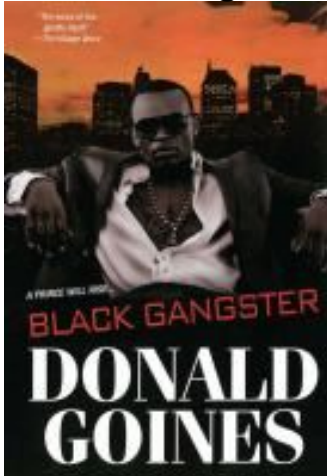
The Conductors

African American Interest: Selected Highlights: Urban Fiction

Which was the first urban fiction author to appear on the New York Times Bestseller List?

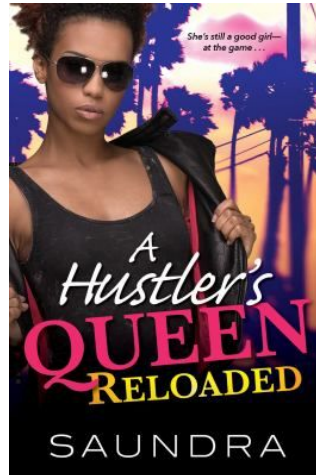
Donald Goines

Black Gangster



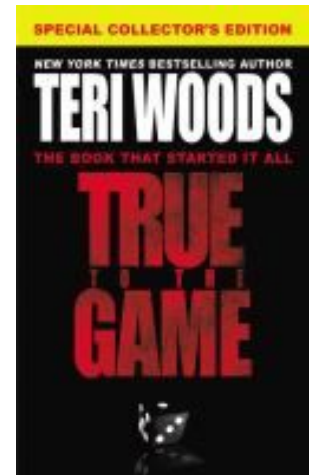
Sandra

A Hustler's Queen Reloaded



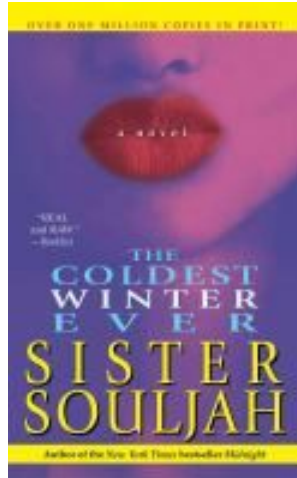
Teri Woods

True to the Game



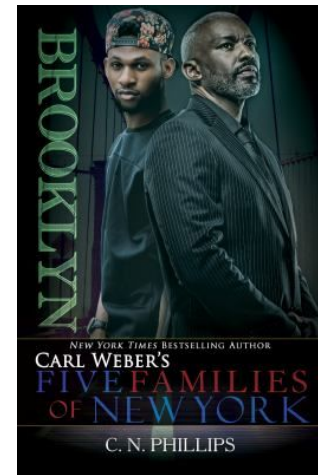
Sister Souljah

The Coldest Winter Ever



C.N. Phillips

Brooklyn



Answer: Teri Woods in 1999

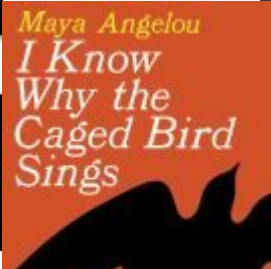
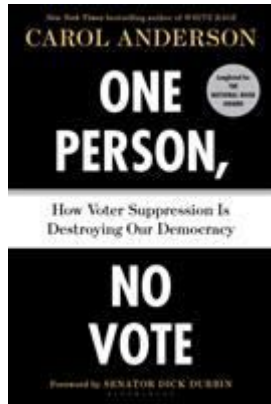
African American Interest: Selected Highlights: Nonfiction

Which author wrote “The problem of the Twentieth Century, is the problem of the color-line.” speaking to the duality African Americans may face in this country?

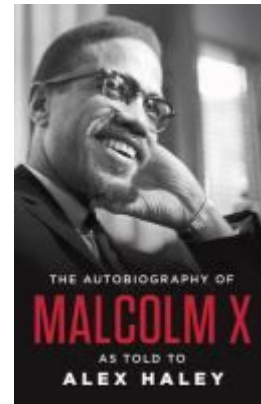
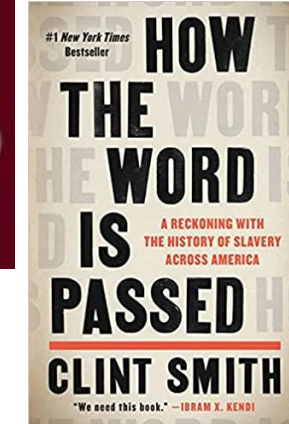
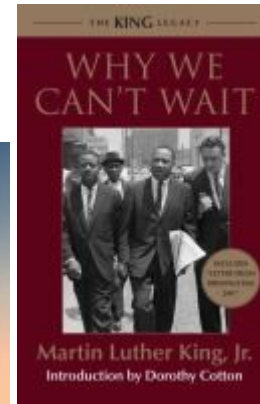
1869-1963

1929-1968

1925-1965



Maya Angelou: 1928-2014



Answer: W.E.B. Du Bois in *The Souls of Black Folk* published in 1903

**Why Should YOU
Read any titles of
African American
Interest ?**



Hmmm ...

Why Read African American Literature?



- **Complete Education**
- **Exposure to Different Perspectives**
- **Development of Empathy**
- **Cool Culture**
- **Everyone Loves a Good Book**



Helpful Search Terms



HOW TO USE SEARCH FUNCTION

Keyword Search Terms: Black, African American, African, Caribbean

Subject Search Terms: Race relations, African American Authors

Advanced Search: Use words such as **AND**, **OR**, or **NOT** to limit the search results

Tags: Black lives matter, Race relations, Urban Fiction

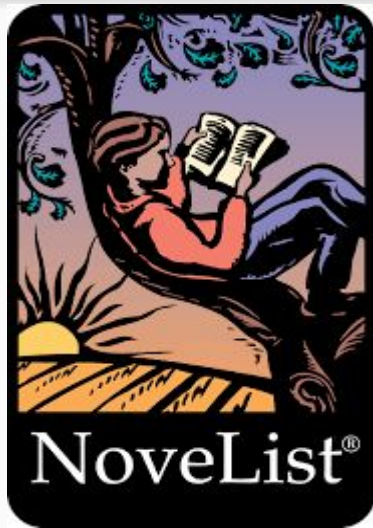
Digital Resources



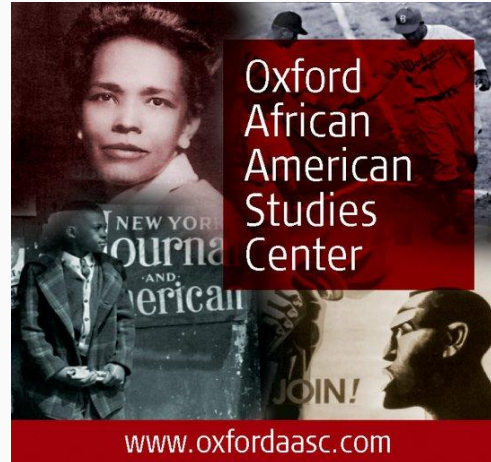
Photo courtesy of [Gratisography](#)



Possible Digital Resources



Reader's Advisory



African American Studies



Gale eBooks:Black History Month

Possible Digital Resources



Ancestry African American Learning Center



ABC-CLIO: African American Experience

Possible Digital Resources



Local Digital Libraries and Encyclopedias



Civil Rights Digital Library

Want More African American Interest Titles?



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: READING LISTS

[African American Literature Book Club](#)

[National African American Read-In Sponsored by the Black Caucus of NCTE/4Cs: 25 pages of classics](#)

[Goodreads: Listopia > African American Book Lists: Huge list of lists](#)

[100 Must-Read African-American Books](#)

[PBS: 10 Black Authors Everyone Should Read](#)

[Questia: African American Literature & Novelist: African American Authors](#)

[Making Their Mark: Essential Titles in African American History | Collection Development](#)

Thank you for your attention & Time



Presenters:

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Melissa Lawrence, Branch Manager: Snellville Branch,
mlawrence@gwinnettpl.org

Terri Corbin-Hutchinson, Supervisory Librarian: Lawrenceville Branch,
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