A Selected Black Reading List.

This annotated bibliography provides a survey of black literature which is of particular interest to students at the elementary and secondary levels. Lists of bibliographies and critical works concerning the teaching of black literature in the grades and of additional resources and periodicals of interest to the teacher of black literature are also given. (KS)
A Selected Black Reading List
Helen R. Houston


The story of Henry Adams, an aspiring baseball player, who leaves the South with his wife Beatrice to find fame and riches.


The story of Mitchell Mibbs growing up in rural Maine and his transition to the city.


The story of thirteen-year-old Benjie Johnson, a victim of drug addiction, his family, friends, and neighbors living in the Harlem ghetto.


The story of Lawrence Xavier Jordan, who becomes the leading Black mortician in Kansas City, Missouri.


"Lorg Von Ray battles the naked diabolism of Prince and Ruby Red, the unchallenged ruling force of Draco."


Joneny, an Anthropology student, was sent out on a quest to find the meaning of the Ballad of Beta 2, "the only clue that even hinted at what had happened to spaceship Beta-2's missing crew."


The story of a young man growing up in the thirties and forties.


A satirical fantasy set in a mythical Mississippi county where slavery had never been abolished.

The story of two ten-year-old boys who witness the shooting of their friend, a local sports hero by two policemen. (The book has a new title: Cornbread and Me.)


An account of a Black woman whose life spanned more than a century. Her story extends from the Emancipation Proclamation and her freedom to the 1950s.


Sonny recounts the day his parents quarreled, separated and were reconciled through the aid of Madame Toussaint.


A college professor and his family move to a southern Ohio Community which had been an important network of the Underground Railroad system to Canada during the Civil War. Mysterious things happen in their home.


The story of Mayo Cornelius Higgins, a thirteen-year-old boy who lives on a mountainside near the Ohio River. He sits atop a forty-foot pole and "dreams of escape for himself and his family."


The story centers around Junior Brown, a 262-pound musical prodigy with a neurotic overprotective mother; Buddy Clark, a loner who has no family; and Mr. Pool, once a teacher but now a janitor.


To Elizabeth "Greeder" Perry, Zeely is the embodiment of a dream. She finds a picture of a Watutsi queen and decides the regal Zeely must be a queen too. Only Zeely can bring Greeder to see reality.

The effects on a community in Columbus, Ohio of the death of Aunt Hettie, particularly her nephew, seventeen-year-old Stonewall Jackson.


At age 12, Stonewall Jackson, a confirmed sinner becomes troubled by many unanswerable questions.


The story of Tessie's struggles to maintain her place at Hobbe, an exclusive private school, without losing her place at home in Harlem.


A Black love story about Buddy, sixteen, and Angela, fourteen, who escape their parents and school and create "their own where" in an empty house near a cemetery.


Sixteen-year-old Muffin Johnson is blind and trying to get her mother through the first Christmas after Mr. Johnson's murder. She wants to attend her first Kwanza, an African celebration.


"We experience this through Joe, whose life, and that of his younger brother Davey, is made miserable because of the extreme favoritism their mother has for her eldest, drug-addicted son, Paul."


A year in the life of a twelve-year-old girl in Harlem in the 1930s.


The "tragic story of Pecola Breedlove, who is the neighbor and friend of Claudia (the narrator of most of the book) and her sister."

The story of a friendship between two Black women, Nel and Sula, in The Bottom of Medallion, a small town in Ohio.


The story of Bukka Doopeyduk in the kingdom of HARRY SAM.


The story of the Loop Garoo Kid, a Black cowboy, and the town of Yellow Back Radio.


The story of M. C. Moore, raised by his grandmother, who is a talented guitarist who forms a band that produces a "hit" recording while he is still in high school. This tells what happens to the band members under the influence of success.

Bibliographies and Books of Criticism


Annotated list of books for children through the age of 12.


Written to be used with James Weldon Johnson's The Book of American Negro Poetry.


Annotated.


Selective bibliography which emphasizes works published in the Twentieth Century, perhaps the most significant and useful bibliography published to date on Afro-American Literature.


Additional Resources


Alexander, Jean A. "Black Literature for the 'Culturally Deprived' Curriculum: Who Are the Losers?" *Negro American Literature Forum*, 4 (Fall 1970), 96-103.


Periodicals

Black World (Generally, September is devoted to poetry, April to theater and June to fiction.)

CLA Journal

Freedomways

Journal of Black Studies

Phylon