This bibliography lists works by authors in the African-American population. It is made up of fiction and non-fiction books drawn from standard reviewing documents and other sources including online sources. Its purpose is to give users an idea of the kinds of materials available from African-American authors. It is not meant to represent all titles or all formats which relate to the literature by authors of African American heritage writing in the United States. Presence of a title in the bibliography does not imply a recommendation by the Iowa Department of Education. The non-fiction materials are in the order they might appear in a library based on the Dewey Decimal Classification systems; the fiction follows. Each entry gives author if pertinent, title, publisher if known, and annotation. Other information includes designations for fiction or easy books; interest level; whether the book is in print; and designation of heritage of author. (JLB)
ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

NATIVE AMERICAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN, ASIAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JANUARY 1994

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ANOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

NATIVE AMERICAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN, ASIAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

For Preschool Through Adult

AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Prepared by

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JANUARY 1994
A report by the Population Reference Bureau, Inc. on "America's Minorities - The Demographics of Diversity," predicts that half the school population in the United States will be made up of ethnic minorities early in the twenty-first century. Already the four largest groups - African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanics and Native Americans make up a third of the school-age population. It, therefore, seemed appropriate to acknowledge the efforts of authors in this population.

This bibliography of fiction and nonfiction books was drawn from standard reviewing documents and other sources including on-line sources. It was prepared to give users an idea of the kinds of materials available. It is not meant to represent all titles or all formats which relate to the literature by authors of non-European heritage writing in the United States in English or whose writing has been translated into English. While we have consulted our sources carefully and have endeavored to eliminate authors not members of the designated ethnic group, and members of the designated group who are from Canada, Mexico, Central and South America or from Africa or Asia, we acknowledge the probability of errors in this bibliography and beg the user's pardon in such cases. We have also included collections of literature and folklore even if collected by persons not members of the designated group when the literature itself was all or partly by ethnic authors and if that folklore was developed in what is now the United States or has received major modification in that area. Presence of a title in the bibliography does not imply advocacy by the Department of Education.

The bibliography is divided into sections by the four major ethnic groups, African American, Asian American, Hispanic American and Native American. Each section is in classed order, that is, in the order materials might appear on the shelves of a library. Numbers assigned are from the Dewey Decimal system and are approximations of call numbers which might be assigned in a library or library media center. Fiction books are labeled with an "F" and Easy books for lower elementary and preschool are labeled with an "E". Entries give author where pertinent, title, publisher if known, and annotation. Most materials included were in print at the time the bibliography was prepared. Those known to be out of print are marked o.p. Publisher's address is given when known for companies not included in BOOKS IN PRINT. IL introduces the Interest Level when known or estimated. Abbreviations for ethnic groups will be explained in the appropriate section.
AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Section Introduction

The African ancestors of African Americans came from many different parts of a large continent. Unfortunately, little information is available to us about the section or people of origin of African American authors and no attempt has been made within this bibliography to identify either. African American was the term chosen to indicate ethnic heritage. "AF" for African American is used at the end of an entry with authorship too multiple to indicate and for folklore. The principal sources used in the development of this section are AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE (Holt, Rinehart, Winston/Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, 1992; BLACK VOICES and NEW BLACK VOICES (Mentor, 1968, 1972); BLACK WRITERS OF AMERICA (Macmillan, 1972); Barbara Rollock's BLACK AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS (Garland, 1992); and Helen Williams' BOOKS BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN AUTHORS AND ILLUSTRATORS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS (American Library Association, 1991).


The first Christmas from the author's collection of retold Bible stories HOW GOD FIX JONAH.


A Bible alphabet book by black authors.


Retelling of an Old Testament story of a shepherd named David who became a king.


Actual texts of myths from wide range of cultures and discussion of general character of kinds of creation myths.


Autobiographical essays by a black American author which forcefully describe the disillusion and anger of blacks and warn of dangers. Baldwin was opposed to racial separation whether proposed by Malcolm X or Senator Byrd. Two other collections of essays on race relations by Baldwin are NO NAME IN THE STREET, and NOBODY KNOWS MY NAME (Dell, 1986).


These essays reflect Baldwin's knowledge of both Europe and the U.S. Another collection of essays on race relations by Baldwin is NO NAME IN THE STREET.


Personal essays about Baldwin's youth in Harlem.


The history of black Americans from the ancestors who arrived a year before the Mayflower to Martin Luther King, Jr. Bennett also wrote THE SHAPING OF BLACK AMERICA and WHAT MANNER OF MAN: A BIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.


Fifteen episodes from the history of African Americans in the United States.
305.8 BLACK WOMEN IN WHITE AMERICA: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY.
Edited by Gerda Lerner. Random Vintage, 1992. IL Grades 9-
Adult.

African American women speak of themselves, their struggles and ambitions from colonial times to today. An important collection.


Black ideas and advances since the Civil War. Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Du Bois, the NAACP and the Urban League are among the topics. Other in print titles include GOD SENDS SUNDAY (AMS); and BLACK THUNDER: GABRIEL’S REVOLT: VIRGINIA, 1800 (Beacon, 1992).


A group of teenagers and adults survive together in three apartments in an abandoned, deteriorating tenement. Each explains their person beliefs and the group’s attraction for them.


Essays and open letters about the forces shaping Cleaver’s life while he was in Folsom Prison.


Subtitled A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FAILURE OF BLACK LEADERSHIP, Cruse’s book contends that black artists and intellectuals failed to combine their cultural nationalism with political and economic movements.


Fifteen essays and sketches concerning farmers, church music, the Freedman’s Bureau, Booker T. Washington, etc. First published in 1903.


A history of black Americans to the present.


The plight of black Americans, violated from enslavement to present is described by two psychiatrists. They believe apathy and depression are typical of black Americans.

General history blended with slave narratives from famous and obscure women and men. Planned as companion to THE PEOPLE COULD FLY: AMERICAN BLACK FOLKTALES. Illustrated by Diane and Leo Dillon.


Slave rebellions and use of force by northern blacks to prevent fugitive slave laws enforcement.


An inviting volume, illustrated with prints, posters and woodcuts.


Concern with status of black citizens and the basis on which it should be set.


305.8 Major, Geri (African American) with Doris E. Saunders. BLACK SOCIETY. Johnson Chicago, 1977. IL Grades 9-up.

Values, restriction and challenges of free blacks from colonial period to third quarter of twentieth century.

305.8 Muhammad, Elijah (African American). MESSAGE TO THE BLACK MAN IN AMERICA. United Brothers, 1965 IL Grades 9-up.

Thirty years worth of speeches and doctrines studied and promoted by Malcolm X.


305.8 REFUSE TO STAND SILENTLY BY: AN ORAL HISTORY OF GRASS ROOTS SOCIAL ACTIVISM IN AMERICA, 1924-1961. Doubleday. ©p. IL Adult. AF

Rosa Parks, Pete Seeger, Julian Bond, Studs Turkel and others recount their activities in opposing corporations, laws and philosophies which oppress common people. Includes efforts to abolish segregation laws.


In this book, part autobiography and part history, Seale, chairman of the Black Panther party tries to clear up the idea that Panthers were anti-white and committed to the murder of police officers.


Letters by an NBC-TV news broadcaster to his son. Original edition was written published in 1968 and dealt with being black in a white society, religion, sex and politics.


First written in 1967 now revised with Afterwords showing gains and setbacks of racial struggle in past years and the urgency of addressing this area.


Around 1000 interviews with civil rights activists, ordinary and extraordinary, black and white, female and male. Companion to PBS series "Eyes on the Prize."


Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, 1993. How the people in one state worked, suffered and protested to change the political system. In-depth history set side by side with personal testimony.


This study of the progress of blacks from 1940-1955 was completed just before White's death.

_Burning commentary on three centuries of slavery, persecution and want._ Illustrated.


_In their eighth and ninth year of life these two women marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. on the March to Selma._


_The black boycott of Montgomery's Jim Crow bus lines._


_Birmingham demonstrations and the March on Washington are the focus of this book in which King spells out reasons for the demonstration and the frustration that breeds impatience. King's STRENGTH TO LOVE (Augsburg Fortress, 1981; Walker, 1985) give a sample of the strength of the sermons of black ministers. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? is another in-print title._

323.4 King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968. THE WORDS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Selected by Coretta Scott King. Newmarket Pr., 1987. IL Grades 5-8.

_Selection from King's speeches focusing on racism, civil rights, justice, faith, nonviolence and peace. Individual quotes do not have sources cited. Another selection for middle school students arranged in chronological order - WE SHALL LIVE IN PEACE (Hawthorne, 1968) - is now out of print._


_From early Black Muslim conferences to radio debate three nights before he was murdered._


_Historical perspective and details of famous and less famous participants in the movement._

Considers extent to which blacks had acquired (by 1914) the ability to take part in live and power of the civilization of which they were a part and concludes a half century is too short a time to pass final verdict.


Nineteen essays on the dilemma of the blacks and the questions involved in a complete resolution.


The reader learns, through the words of a slave, what it means to be someone else's property. Teacher's guide available.


Black preachers, agitators, underground railroad operators were involved in the crusade against slavery and influenced the thinking of black people as did the Fugitive Slave Law and John Brown's raid. BLACKS ON JOHN BROWN is another Quarles title about abolition (available from Books on Demand for around $45.00).


Won the Coretta Scott King Award for text in 1990 for this 150 year history of Pullman porters and the first black American-controlled union.


Street gangs from colonial times, who joins and why. Haskins also authored YOUR RIGHTS, PAST AND PRESENT; A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, now out of print, which dealt with social justice and the rights of youth.


Illustrated explanation of seven-day African-American family holiday combining harvest customs and cultural and social history.

A Christmas story by black authors.


A Christmas ABC by black authors.


An Easter book by black authors.


Ashley Bryan, a black author and illustrator, received the Coretta Scott King Award for illustration for this book based on Nigerian folk literature. Humor, informality, rhythm and idiom of the African oral tradition are reflected. Folklore - Nigeria


How the cat got its purr is the burden of this West Indian tale retold and illustrated by a black author. Folklore - West Indies


Spider Ananse and Granny Anika square off in a story where the trickster gets Granny to dance so he can raid her garden. Exuberant and musical retelling. Folklore - West Indies


Four stories representing different cultures of Africa presented with liberal repetition and internal rhyme. Folklore - Africa

This story of a boy with a long name is enhanced with repetition, rhyme and rhythm. Folklore - West Indies

398.2 Gianni, Gary, as told by. JOHN HENRY. Kipling Pr., 1989. IL Grades 2-5. AF

John Henry tries to drive steel as fast as a machine.


Stories from different cultures and peoples.


Steptoe's illustrations of this Singalese folk tale are stunning. Excellent, translation which retains the cadence of the original. Reissue of Coretta Scott King Award book.


Jahdu is a crafty boy who grew wiser and more powerful until he became a strong black hero.


This book won the Coretta Scott King Award for text for Virginia Hamilton, a black author. Twenty-four stories originally told by slave storytellers and reflecting their Black English. An excellent book.

398.2 Harris, Joel Chandler. JUMP!: THE TALES OF UNCLE REMUS/ THE ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT. Edited by Van Dyke Parks. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1986. IL Grades 3-7. AF

How crafty Brer Rabbit outfoxes the other animals. JUMP AGAIN and JUMP ON OVER offer more of Brer Rabbit's adventures.


Black folktales and voodoo practices of blacks in the United States.

Legend of a famous black steel driver.


Twelve tales of African origin, from slavery time and from recent past.


African and Jewish folktales in colloquial language, easy to read aloud.

Six stories from black folklore about animals, cleverness and self-dissatisfaction.

398.2 Lester, Julius, 1939- (African American), as told by. MORE TALES OF UNCLE REMUS; FURTHER ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT, HIS FRIENDS, ENEMIES, AND OTHERS. Illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1988. IL Grades PS-up, RL 5.

A companion to TALES OF UNCLE REMUS: THE ADVENTURES OF BRER RABBIT. Includes thirty-seven stories from Joel Chandler Harris's compilation.


Precedes MORE TALES OF UNCLE REMUS. Stories from Joel Chandler Harris's compilation, retold. Coretta Scott King Honor Book, 1988. African American folklore. FURTHER TALES OF UNCLE REMUS (Dial, 1990, PS-up) is also available.


An adaptation of Cinderella illustrated with cartoon-style drawings and including a word list.


Ten tales from African American history and storytelling traditions. Folklore with the shivery feeling of ghost stories. Coretta Scott King Award, 1993; Newbery Honor Book, 1993.


An adaptation of the original story with cartoon-like drawings and a word list. This is one of a series of "Start Off" stories. Others in the series are KING MIDAS AND HIS GOLD, COUNTRY MOUSE AND CITY MOUSE, and THE KING'S NEW CLOTHES.

398.2 San Souci, Robert D. SUKEY AND THE MERMAID. Four Winds, 1992. IL Grades 3-5. AF

Sukey is unhappy at home but receives wealth and care from Mama Jo, the mermaid.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Talking Eggs</td>
<td>San Souci, Robert D.</td>
<td>Dial</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>An African American tale about a mistreated sister who receives riches, only to have the older sister try the same method of becoming rich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventures of High John the Conqueror</td>
<td>Sanfield, Steve</td>
<td>Orchard/Watts, Dell</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>Sixteen African American tales of heroes and tricksters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Man: The True Story of John Henry</td>
<td>Sanfield, Steve</td>
<td>Godine</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td>Railroad steeldriver challenges a steam hammer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anansi, the Spider Man; Jamaican Folk Tales</td>
<td>Sherlock, Philip Manderson</td>
<td>Harper Collins</td>
<td>3-7</td>
<td>In these Caribbean folktales, Anansi, spider and man, turns into a spider in times of danger. CHILDREN'S CATALOG gives Sherlock the English title, &quot;Sir.&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale</td>
<td>Steptoe, John</td>
<td>Lothrop, Lee &amp; Shepard</td>
<td>K-6</td>
<td>Based on a Zimbabwe animal-groom tale, this is the story of two beautiful sisters only one of whom had a disposition to match. Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, 1987; Coretta Scott King Award for illustrations, 1988; Caldecott Honor Book, 1987.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story of Jumping Mouse: A Native American Legend</td>
<td>Steptoe, John</td>
<td>Lothrop, Lee &amp; Shepard, Morrow</td>
<td>K-4</td>
<td>Mouse changes into an eagle by virtue of good acts. Author is African American but is praised for understanding the spirit of the folk story he used from the Northern Plains Nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Negro in Art</td>
<td>Locke, Alain Le Roy</td>
<td>Reprint, Hacker</td>
<td>9-up</td>
<td>Originally published in 1941, this is a pictorial record of black artists and the black theme in art from slave apprentices to Federal Arts Projects with some attention to ancestral arts from Africa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We'll Understand It Better By and By: Pioneering African American Gospel Composers</td>
<td>Reagon</td>
<td>Smithsonian</td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>The first of a planned series on African American sacred music, this volume includes biographies of six pioneering gospel music composers: Charles Albert Tindley; Lucie E. Campbell; Thomas A. Dorsey; William Herbert Brewster, Sr; Roberta Martin; and Kenneth Morris.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A collection of reviews of records, interviews, articles and comments about black music.*


*Includes both black performers in white classical styles and the creation of spirituals, ragtime, blues, jazz, gospel and soul. A music history that won't be judged boring by teens. Woodson Book Award, 1988.*


*Known as the African American national anthem, this book and its illustrations present a powerful image of common people enduring.*


*Rhythm in music, art, athletics and nature.*


*Coretta Scott King Award for illustrations, 1991. Retelling of an opera by an opera star.*


*Coretta Scott King Award, 1992. Twenty spirituals with piano accompaniment and guitar chords.*


*Companion to WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN (also out of print). Includes words and music for twenty-five spirituals.*


African American spirituals about Old Testament prophets.


Coretta Scott King Honor Book, 1988. Five black spirituals that celebrate the Christmas story, showing a Black Holy Family, and multiracial wise men and shepherds. Spirituals (Songs) Carols


Twenty-six songs, well-known to generations of African Americans. An important collection.


An incisive look at racism in the movies from "The Birth of a Nation" to "The Exorcist."


A 700-page reference work with facts, critical evaluations and opinions.

792.09 Cooper, Ralph (African American) and Steve Dougherty. AMATEUR NIGHT AT THE APOLLO: RALPH COOPER PRESENTS FIVE DECADES OF GREAT ENTERTAINMENT. Harper Collins, 1990. IL Adult.

Harlem's Apollo Theatre opened in 1934 but didn't become a success until Cooper introduced his "Original Harlem Amateur Night."


Contributions of black performers and playwrights. Skillfully written, articulate and important.

Haskins starts with the practice of "dancing the slaves" on slave ships to the origins of tap, cakewalk, Charleston and other dances. Interesting for wide range of readers. Coretta Scott King Honor Book, 1991.


Edwards directed the boycott of the Olympic games in Mexico City in 1968, exploding the myth that excellence in sporting endeavors overcomes prejudice.

808 NEW BLACK VOICES. Edited by Abraham Chapman. NAL/Dutton, 1972. IL Grades 9-Adult. AF

Major collection of poetry, fiction and criticism by black authors.

810.8 AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF NONFICTION, FICTION, POETRY AND DRAMA. Edited by Demetrice A. Worley and Jesse Perry, Jr. National Textbook Co., 1993. IL Grades 9-Adult. AF

Over 40 selections from early writers to Alice Walker and Rita Dove, arranged by themes: Slavery; Standing Ground; The Folk Tradition; On Being a Man; On Being a Woman; Relationships, Love and Conflicts; Heritage; Of Dreamers and Revolutionaries. Introduced by Nikki Giovanni, the text provides an overview, an introduction to each chapter, biographical sketches of each author, activities and assignments.

810.8 BLACK SOUTHERN VOICES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF FICTION, POETRY, NONFICTION, DRAMA AND CRITICAL ESSAYS. Edited by J. Killens & J. Ward. NAL/Dutton, 1992. IL Grades 9-Adult. AF

Includes over 50 authors such as Douglass, Hurston, Wright, Angelou, King and Giovanni.

810.8 THE BLACK WOMAN: AN ANTHOLOGY. Edited by Toni Cade. NAL/Dutton, 1970. IL Grades 9-12. AF

Stories, poems, and essays about politics, black men, the Pill, racism in education, etc., by authors such as Lincoln, Grant and Giovanni.


An anthology covering from slavery to today. Reviewed as excellent.

810.8 CLASSIC EARLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN WRITERS. Selected and introduced by Anthony Appiah. Bantam, 1990. AF.

Omnibus containing NARRATIVE OF LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, and selections from UP FROM SLAVERY, SOULS OF BLACK FOLKS, BLACK RECONSTRUCTION, INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN EXPLOITED MAN.
810.8 LISTEN CHILDREN: AN ANTHOLOGY OF BLACK LITERATURE. Edited by Dorothy S. Strickland. Bantam, 1982, 1986. IL Grades 5-up, RL 5. AF

Twenty-two plays, speeches and stories from Alice Childress, Langston Hughes, Virginia Hamilton, Stevie Wonder, Lucille Clifton, etc.


Every young black American who had achieved literary distinction by 1925 is presumably included.


810.8 MASTERPIECES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE. Edited by Frank Magill. Harper & Row, 1993. AF

Guide to 149 novels, plays, autobiographies and poetic works. Only a handful are included in Magill's SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE. May be useful to teachers in identifying and reviewing African American literature.


810.8 IN THE TRADITION: AN ANTHOLOGY OF YOUNG BLACK WRITERS. Edited by Kevin Powell and Ras Baraka. Writers and Readers Publishing, o.p. IL AF


A classic returned to print.


810.8 THREE NEGRO CLASSICS. Edited by John Hope Franklin. Avon, 1956. IL Grades 7-up. AF

Includes UP FROM SLAVERY (B. T. Washington); SOULS OF BLACK FOLK (W. E. B. Du Bois); AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF AN EX-COLOURED MAN (J. W. Johnson).
810.88 King, Anita (African American), ed. and comp. QUOTATIONS IN BLACK. Greenwood, 1981. IL Grades 9-up.

More than 1100 quotes from more than 200 black people, plus 400 plus proverbs from 40 countries. Biographical sketches are provided for each person cited.


Poetry that enlarges on the themes of the author's autobiographies


Complex, rich, exuberant and tragic reflection of black experience.

In two parts, the first dealing with love, fear, sharing, affection and loneliness; the second, with racial confrontation.


"Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie," "Oh Pray My Wings Are Gonna Fit Me Well," and others.


The beauty of women of color from all over the world and of all different ages are portrayed in the drawings of Tom Feelings and the title poem by Angelou.


Poetry which ranges from deep gloom to wild joy. Also in print, HOUSE OF FALLING LEAVES (Ayer, 1908).


Through one woman's experience in Bronzeville, the readers sees the universal implications of poverty, and loneliness.


Thirty-six poems about daily life of children who happen to be black and living in Chicago, but whose experience could be that of children anywhere.


Selections from previous volumes and new poems.


Sonnets, prose, blues, dialect and formal poems.


The color of Cullen's people provides the theme of many of these poems.


Includes LYRICS OF LOWLY LIFE (Ayer, 1969); LYRICS OF THE HEARTSIDE (Ayer); LYRICS OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER; LYRICS OF SUNSHINE AND SHADOW (Ayer).


NIGHT STAR, 1973-1978 (UCLA CAAS) is another collection of Evans' poetry.


A majestic, mysterious lion looms in the fog of a cold gray day. The children express their pleasure in imagining fright in a safe situation.


Forman is winner of seventh Barnard New Women Poets Prize. These poems reflect sense of self, strength, femininity, indignation and beauty. They bridge the gap between truth and lies, the street and the academy. They are reviewed as sexy, feisty, funny, and bittersweet.


These poems show an introspective response to a shifting world. MY HOUSE (Morrow, 1972), and A POETIC EQUATION (Howard Univ. Pr., 1974) are other in print collections.


These poems of the author's youth celebrate blackness. They reflect passion, tenderness and anger.

Poems about black children, their parents, haircuts, basketball and dreams.


Poems about people guided by conscience who have tried to change difficult situations.


Vacation time poems, brief and long, humorous and lyrical.


A poem by a black author about a child who dreams and is changed by that dream. Coretta Scott King.


Sixteen poems about the warm, loving relationships experienced by a young black girl.


Gilchrist received the Coretta Scott King Award for illustration for the pictures that help set the stage for Nathaniel's philosophy and remembrances. His experiences are universal.


Poetry illustrated by hopeful, waiting, expectant and brooding children. Coretta Scott King Award, 1979.

Schomberg Library of 19th C Women. Other titles available include IDYLLS OF THE BIBLE (originally published in 1901) and IOLA LEROY, OR SHADOWS UPLIFTED (originally published 1893, Oxford Univ. Pr., 1990; Random Vintage).


Fourteen new poems plus some from previous works. NIGHTMARE BEGINS RESPONSIBILITY (Univ. of Illinois Pr., 1975) is one of those previous works.


Poems of city life which incorporate everyday idioms and folk traditions.


A new edition of one of the most famous collections of black poetry for children, illustrated by Brian Pinkney and introduced by Lee Bennett Hopkins.


Poems selected especially for young people which reflect the experiences of black people in the United States.


A collection of ironic and powerful poetry.


A potpourri spanning Hughes' career from 1926 to 1958. THE WAYS OF WHITE FOLKS, first published in 1934, is now available from Random Vintage. MONTAGE OF A DREAM DEFERRED (Holt, 1951, o.p.) is a poem about Harlem in the early 1950s.


Seven sermons in verse inspired by black preachers heard in Johnson's boyhood.

Lyric and dialect poems, many from FIFTY YEARS AND OTHER POEMS. Other in-print volumes include FIFTY YEARS AND OTHER POEMS (AMS)


In print: LIVING ROOM (Thunder's Mouth, 1985); NAMING OUR DESTINY: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS (Thunder's Mouth, 1989).


Childhood, city life, countryside, and love in poems and photographs.


Poems of simpler days when grandmothers read aloud and children played barefoot in the summer time. Little is Eloise Greenfield's mother.


PINK LADIES IN THE AFTERNOON (Lotus, 1990, Grades 7-10); and STAR BY STAR. 2d ed. (Lotus, 1970, Grades 7-12) are also in print.


About broken civilization, nightmares and loves. The lake is Michigan.


Religious poems, poems of Harlem and Jamaica and from faraway places.

The title refers to black singers providing back-up for white performers. Rushin's poetry is matter-of-fact, sometimes almost prose, but vivid, reflecting the ups and downs of life in a black community and relationships with whites.


Versatile poems including short, rhythmic, personal verses, gentle, sensitive portraits of "losers", written with a refreshing urgency.


Poems, songs and chants especially for blacks.


Also in print: ADVENTURES OF SMALL HEAD, SQUARE HEAD AND FAT HEAD (Okpaku Comm., 1973, Grades 2-6); IT'S A NEW DAY: POEMS FOR THE YOUNG BROTHAS AND SISTUHS (Broadside, 1971, Grades 5-up).


Poems which combine feminist anger and determination with black perspective.


A quarter century of impressive artistic development.


Walker's first book of poems. Many cover civil rights conflicts in the South, others the time she spent in Africa.


Includes poems addressed to blacks; folk ballads in black dialect, and sonnets in the English tradition.

Poems of the first significant black writer in America, a young slave from Boston. First published in London in 1773, several other collections are available.


Thirty-two poems beginning with the birth of the poet's son and ending with a description of his youth.


Poems exploring exterior landscapes and one interior world.


Over 600 poems from 145 poets tracing the development of black consciousness. Included are James Weldon Johnson, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, Sonia Sanchez, Don Lee and Nikki Giovanni. Biographical sketches are provided.

811.008 THE BLACK POETS. Edited by Dudley Randall. Bantam, 1985. IL Grades 9-Adult. AF

From slave songs through the 1960s, critical biographies and work of such poets as Hughes, Bontemps, Brooks, Jones, Giovanni, and Cullen.

811.008 Bontemps, Arna Wendell, 1902-1973 (African American), ed. AMERICAN NEGRO POETRY. c.7. IL 9-Adult. AF

Includes the better and lesser known poets who fit in this time frame. Wheatley, Harper, Evans, Piper, Brooks, Giovanni, Hail-Evans are included.

811.008 Bontemps, Arna Wendell, 1902-1973 (African American), ed. AMERICAN NEGRO POETRY. c.7. IL 9-Adult. AF

Seventy-year span of poetry reflecting the anguish of an oppressed people. Short biographies are provided for fifty-six poets.

811.008 CALAFIA: THE CALIFORNIA POETRY. Edited by Ishael Reed, 1938- (African American). Reed & Youngs Quilt, 1979. IL Grades 9-up. AF, AS, NA, HA

Two hundred poets are represented in this multicultural anthology which includes ballads, stories, songs, folktales and free verse.
811.008 A CONFLUENCE OF COLORS: THE FIRST ANTHOLOGY OF WISCONSIN MINORITY POETS. Edited by Angela Lobo-Cobb. Blue Reed, 1984. IL Adult. NA, AF, AS

Wisconsin Indian, African American and Asian American Authors.

811.008 I AM THE DARKER BROTHER; AN ANTHOLOGY OF MODERN POEMS BY NEGRO AMERICANS. Edited by Arnold Adoff. Macmillan, 1970. IL Grade 7-Adult. AF

Sixty-four poems by twenty-nine poets. Includes Brooks, Dunbar, Hayden, Hughes and McKay.

811.008 THE FORERUNNERS: BLACK POETS IN AMERICA. Edited by Woodie King (African American). Howard Univ. Pr., 1981. AF

811.008 MAKE A JOYFUL SOUND: POEMS FOR CHILDREN BY AFRICAN AMERICAN POETS. Checkerboard Press, 1991. IL Grades K-5. AF

Poetry by African American poets on a variety of topics.

811.008 MY BLACK ME: A BEGINNING BOOK OF BLACK POETRY. Dutton, 1974. IL Grades 3-12. AF

Fifty poems wisely chosen for young readers. Authors include Hughes, Don L. Lee and Nikki Giovanni.

811.008 PASS IT ON: AFRICAN-AMERICAN POETRY FOR CHILDREN. Edited by Wade Hudson. Illustrated by Floyd Cooper. Scholastic, 1993. IL K-8. AF

Individualized oil wash portraits illustrate the poems in this fine anthology including Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks and Lucille Clifton. Some poems are upbeat, some are sentimental, some are designed to shock us into awareness of racism. Reviewed as "a book for every library."


Over 600 poems by 145 authors.

811.008 SOUL LOOKS BACK IN WONDER. Illustrated by Tom Feelings; poems by Maya Angelou, et al. Dial, 1993. IL All ages.

Artwork and poems by such writers as Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, and Askia M. Toure portray the creativity, strength, and beauty of their African American heritage.

811.008 WINTER NEST: A POETRY ANTHOLOGY OF MIDWESTERN WOMEN POETS OF COLOR. Edited by Angela Lobo-Cobb. Blue Reed, 1987. IL Adult. NA, AF, AS

Content projected on basis of previous title.

28 29

Appraisal of black poetry and influence of times on the writers.


This play looks behind the public image of preacher Sister Margaret to show her wounded heart and the dilemma of a man whose dreams have been stolen from him. Another Baldwin title still available is EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN (H. Holt, 1986).


A young black male is murdered after he returns to a small town in the South to recover from drug addiction and rebuild his life. Also in BEST AMERICAN PLAYS.

812 Baldwin, James, 1924-1987 (African American). ONE DAY WHEN I WAS LOST. Boulevard, 1972. IL Adult?

Based on Alex Haley's AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X. Abusing and amusing.


Douglass suffers years of cruelty before escaping to the North. Winner of Coretta Scott King award.


Centers around Hughes helping a theater group which is producing one of his plays. Appropriate for young actors.


A black family receives a legacy and overcomes the tensions caused by this windfall to demonstrate mutual love and understanding. Awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for the 1958-1959 season.. A collection of this black playwright's plays, LES BLANCS, is available from New American Libraries. Also wrote TO BE YOUNG, GIFTED AND BLACK.


Created in 1930, this is a collaboration between two important black writers, writing about black folk culture in vernacular but without stereotypes.


Fifth of a series of plays dramatizing a decade of twentieth-century black American life, this play is set in 1969 in a city area slated for redevelopment. Each of the main characters represents a way of living with white oppression.


Plays ranging in attitude from ones with no black characters to contemporary plays of rage and revolution. Includes Toomer, Hughes, Richardson, Wright, Richards, Baldwin, Hansberry, Childress, Kennedy LeRoi Jones and Bullins. James Haskins' BLACK THEATER IN AMERICA (Harper Collins, 1982, 1991) IL Grades 7-up. might also be useful.


812.008 NINE PLAYS BY BLACK WOMEN. Edited by Margaret B. Wilkerson. New American Library - Dutton, 1986. IL Grades 9-up. AF

Includes plays by Richards, Hansberry, Childress, De Veaux, Rahman, Shange, Collins, Jackson and Gibson.


Eight plays and two choral readings celebrating such people as George Washington Carver, Mary McLeod Bethune, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, Dr. Martin Luther King, John Henry, Harriet Tubman, Crispus Attucks and Abraham Lincoln. No background information given on authors.

813.008 AMERICAN NEGRO SHORT STORIES. Edited by John Henrik Clarke. Hill & Wang, 1966. 31p. IL Grades 9-up. AF

Thirty-one short stories with biographical sketches of authors such as Du Bois, Jones, Baldwin, Chesnutt and Paule Marshall.
813.008 BEST SHORT STORIES BY NEGRO WRITERS; AN ANTHOLOGY FROM 1899 TO THE PRESENT. Edited and with an introduction by Langston Hughes. Little, Brown, 1967. IL Grades 9-up. AF

Forty-seven stories from Chesnutt, Dunbar, Hurston, Wright, Walker and others, with brief biographies of the authors.


Around sixty recent short stories from outstanding black authors. A variety of styles, themes and approaches all showing that black American fiction has evolved into a real body of literature. Walker, Gaines, Reed, Dove Ansa and Flowers are among the authors represented.


Excellent anthology including such authors as Hughes, Hurston, and Morrison. Reviewed as “the” anthology of short African American fiction.


Three novels which trace the history of the African American community from slavery to freedom and disillusionment. The novels are: CLOTEL, by William Wells Brown (1853); IOLA LEROY OR SHADOWS UPLIFTED, by Frances E. W. Harper (1892); THE MARROW OF TRADITION, by Charles W. Chesnutt (1901).


Classic pieces such as “The Fire Next Time” and little known ones, all of which demonstrate Baldwin’s articulateness.

Essays on a cultural black nationalism. Also in print is THE LEROI JONES - AMIRI BARAKA READER (Thunder's Mouth, 1991).


Essays on black music, literature, folklore and the complex relationship between the black subculture and the U.S. culture as a whole. GOING TO THE TERRITORY is another in-print title.


Short prose pieces about relationships between blacks and other minorities among themselves and with dominant whites.


Essays on King, Jackson, poverty of American education, Anita Hill, the fall of Mike Tyson, etc., from a committed, revolutionary and creative mind.


Forty-three essays by fifteen contemporary black women writers including Angelou, Cade Bambara, Collier, Giddings, Walker.


Erudite and inclusive collection of essays not limited by gender, sexual orientation, race or discipline. Ranges from 18th century poet Phillis Wheatley to Gwendolyn Brooks, Alice Walker. Essential for serious literature collections.
817.008 Pickens, William (African American). AMERICAN AESOP: NEGRO AND OTHER HUMOR. William Pickens, 1926, o.p.; reprint, AMS Pr. IL Grades 9-up.

Two hundred stories, over half black, others Jew stories, Irish stories and cosmopolite stories.


An extensive selection of Cullen’s poetry, a novel (ONE WAY TO HEAVEN), a translation of MEDEA, essays, etc.


Short stories, plays, poems, essays, speeches and novel excerpts.


Biography, folklore, fiction and essays are present in these selections relating to love.


A collection of 15 essays.


Essays, collected as a tribute to Hurston, liberated, bold, brilliant, flamboyant, enigmatic.


Twenty poems in the manner of Jackson's famous lyrics and 20 essays on hunger, homelessness, peace and the value of individuals.

818 Toomer, Jean (African American). CANE. Norton, 1987, and others. IL Adult


Includes some of Du Bois' writings, articles by his contemporaries about him and his writings, and those of recent commentators who can give historical perspective


Black novelist and poet Walker offers essays and reviews that focus on her own life and literary work as a "feminist of color."


From Maya Angelou to Malcolm X, African American authors are represented in this collection of memoirs.


Leaders of black protest movements from the eighteenth century on.


Twelve fictionlike biographical accounts of blacks such as Mildred E. Blount, Benjamin Davis, Dean Dixon and Hazel Scott.


The autobiographies of Venture Smith, James Mars, William Grimes, the Rev. G. W. Offley and James L. Smith.


Autobiographies written by slaves. Also in print is CLASSIC SLAVE NARRATIVES edited by H. Gates and BULLWHIP DAYS: THE SLAVES REMEMBER (Avon), edited by James Mellon.

The childhoods of three black women - grandmother, mother, and daughter - who grew up between the 1880's and the 1950's. Two of the women are Eloise Greenfield and her mother Lessie Jones.


Will introduce some of the best writers, e.g., Frederick Douglass, Claude Brown, Lorene Cary.


Seven generations back to the Gambia in western Africa where Kunta Kinte, Haley's Mandinkan ancestor was captured and sold into slavery goes Haley's exploration of his roots.


Carver, Walker and Bradley and other black inventors and their inventions.


The gas mask, the three-way traffic signal, a truck refrigeration unit and a shoe lasting machine are emphasized in these biographical sketches. Similar in approach is Seven Black American Scientists (Addison-Wesley, 1970, o.p.) with more attention paid to the scientists' contribution to science than to their lives. Benjamin Banneker, Ernest Just, Matthew Henson and George Washington Carver were among the seven.

Biographies of well-known and less well-known black Americans. Well done.


Cartoon-style drawings and biographical highlights of notable contemporary black leaders in government, entertainment, civil rights and sports. Other titles by Lee include INSPIRING AFRICAN AMERICANS: BLACK HISTORY MAKERS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1750-1984 (McFarland, 1991), and INTERESTING ATHLETES: A NEWSPAPER ARTIST'S LOOK AT BLACKS IN SPORTS (McFarland, 1990).

920 Levine, Ellen. FREEDOM'S CHILDREN: YOUNG CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS TELL THEIR OWN STORIES. Putnam, 1993. IL Grades 7-up. AF

Young Southern blacks describe their involvement in the civil rights movements during the 1950s and 1960s.


Based on interviews and newspaper articles. Part two provides speeches by these two men.

920 Madden, T. O., Jr. (African American) and Anne Miller. WE WERE ALWAYS FREE - THE MADDENS OF CULPEPPER COUNTY, VIRGINIA: A 200-YEAR FAMILY HISTORY. Norton, 1992; Random Vintage. IL Adult.


Memoirs of six generations of a black family from the Civil War to 1980. Seeks to explain how black parents help their children live in a racist society.


Short biographies of 200 black people from Imhotep to Joe Louis. Written to provide success stories for young black Americans. Originally published in 1946.

Successful blacks in law and medicine, creative arts and exploration, invention and publishing and religion.


Fourteen biographical sketches about black Americans who have made worthwhile social contributions. Each sketch includes a script for a short skit.

920.03 Logan, Rayford Whittingham and Michael R. Winston African Americans) editors. THE DICTIONARY OF AMERICAN NEGRO BIOGRAPHY. Norton, 1983. IL Grades 7-up.

More than 700 black American leaders before 1970.


1500 and more musicians of African descent born between 1640 and 1950, including African Americans, Canadian blacks, Central and South American people of African descent and Africans.


Aaron broke Babe Ruth's record by hammering in 715 home runs. This is the story of his life from his poor childhood in Mobile to his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.


Abdul-Jabbar (Lew Alcindor before his conversion to orthodox Islam in 1968) recalls growing up a very tall, only child in a middle-class black family. He concentrates on his feelings of alienation regarding race, society and religion.


Concentrating on his final season, Abdul-Jabbar reviews his life to date. Sure bet for fans.


The autobiography of one of the world's leading contraltos who has appeared in famous concert halls here and abroad.

The fifth volume of Angelou’s autobiography describes a four year stay in Ghana, a visit from Malcolm X, and a march on the American embassy. She is honest and insightful about herself, the emerging Africa and the American black community.

921 Angelou, Maya (African American). GATHER TOGETHER IN MAY NAME. Random, 1974; Bantam, 1985. IL Grades 8-up.

The second volume of Angelou’s autobiography covers the period immediately following World War II when she is a teenage mother trying to survive with no support. She speaks clearly about prostitution, homosexuality and drug abuse without being degrading or graphic.


The fourth volume of Angelou’s autobiography covers the late 1950s and the 1960s. A superb storyteller, Angelou writes of her relationships with men — both joyful and turbulent and her love for her teenage son.


Autobiography of dancer Maya Angelou’s painful childhood and adolescence. Molested by a boarder as a child, an unwed mother in her teens, fantasizing that she was an enchanted white girl, she writes with courage and dignity of her early years in the 1930s.


In volume three of her autobiography, Angelou tells of her unsuccessful marriage, her efforts to support her family and her rise in the world of the theater.


Quiet, demandingly honest autobiographical essays or sermonettes by a spirited African American woman.


Bailey's life as an entertainer, singer and actress.


Bailey's thoughts jotted down in hotels, at home and in planes, about her relationship with God, her resentment of intrusive fans and a variety of other topics.

A reprint of an autobiography of a mulatto fur trader. Beckwourth became a member of the Crow nation and was the hero of many western tall tales.


Emphasizes time after Douglass' escape from slavery.


Alert and curious, young George left home to find a place where a black boy could go to school, but he never forgot his own people.


Covers birth in 1856 to 1895 Atlanta Compromise speech.


Brown's childhood and youth in the 1940s and 1950s reflect the desolation and survival of blacks in America.


Autobiography of a woman who came to be in charge of the Black Panther Party. The story of a black woman's struggle to define herself.


Cary's experiences in a prep school in New Hampshire where she triumphs in her struggle to maintain her identity and to succeed. Beautifully written, moving.

The life of a deeply committed man who was the only black lawyer in Selma in 1965.


Autobiography of black congresswoman who ran as a candidate for the presidency.


Witty, wise and tolerant look at growing old. Suggests tolerance for older people who have lost some of their eyesight, hearing or mind since if we live long enough we will, too. Literary Guild selection. Also in print: FATHERHOOD (Berkley Pub, 1987); and CHILDHOOD (Putnam, 1991).


Davis tells of her childhood, her education, her philosophy and her trial for conspiracy, kidnapping and murder in 1972. In IF THEY COME IN THE MORNING: VOICES OF RESISTANCE (Okpaku Communications, 1971) she argues that most people in jail are political prisoners. The title is from "Open Letter to Angela Davis" by James Baldwin, "If they take you in the morning, they will be coming for us that night." Davis was considered very radical in her day. At one point she advocated overthrow of the U. S. government. Some might find her writing offensive.


From his childhood in vaudeville through the conflicts and events that shaped Davis' life. WHY ME? THE SAMMY DAVIS, JR. STORY (Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1989; Warner, 1990) is a longer autobiography.


This is a prose poem, a fictionalized biography which tells of Holiday's struggle to be respected and her losing fight with heroin. Coretta Scott King Honorable Mention Book, 1981.

Douglass’s experiences from his days as a young boy on Lloyd’s plantation to his first days as a freeman in Massachusetts. Introduced by Coretta Scott King.


One of three autobiographical works by this self-taught slave, this book covers his life up to his escape to freedom.


The author was the widow of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, herself an author. This diary covers ten years of her life from 1921-1931. Intensely personal, the diary gives glimpses of the political and social world but emphasizes family troubles. Reviewed as having more appeal for scholars of black history than for general reader. HEALING HEART: POEMS 1973-1988, (Kitchen Table, 1989) and COLOR, SEX AND POETRY: THREE WOMEN WRITERS OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE (Indiana U. Pr., 1987) are in print.


Introductory, slightly fictionalized, biography of Johnson.


Highlights the private life and public career of first black justice appointed to the U. S. Supreme Court.


Describes the abolitionist’s religious background and growing commitment to helping runaway slaves. Includes his eloquent trial speech and describes the results of his raid on Harper’s Ferry.

Biography of great black singer and his struggle for success and acceptance written by the wife of W. E. B. Du Bois. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON: EDUCATOR


Simple, nicely balanced treatment of the important facts of the life of this famous black educator, written by a black author.


In a style appealing to beginning readers, Greenfield, a black author, writes of a famous black singer, actor and civil rights activist.


Biography of the woman who refused to ride in the back of the bus. Carter Woodson Book Award, 1974.


Dated journal entries explaining Alesia's handicap, a result of being hit by a car when she was nine, show her persistence and success in improving and accepting things she could not change.


Gregory's intention was to use that offensive term and end its power to wound. Complemented by Taulbert's LAST TRAIN NORTH and Lemann's THE PROMISED LAND.


The biography of a slave who led an unsuccessful rebellion which was a major event paving the way for abolition.


The reader walks in the shoes of Burns who escaped to Boston, was arrested at the request of his owner and tried in a case that pitted abolitionists against owners. By a black author. Coretta Scott King Honor Book, 1989.


Painstakingly prepared biography of a talented performer caught in the anticommunist fever of the 1950's which robbed him of honors but not of dignity. An important biography by a black author.


Carefully documented, sympathetic, candid biography which concentrates on Du Bois' adult life.


Autobiography of composer of "Memphis Blues" and "St. Louis Blues."


Jordan was the first black woman in the Texas state senate and went to Washington, D.C.


Cosby is not only an actor and comedian but also a businessman, a philanthropist and a doctor of education.


Interesting and informative biography and short course in Philippine history and politics. By a black author.


Jesse Jackson, pastor and politician.

Well researched, straightforward presentation of King's life, including excerpts from letters, sermons, speeches and writings. Practical choice.


Ross's life from birth in Detroit to stardom as a singer.

921 Haskins, James, 1941- (African American). KATHERINE DUNHAM. Putnam, 1982. IL Grades 4-up.

Dunham as a choreographer, and an anthropologist, as well as her success in dance companies, in films and on Broadway.

921 Haskins, James, 1941- (African American). LENA HORNE. Putnam, 1983. IL Grades 6-up.


Readable biography about King as a civil rights leader. The civil rights movement, the assassination, and conspiracy theory related to King's murder are emphasized.


Earvin "Magic" Johnson's early years and his time with Lakers. The 1992 revision probably includes his revelation about AIDS.


Leonard planned to retire after winning a gold medal for boxing in the Olympics, but family responsibilities made him turn pro.

Biography of the first black Supreme Court justice by a prolific black biographer.


The major events of Mandela's life, her education, her family, her marriage, her imprisonment and bannings in her participation in the struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa.


Life and career of a famous black dancer who challenged the entertainment establishment and opened the door for performers of color. SCOTT JOPLIN (Stein & Day, 1980, o.p.) is the life story of a ragtime musician.


A school teacher became the first black woman elected to the U. S. Congress.


The peculiar anguish of being an intelligent black American. MY LIFE OF ABSURDITY: THE LATE YEARS - THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF CHESTER HIMES (Paragon, 1990) is also in print.


Hodges, a free black, was born in Virginia and became active in abolitionist and temperance circles in New York. After the Civil War he was a politician in Virginia and served in the Constitutional Convention of 1867-68. Price of the reprint may put this book beyond the budget of many school libraries.


The life of an escaped slave who became the most prominent black promoter of abolition.

Hughes' life to age twenty-seven, including a trip on a freighter, struggling in Paris in the 20s and his role in the Harlem Renaissance.


Continues autobiography begun in THE BIG SEA. Includes trips to Russia, Spain, China and Japan.


The diary of a 12 year old Jamaican-American in New York. Reviewed as intense in NEA TODAY. Her diary reflects her family, a sister who is an unmarried mother, brothers and their girlfriends, relatives in Jamaica, her fear of being shot in a drive by shooting, and her rejoicing over a good soccer game.


Readable autobiography about growing up black and middle class in the South and developing the courage to desegregate the University of Georgia. Essential for understanding the impact of the sixties on America.


Black anthropologist and folk song writer is portrayed in the autobiography.


Heartbreaking, stirring, visible history of a black family in America written by an African American journalist.

921 Jackson, Bo (African American) and Dick Schaap. BO KNOWS BO. Doubleday, 1990.

Family, discipline, marriage and sports, dreams and accomplishments are all discussed in this autobiography of a baseball and football star.

Social, political and cultural experiences of Johnson, a lawyer, diplomat, author, orator and educator.


Fannie Lou Hamer had the courage to register to vote in rural Mississippi and to help others to do so.


A revised and shortened edition of Coretta Scott King's memoir retains the love and mission of the original adult book. The photographs are improved in selection and reproduction.


The senior King describes his rise in the ministry of the largest black congregation in Atlanta and his fight for civil rights many years before his son's emergence in that field.


Emphasizes King's intellectual and public life on thesis that King was made great by particular circumstances. Successes and failures are analyzed for causes and impacts on King and the country.


The account of a remarkable black woman, Margaret Morgan Lawrence, a psychiatrist, written by her daughter, a prizewinning sociologist. The biographee grew up as an only child, solitary and introspective, daydreaming and imagining her future, full of pride and determination. The biography is clear and objective, despite the relationship between author and subject.

Mays was president of Morehouse College for twenty-seven years. He helped to bring about change but was unable to understand the motives of the black radicals who challenged him at Morehouse.


The 22 year major league baseball career of a black athlete who started in the Negro Leagues in the 1940s.


A solid, easy-to-read, occasionally adulatory biography of an Afro-American minister, civil rights leader and presidential candidate.


One of America's great opera singers who had to struggle against prejudice in order to perform.


King's relationship with other black leaders, the FBI and the politicians. Includes allegations about Communist views.


A warm biography of a black woman who began her life as a slave and became an important educator. Provides helpful timelines, photographs and letters.


A sympathetic, balanced life of a black leader of the Abolitionist movement. People of Distinction series.


Life of Louis Armstrong, world-famous jazz musician for small crowd.
By 1920 Walker became the first self-made woman millionaire in the United States as a result of her development and sale of beauty products especially for African Americans. One of eighteen volumes in Great African American series.

Terrell (1863-1954) was wealthy and college-educated but interested herself in working for racial and gender equality. She was President of the National Association of Colored Women, an advocate for voting rights, integration and equal education. Great African American series.


Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, 1993. Sold on the auction block, Truth became a leading abolitionist and feminist. The McKissacks use her autobiographical NARRATIVE and blend her personal story with a general history of the time.

Biography of former slave and civil rights leader.

Biography of an important African American author by authors well known for their biographies for younger students. Impact Biographies series.

Hurston, anthropologist, writer, folklorist, was popular during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920-s and 1930s and is again popular.

Daniel Hale Williams worked as shoemaker, telephone lineman, barber to help earn a degree in medicine. He started his own hospital in 1891 and performed the first successful open-heart surgery.


Black minister, author and civil rights leader.


Growing up as a sharecropper's daughter, the first to go to college through participation in a freedom march in 1964.


Growing up in Alabama in the 1920s and 1930s with a poet's language, with clarity and depth of feeling. REFLECTIONS BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A TAXI: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A 30-YEAR DROPOUT. (Braimanna, 1990) is also in print.


Murray's grandfather was of Irish-African descent. He was one of the few black soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War. After the war he started a school for newly freed blacks in Durham, North Carolina. Murray has also written PAULI MURRAY: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A BLACK ACTIVIST, FEMINIST, LAWYER PRIEST AND POET. Univ. of Tenn. Pr., 1989. This is also available from Harper Collins (1987) under the original title, SONG IN A WEARY THROAT.


Tribute to Malcolm X whose life reflected his willingness to change to accomplish his goals.

921 Owens, Jesse (African American) and Paul Neirnark.  JESSE: THE MAN WHO OUTRAN HITLER.  Fawcett, 1985.  IL


Autobiographical record of the poverty and racism faced by LIFE MAGAZINE photo-journalist.

50 51

Autobiographical memoirs of LIFE MAGAZINE photo-journalist who also wrote twelve books of poetry, fiction and nonfiction.


The quiet bravery, social significance and modesty of Rosa Parks, a catalyst in the civil rights movement, come through in this book.


Tells of Coretta Scott King's scholarship and musical ability and her use of her skills in helping to forward her husband's efforts before and after his death.


The life of anti-slavery fighter Douglass including his achievements, his escape to freedom and his abolitionist activities.


A political biography, this is a dramatic account of the civil rights movement King led. The author presents King as an heroic figure.


A political biography, this is a dramatic account of the civil rights movement King led.


This life of the black surgeon who was the first to perform open heart surgery is addressed to a young audience without sacrifice of important issues. Dialogue sometimes stilted but a readable humane approach should interest a wide audience.

921 Patterson, Lillie G. (African American) and Cornelia H. Wright. OPRAH WINFREY: TALK SHOW HOST AND ACTRESS. Enslow, 1990. IL Grades 6-up.

Tubman, a black slave born in 1820 became famous and well-loved as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.


Poitier started life in the Bahamas, arrived in Miami at sixteen, arrived in New York City with $3.00 in his pocket and became an actor on a dare only to emerge as a star and Oscar winner. Coretta Scott King Award, 1981.


Autobiography of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.'s father. The junior Powell was a congressman and preacher.


Acknowledges Jackson's personal appeal but is critical of his attempts to replace Martin Luther King, Jr. because he spread himself too thin and failed to produce tangible results.


Autobiography of talented but controversial black performer.


Reviewed as a must for all school and YA libraries, this lovingly written, stunning pictorial biography by Robeson's granddaughter is a complement to Hamilton's biography.


Black baseball star discusses his entrance into the all-white professional baseball world.

Autobiography of important black journalist who was also a public official for Kennedy and Johnson. Provides account of private and public life, from poverty-stricken Tennessee childhood to Director of U.S. Information Agency and Ambassador to Finland. Essentially well written. Rowan had a column in Des Moines Register or Tribune.


Assembled from reminiscences of an old black tenant farmer who witnessed and helped bring about profound changes in status of Southern blacks.


Pianist/jazz singer Nina Simone writes of growing up a preacher's daughter and civil rights activist in North Carolina. At the time she was most successful, she was also in deep financial and personal trouble. She fled to Africa and Europe, sang in small clubs in Paris and finally attempted suicide. This is a biography of that life and her survival.


Autobiography of a star of the Ronettes, one of the "girl groups" in American popular music. Their hits included, "Baby I Love You," and "Be My Baby."


A seventeen-year-old from the Mississippi Delta moves to St. Louis in 1963 where he hopes for an integrated future. The assassination of JFK, the war in Vietnam, unrest of campuses and streets fill his world. Complement to Dick Gregory’s NIGGER and Nicholas Lemann’s THE PROMISED LAND.


Bittersweet autobiography of Taulbert’s early years in tiny Glen Allen Mississippi in the 1950s. Reviewed as "funny, sweet and touching" about poor families who shared joys and sorrows. Pulitzer nominee. Grew up in the Mississippi Delta and moved north during the 1960s.

Tarry, a black Catholic writer, describes experiences in New York and Alabama. She worked with the founder of Friendship House, an interracial institution in Harlem during the Depression and founded a similar establishment in Chicago.


A slave, a free man, a State senator (1869-1871) an important member of the Republican party and a member of Emanuel A.M.E. Church, Teamoh was forced out of politics when the local Republican party failed and returned to his trade as a caulkier. After the depression of 1873 he could not make a recovery and lost his home in 1881. His last entry is dated 1883. The date of his death has not been established.


Educated at Oberlin, Paris and Berlin, and a teacher of German and Latin, Terrell was married to a lawyer appointed a judge by President Theodore Roosevelt. She lectured and worked for the advancement of blacks.


A black woman, who was the senior interviewer in the U.S. employment service, discusses her poverty-stricken childhood and her rise from that background.

A classic confessional autobiography of a man of Puerto Rican and African descent in Spanish Harlem from machismo to manhood.


A clear look at northern slavery, and an inspiring chronicle of a black woman reaching for personal and political empowerment, carefully edited and annotated by a distinguished biographer.


High points of Hughes' life emphasizing his youth and family.


Douglass as a personification of the transition from slavery to citizenship.


Continues the autobiographical narrative begun in UP FROM SLAVERY (q.v.).


Originally published in 1901. Washington's early days as a slave, how he acquired his education and how he organized Tuskegee Institute.


The unvarnished story of Ethel Waters' life from Philadelphia, through depression to success.


Autobiography of general secretary of NAACP. Includes black history since 1906.

Prizefighter who won an Olympic gold medal and the world heavyweight championship.


Sequel to DREAMGIRL which ended with Diana Ross leaving the Supremes.


Follows BLACK BOY, changing the optimistic tone of that part of Wright's autobiography. By a black author.


A poignant life story of a child and youth growing up in the South which provided a harsh atmosphere for blacks, but ending on a positive note when Wright plans to move North. By a black author.


From Malcolm Little (straight-A student) to Detroit Red (thief, pimp, pusher) to Malcolm X (Elijah Muhammad's helper) to El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Muslim and pilgrim to Mecca).


Race relations from third millennium B.C. until sixth century A.D. Emphasizes that color did not indicate inferiority, or other prejudicial aspects.


Ancient world had no feeling of superiority based on color, no censure of miscegenation. Author is professor of classics.
Black soldiers in Europe during World War I fared better than they did at home according to this report.

Twenty black Vietnam veterans discuss their experiences.

The countries of the Western Sudan from 500 to 1700.

Forced labor in Liberia in the 1930s which recalled the horrors of the Belgian Congo.

Record of visit of wife of Paul Robeson, an anthropologist, and her young son to South Africa in 1936.

History, customs, religion, government, homes and daily life of the Apache people of the Southwest.

Day-to-day life, religion, government and descendants of Aztec Indians.

The joys of growing up in a traditional African-American home.

A former captain of the 54th Massachusetts writes of the first black regiment raised in the North from its formation in 1863 through the end of the Civil War. First published in 1894.
While the secrecy required to keep passengers and conductors and stationmasters safe means that much of the history of the Underground has been lost, hundreds of stories have survived. Many of those narratives are blended into the general history.

Author locates half-Eskimo octogenarian sons of Peary and Henson and helps them meet their American relatives. Fascinating, well-told story.

An absorbing tale of eccentric characters, including Lena McPherson who can see ghosts and predict the future. From a special small girl she grows into a fearful adolescent who has to find her own way. Local customs add to this deft comic story of a young girl growing up.

Voices of resistance series. Story of three African American brothers who leave the rural South in 1919 to work in Pittsburgh's steel mills.

In this masterwork, women and men, black and white take off their racial and gender masks. Love and hate are communicated with subtlety and force. GIOVANNI'S ROOM, a novel about a young man living in Paris who finds himself caught between morality and desire is also in print. JUST ABOVE MY HEAD is a story about family life in Harlem, with music-making in the churches and the hint of confrontation in every meeting of blacks and whites is another in-print title.

Autobiographical story of a Harlem child, his father and his being saved.

Brilliant short stories across a wide spectrum. Honest and explosive.

Tish and Fonny are in love and planning to marry, hastened by Tish's pregnancy when Fonny is sent to prison on a rape charge. The families search for evidence of his innocence. Some explicit sex and street language but non-sensational.


Frank, erotic scenes of love that shatters conventions portray love between races. Reviewed as a "surpassing achievement."


Short stories, mostly in black settings, about the 1970s for the proud, angry, and gifted.


Two black women of different generations and life in the Claybourne Infirmary where the elderly believed it safer to live with complaints and cooperate with grief.


Short stories about lovers, frauds, and revolutionaries by a shrewd, tough writer.


A small black boy sets out with a slingshot to avenge his beloved "second daddy's death caused by a renegade bear.


Black risking in Haiti during the French Revolution is background for this novel with a young Frenchman in sympathy with the blacks as protagonist.


Studying for a special math exam and handling her guilt and grief when a friend dies, test Toni in this skillfully presented story.

Chartreuse - Charlie - Pippin and her father tangle when she studies the Vietnam war as part of a school project. The family is black; the pain and emotions evoked by the war are universal. Boyd is a black author. Other books by Boyd include FOREVER FRIENDS (Macmillan, 1992) and CHEVROLET SATURDAYS (Macmillan, 1993).


F Brown, William Wells. CLOTEL, OR, THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER. (Originally published in 1853); Carol Pub. Grp, 1989; Mnemosyne; Random Vintage. IL Adult

Written by an escaped slave, this is a gripping novel about a mulatto woman said to be Thomas Jefferson's daughter.

F Campbell, Barbara. A GIRL CALLED BOB AND A HORSE CALLED YOKI. Dial, 1982. IL Grades 3-7 RL Grade 4.

Bob is bright and black and compassionate when an old milk wagon horse is sold for glue.


An ex-Confederate officer seeks his fortune in New York and returns to the South twenty years later. Also in print and WIFE OF HIS YOUTH AND OTHER STORIES (Univ. of Michigan Press, 1968).

F Chesnutt, Charles Waddell (African American). MARROW OF TRADITION (originally published 1901); various editions. IL Adult.

Sensitive African American doctor faces segregation and terror in Reconstruction South.


Benjie, aged thirteen, is hooked on "horse" in this story of the urban drug scene of two decades ago.
F Childress, Alice, 1920-(African American). RAINBOW JORDAN. 

Rainbow, a teenager; Kathie, her sometimes abusive mother; and Josephine, a foster mother with a younger husband with itch feet are the central characters of this story which was a Coretta Scott King Honorable Mention Book in 1982. THOSE OTHER PEOPLE is another Childress title - a disturbing and disquieting novel for ages 11 up (Putnam).

F Chocolate, Deborah Newton (African American). NEATE TO THE RESCUE. 

The first of a series of books about the exploits of NEATE, a group of five African American junior high students.

F Clifton, Lucille, 1936- (African American). THE LUCKY STONE. 

Four short stories about four generations of black women providing positive and accurate information on black culture including slavery, religion and the extended family. The lucky stone is the connection between the overall story and the anecdotes great-grandmother shares. It saved the life of the woman who gave it to her and brought her and her future husband together.


A plantation slave tells of the horrors and dreams that have beset her family over the generations. Filled with tragedy but also with survival. HOMEMADE LOVE (St. Martin, 1988) is another in-print title.


Stories full of truth, laughter and love. SOME SOUL TO KEEP (St. Martin's), is a Cooper book in the oral folk tradition about women winning out over adversities.


Twelve short stories about common folk.


Isaac wants to go to Washington for the occasion of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech but his father forbids it. Despite this conflict with his father, he becomes involved in nonviolent protests. This and his leadership skills bring him the admiration of many adult leaders. Just enough history and just enough conflict for an interesting story.

F De Veaux, Alexis, 1948- (African American). ENCHANTED HAIR TALE. 

Sudan wears his "enchanted hair" in dreadlocks which others see as messy, so he runs away to a circus where his hairstyle is common.

This novel is about a nine year old African American boy living in Brooklyn.


Dove is a Pulitzer prize winning poet. This was her first novel, the story of an African-American woman artist who returns to her Midwestern home town. Reviewed as a "pleasure to read."


Written by the wife of W. E. B. Du Bois.


Outraged by the discrimination in his medical college, a brilliant black man goes to Berlin and joins a movement of dark people headed by an Indian princess.


Cotton fields, the silver fleece turned into gold by black laborers and northern capitol blend with the story of a young black girl with a burning desire to learn.

F Dumas, Henry. GOODBYE, SWEETWATER. Thunder's Mouth, 1988. IL

ARK OF BONES AND OTHER STORIES (Random, 1974, o.p.) and PLAY EBONY, PLAY IVORY, a collection of poems (Random, 1974, o.p.) are suggested for young adult reading. The above title and THE KNEES OF A NATURAL MAN (Thunder's Mouth, 1988) are probably adult level. The author was killed by a policeman in Harlem and much of his work was edited and published posthumously.


Black Korean War veteran attempts to register to vote and loses his job.


This is a novel, by a black author, about how a trusting black boy becomes an "invisible man." Compared to Dostoevski's NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND. Received National Book Award.
F Everett, Gwen (African American). Li'l Sis AND UNCLE WILLIE. Rizzoli Children's Library, 1991. IL Grades 2-up.

Li'l Sis and Uncle Willie have built up rapport. Even when he's over in Europe he writes to Li'l Sis. Then his wife dies and Uncle Willie winds up in the hospital, but Li'l Sis still remembers and cares. Over 1000 paintings of Uncle Willie Johnson's are in the National Museum of American Art. May be classed as biography.


Two black boys see an accidental shooting of a sports hero. One is disturbed by the attempted cover-up by the police and pressure to change his testimony.


The title novella tells of a black man who is becoming a wino.


Stormy relations within Harlem society are portrayed in this story about a young piano mover and a housemaid who teaches him some home truths.


The life of Miss Jane Pittman from Civil War days to the 1960's when this centenarian took part in a freedom walk. The author also writes popular short stories.


Five stories of black life in rural south.


Blacks, Cajuns and whites maintain an uneasy coexistence in this first-rate, compelling love story set in the Louisiana countryside.
Although this novel starts slowly those who persevere will find the triumphant conclusion very rewarding. In the story a black man shoots and kills a Cajun in a rural area in Louisiana. A "gathering of old men" each equipped with a shotgun identical with the murder weapon all claim responsibility, citing the suffering they had endured at the hands of this particular white man and white men in general.

Jefferson is going to die. He witnessed a robbery in which a white man died and he was the only one left alive. His white lawyer argues that he is no more sentient than a hog, but with counsel of a local teacher sent by Jefferson's godmother, Jefferson learns to "die like a man."

Marcus, out of jail on bond and awaiting trial for killing a man in a roadhouse fight, is sent to the Hebert plantation to do field work.

An urban fairy tale of Alice who wins a fantastic prize. Comic. Reviewed in NEA TODAY as intense.

Momolu journeys with his father down river to a coastal city. At fourteen he first sees modern civilization and makes an important decision about his life.

One of a series of books about David William. In this story he returns home as a medical doctor and sees many changes in a still imperfect society.

Koya finds the visit of a famous cousin a challenge to her attempts to be a "good girl". She learns how to be true to herself even if it means not pleasing everybody.

A thirteen year old black girl watches her older sister drift away and worries about whether she will fall the same destructive path. Perceptive, sensitive and realistic. Greenfield is a black author.


When strife between her parents disrupts a young girl's life, a neighbor helps her understand that broken things can work again even if they are a different shape.


A novel about the first black C.I.A. agent's attempts to train a ghetto gang into a guerrilla force.


A young teen-aged daughter of a free black man during colonial times became a spy. See also out of print title PHOEBE AND THE GENERAL.


A sequel to THE DISAPPEARANCE (Delacorte, 1979; Dell, 1986) and NEW GUYS AROUND THE BLOCK (Delacorte, 1983; Dell, 1987). Imamau Jones, now eighteen, delivers groceries and lives with his mother, who is very insecure, and a foster sister. He is accused of murdering the niece of a wealthy customer but he works with the police detective to solve the case.


Philisia, a recent arrival from the West Indies gets a hostile reception from her Harlem classmates except for one who yeams to be accepted.


A street-smart black youth is acquitted of murder, and taken in by a do-gooder whose child disappears two days later.

F Guy, Rosa [Cuthbert], 1928- (African American). MIRROR OF HER OWN. Delacorte, 1981. IL Grades 6-up.

Plain and shy, Mary understands that John prefers her out-going and beautiful sister but she refuses to be discouraged.

Based on the "Little Mermaid" by Andersen, this is a story of a poor girl and rich mulatto whom she rescues. THE UPS AND DOWNS OF CARL DAVIS III (Delacorte, 1989, IL Grades 5-9) is also in print.


Three black boys from Harlem rollerskate around town, escaping bullies and other hazards.


Fletcher Randall, a white southerner, and Harpin' John, a black slave, work to help slaves to the Underground Railroad and freedom. Moral courage and spiritual regrowth are reflected. SELECTED FROM "A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS" is an abridged edition of the above title prepared by the Literacy Volunteers of NYC in 1991, which is also in print.

F Haley, Alex (African American). QUEEN.

Based on the life of author's mother.


Cammy is a strong-willed and feisty girl who resents her "perfect" cousin. When the perfect cousin drowns saving someone else, Cammy turns to her Gram Tut to help her work through her grief and guilt.


Dies Drear and two slaves he had hidden in his house (a station in the underground railway) were killed a hundred years ago. Now strange and frightening things begin to happen to the family that buys the house. A startling mystery which will hold and fascinate the readers as will the sequel THE MYSTERY OF DREAR HOUSE (Greenwillow, 1987; Macmillan, 1988).


Fourteen-year-old Junius follows his grandfather to the Caribbean island that had been his home. Hamilton combines adventure, family unity, folklore, romance and mystery in a warm and outstanding story.


Longing for the love of a father she never knew, Sheema comes to understand that she is surrounded by the love of her grandparents and of Forrest. Coretta Scott King Honorable Mention Book, 1985.


Outstanding juvenile literature, awarded the Newbery Medal in 1975, this is the story of a thirteen-year-old black boy who tries to rescue his family from a strip mining slag heap.


Pretty Pearl is a god child who comes down from Mount Highness to straighten out misguided humans. Coretta Scott King Honorable Mention book, 1984.


Buhlaire is 12, smart, proud and outside. Perhaps because of her skin color or the fact that her mother entertains in a nightclub or the fact that she is cared for by an extended family, she is not accepted in her midwestern town. Then her father shows up, mentally unstable, homeless and nearly white and Buhlaire had not known he was alive. Realism and the universal problems of growing up make this an appealing story.


Junior, a 300-pound, neurotic musical prodigy, and Buddy, a crafty homeless boy are dropouts, spending their time with the school janitor. This is a story of their friendship. Another Hamilton story is ZEELY (Macmillan, 1967).

A Newbery honor book and a Coretta Scott King award book, this is the story of Tree, a fourteen-year-old who has major responsibility for a seventeen-year-old retarded brother with a little help from the ghost of a dead uncle. Hamilton writes with ease about critical problems and powerful emotions. A LITTLE LOVE (Philomel, 1984) and A WHITE ROMANCE (Philomel, 1987) are other juvenile titles by this black author.


When her all black high school becomes racially mixed, Talley makes friends with a white girl who also loves to run but who becomes involved with a drug dealer.


It was 1938 on Halloween and a dramatic aunt brought news from the famous Orson Wells broadcast that there were Martians in New Jersey.


Elizabeth and her sister spend the summer in the South where they meet a woman who looks like an African princess.


A non-stereotypical view of life in the ghetto. In fact, until Amir shows up, Doris thinks she is too protected.


Set in the United States after the Civil War, this story tells of a young black woman who escapes a former master and with a group of other slaves goes to work for wages on an island off the coast of South Carolina. Her hardships give a clear picture of the unfairness the freed slaves faced. A sequel to WHICH WAY FREEDOM? (Walker, 1986) which was a Coretta Scott King award or honor book.


A sequel to THE GIFT-GIVER, this story follows Doris to sixth grade where she is irritated by Yellow Bird, the class clown, until she realizes he is brilliant and dyslexic. Another title by this black author is HOME BOY (Clarion, 1982).

A light-skinned black woman, raised by a free white, is tricked into slavery in this pioneering work of the black woman's literary movement.


A visionary novel of a middleclass family torn apart and fused together by incest. Uncompromising view of race and gender.


Two detectives from COTTON COMES TO HARLEM (q.v.) search for the murderer of a white homosexual film director through the world of Black Muslims, Black Power, and soul leaders.


Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson are black detectives trying to find $87,000 swindled from Harlem residents on a back-to-Africa scheme before the bad guys can.  RUN MAN RUN (Chatham Bookseller, 1975) is another Himes detective story still in print.  Random Vintage offers THE CRAZY KILL; THE HEATS ON; A RAGE IN HARLEM and THE REAL COOL KILLERS.


A thoughtful young black becomes a union organizer during World War II in a West Coast airplane factory.  IF HE HOLLERS LET HIM GO (Thunder's Mouth, 1986) is another West Coast World War II story by Himes which is back in print.


A black family from the early days of freedom from slavery to comfort to tragedy.


Mac and Marie are turn of the century African American children who find excitement in waiting for Uncle Clem to toss something off the train for them, in catching fireflies and in listening to a conch shell.  Also present is the knowledge that Mac will not achieve his dream of being a train engineer since he is black.

Sandy wants a formal education so he can be a contribution to his race but his family is more inclined to sing the blues. Good.


A collection of Simple subjects.


Simple has views on many subjects but always from the point of view of black people.


Mr. Jesse B. Semple, or Simple, converses with Hughes about life in Harlem. SIMPLE STAKES A CLAIM (Rinehart, 1957) is now out of print.


Fictional document of life in Harlem in the words of an elderly woman. Illustrated with photographs.


Short stories about the relations between black folks and white from a black perspective.


Yanava, a beautiful dark brown girl creates a gift for her grandmother.


Determined to get ahead, a young black girl works two jobs, then begins to gamble to earn even more only to fall hopelessly into debt.

Short stories about problems of a black child in a white world. Coretta Scott King Award Honorable Mention Book, 19.92.


The differing values of black identity and militancy conflict when a white policeman kills an innocent member of a new neighborhood club. Reviewed as an excellent book.


The “cracker” region of western Florida at the turn of the century is the setting of this novel. Vernacular language. JONAH’S GOURD VINE (Harper Collins, 1934, IL Adult), MOSES, MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN (Harper Collins, 1939, IL Adult), and THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD (Harper Collins, 1937, IL Adult) are other novels still in print.


Originally written in 1937, this is a story about Janie Crawford who searches for control and identity through three marriages and other disasters. Language reflects the folklore and sound of blacks in southern Florida in the 30s. an abridged audiocassette edition read by Ruby Dee is available from Harper-Audio.


A story about a black boy in a previously all-white school, of his problems and friendships.


In 1830 a freed slave, womanizer and thief flees on a slave ship bound for Africa. Revealing picture of the black American experience.


First issued anonymously, this story sounds like an autobiography of the black race in the U. S.


Buddy and Angela, black teenagers, find comfort and quiet in a cemetery away from their distressed family situations. Free verse and black speech enhance and make authentic.

Momma will soon be bringing home a new baby. How the other children work out a plan for six people to fit in a small apartment shows their ingenuity and ability to cooperate.


Sixteen short stories, essentially about blacks.


A forerunner of Civil Rights literature written in 1962, this is a story of Tucker Caliban, descendent of African chiefs, who leads a mass exodus of blacks from a Southern State. Reviewed as a good novel. Also in print: DANCERS ON THE SHORE (Howard U. Pr., 1984).


In the first sections black and white Americans filter through a fictitious country in Europe. Other episodes concern a con-man in Harlem and some of the author's creative prose discussions.


A first novel, this is the story of a black family in Georgia in the early 1920s.


Two novels, QUICKSAND (Greenwood, reprint of 1928 ed., i.p.), and PASSING (Greenwood, 1968 reprint of 1929 ed., i.p.), and three short stories by the "mystery woman of the Harlem Renaissance." The stories were written under the pseudonym of Allen Semi.


Six pieces of historical fiction about "southern serfdom" in the 1920s. Interviews, complete with footnotes, offer the reactions of former slaves and freed blacks.
F Lester, Julius, 1939- (African American). THIS STRANGE NEW FEELING. Dial, 1982; Scholastic, 1985. IL Grades 6-up.

Three love stories about three slave couples who gain their freedom. Fully developed characters and accurate depiction of the harshness of the period. Also in print HOW MANY SPOTS DOES A LEOPARD HAVE AND OTHER TALES (Scholastic, 1988. IL Grades 2-6); TO BE A SLAVE (Scholastic, 1986. IL Grades 7-up) - teacher's guide available. WHO I AM (Dial, 1974. IL Grades 7-up) is also in print.


Poor, black people, still linked to their past enslavement, are already residents on a remote Caribbean island when researchers arrive. Reviewed as "monumental."


An affluent black widow leaves her cruise in Grenada and meets an old man who influences her to reconsider her future. DAUGHTERS (Atheneum Macmillan, 1991; NAL-Dutton, 1992); REENA AND OTHER STORIES (Feminist Pr., 1984); and SOUL CLAPP HANDS AND SING (short stories, Howard Pr, 1988) are also available.


Michael's great-great aunts shares memories of her life - one memory for each penny for each year. Newbery Honor Book, 1976.


A blind girl lives with her alcoholic mother. When a neighbor tries to attack the girl, other neighbors rescue, soothe and protect her.


When they marry, Joe promises his girlfriend, they will live in a teacup full of roses, not in the midst of conflict so prevalent in their present lives.

The first novel of these two novels bound together is about a middle-aged man who decides to escape his frustrations and his wife by going west. His plan is not a success.


True to life but optimistic story of New York in the 1960s. Realistic (which may not bother teens but may bother their parents), with colloquial, sometimes rough, language, love scenes and living together without marriage.


A Jamaican girl is adopted by missionaries and sent to England to be educated only to rediscover conflict between blacks and whites on her return. Other titles which may still be available include A LONG WAY FROM HOME (autobiography, 1937), HOME TO HARLEM (novel, 1928).


Zora is a music teacher who wants to be a singer and Franklin is a construction worker whose work is off again on again in nature. Franklin's abusive mother and the oppressive white society make him hostile and depressed. They must grow a lot before they can make it back together. McMillan's first novel was MAMA. Also in print: BREAKING ICE: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY BLACK WRITERS. Viking Penguin, 1980.


Emily's math tutor turns out to be the class pest. Also in print: JUST MY LUCK (NAL/Dutton, 1983; Puffin, 1991. IL Grades 3-7).


Sethe is a runaway slave. This is the story of her violation, her escape and the consequences. She is alienated from the black community and her two sons. Even her daughter escapes into her own form of exile. Morrison was awarded the 1993 Nobel Prize for Literature.


A lyrical story of love and loss and rebuilding your life set in the 1920s in Harlem and at the turn of the century in rural Virginia.

Macon has money, women, prestige as his slumlord father's collection agent. Then, at thirty-two he goes South to look for gold and winds up looking for his roots.


Nel marries young and Sula leaves their Ohio town to go to college. When she comes home she vamps all the black husbands in town including 'el's, leaving only Nel to mourn her when she dies.


The wife of a rich, retired business man finds a uneducated fugitive hiding in a closet. He falls in love with the couple's niece, an educated Paris model.


A young black man in a southern college in the 1930s. Balance between black folk tradition and Faulkner.


A young black boy idolizes two traveling blues players in the 1920s. When he runs away from home he is sent back and discovers his true parentage.


A sensitive black seventeen-year-old tells of the horrors, fears, confusion and tragedy of the Vietnam war. The foul language adds verisimilitude and is not as obscene as the events. Winner of Coretta Scott King Award for text, 1989.


Stuff, now eighteen, recalls when he was thirteen and hanging out with Fast Sam and Cool Clyde. Dope rings, school, and home, warm relationships with funny , troubled , typical teens are all here.


Two boys, who are with their anthropologist mother in Hong Kong, investigate when they learn of artifacts disappearing from temples in the area.

Lonnie is a talented basketball player but he fears emotional commitments and authority when a former professional player becomes team coach.


Tippy, twelve years old, comes to a crisis when his grandmother can no longer care for him and he must live with his father, a petty crook and drifter.


Set in medieval North Africa, this story tells of a black champion who frees the oppressed from a white tyrant.


T.J., Moondance and Mop live in an orphanage. When the two boys have a chance for adoption, they don't want to leave Mop (Miss Olivia Parrish) and their Little League Team behind.


A sequel to ME, MOP, AND THE MOONDANCE KID, in which the Elks are in an international baseball competition in Japan where they run into language and cultural differences and where they discover one of their teammates is homeless.


Motown, a loner, rescues Didi, a girl who wants to go away to college, from an attack. Didi's problems escalate - her mother is losing her mind, her brother is an addict, the pushers are after her - but she has this improbable romance to make life bearable. Coretta Scott King Award, 1985.


Fourteen-year-old Mouse and his friends seek for treasure from the days of Al Capone and fall in and out of love one summer in Harlem. Zany events, rap beat, and "cast" make this an upbeat story.


A college student, persuaded to join the Conservative Crusade Society, abandons it only to be pursued by its criminal leaders.

A moving, believable story of a boy from Harlem recruited to a small midwestern college to play basketball. Sequel to HOOPS (Delacorte, 1981). Other titles include WON'T KNOW TILL I GET THERE; THE YOUNG LANDLORDS.


An entertaining adventure narrated by Artemis Bonner who turns cowboy avenger when his Uncle Ugly is gunned down. Tongue-in-cheek humor which may entice new readers of historical fiction. Winner of 1992 Coretta Scott King Award.


A 1989 Newbery Honor Book. A brutally honest look at the influence of gang membership on Jamal Hicks, aged 12, who takes his brother's place as gang leader when the brother goes to prison.


Jimmy is a street-wise tenth-grader reared by Mama Jean who works taking care of children. She loves and tries to help Jimmy but he is influenced by their community more than be Mama Jean. Then his father gets out of prison and takes Jimmy away with him. Jimmy learns that his father is an escapee and dying. This is the story of Jimmy learning to accept that. Another quality book by an award winning author. Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book, 1993; Newbery Honor Book, 1993.


Several girls from different backgrounds meet at a pregnancy counseling center. The story focuses on the relationships of the girls to each other and to the fathers of their children.


Steve tries to impress his foster brother by painting a name on a subway car. When he is caught, his gang must do community service in an old-age home.


A gang reconditions a slum building. Coretta Scott King Award, 1980.

A fine and lyrical best seller about a group of people who frequent a local cafe in the 1840s.


A novel of black suburban life, an embittered undertaker who developed the posh black district in Linden Hills, and the awful secret two street-smart boys find generations later.


Miranda Day is the matriarch of a black-owned island off the southeast coast of the United States, and a descendent of a slave owner and his slave. Her beloved great niece, Cocoa leaves the island to marry a northerner.


A rotting tenement which used to house Irish and Italian immigrants but now provides shelter for black Americans, Brewster Place is the home of women who portray courage, fear and anguish in trying to make a home for their families.


Black family in a Kansas town in the 1920s. Also poetry, autobiography.


The title story in this collection is about a black druggist and his family in a white town on Long Island.


Link grows up in Connecticut, graduates from Dartmouth, a scholar and an athlete, but his luck runs out when people begin to discover the girl he loves is white.


A tiny, dark apartment in Harlem is the setting for a story of a black woman's struggle to maintain her own moral integrity and guard her young son.

A slave from the West Indies is caught up in the Salem witch hunt in 1692 in this historical fiction.


Wife of Jerry Pinkney, important African American illustrator. Eight year old Ernestine returns to the North Carolina farm where she was born to visit relatives.


Addy starts to school for the first time as an escaped slave in Philadelphia. One of the American Girl series.


Addy and Momma are thrilled by a wonderful Christmas surprise. One of the American Girl series.


In 1864 Addy hears her parents talking about escaping from slavery, but before they can do so they are separated when Master Stevens sells some of his slaves. Addy and her mother escape to Philadelphia where they hope the family can be reunited. One of the American Girl series.


The protagonist is biracial and wants to be rid of his black heritage and become someone important.


A slave escapes to Emancipation City in Canada but must stay hidden until his owner is dead.

Papa LaBas, hero of MUMBO JUMBO, and an occult detective, is brought in to help solve a mystery involving an international organization trying to take over the manufacture of gumbo, a mysterious healing product developed with the use of black magic.


Atonism is a monotheistic, militaristic creed opposed to animism, music and dance. The followers believe, "If I can't dance, no one shall." This order struggles against the jazz craze which threatens the flapperization of all children.


Cities are collapsing, radical Catholic clergy and Moral Majoritarians battle, a male model fronting for western businessman turns into a compassionate neo-socialist as does Santa Claus in this improbable picture of the United States in the 1980s.


Mae Lee is a farmer's daughter who marries a soldier after the Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor. She works in a munitions plant and buys farmland in her husband's absence. So she is able to stand on her own when he walks out several years and children after the war. Sanders' first novel was CLOVER.


Thirteen-year-old Betsey is hovering between adulthood and adolescence. Other titles by this author include RIDIN' THE MOON IN TEXAS, SASSAFRASS, CYPRESS, AND INDIGO, and FOR COLORED GIRLS (young adult).


Little John, eleven years old, learns to take pride in being black and wants an Afro which his father forbids.


A five-year-old girl is taken from a foster home in North Carolina to live with her birth mother in New York City. The story tells of her adjustment to life styles, people and experiences.
Marcia, fifteen years old, feels ambivalent about sex in the face of advice on birth control, solo child rearing and female dependency.

The author spent some time in Iowa.

A nine-year-old black girl grows up emotionally when her bi-racial cousin is brought into their home to escape abuse from her mother.

Raisin winds up in the middle of a community controversy as a result of being hired to clean up a cemetery. Race relations are explored in this story which can be used for an example of how to study local history or read just for fun.

Mary Elouise, a bright nine-year-old blames her feeling of alienation on being black and longs to be white, blonde and beautiful. Two African-American storytellers who visit the school help Mary Elouise embrace her own heritage.

A bitter story about an old black man, promised friendship by a white man whose life he saved when they were both youths, denigrated and shot by that same white man because he refused to call the white man "Mister." Awarded the Coretta Scott King Award in 1988.

The neighbors and relatives in Ohio are really impressed when Daddy brings home a gold Cadillac in the 50's, but that was Ohio. When they drove down to visit Mississippi the reception was decidedly different.

Received the Coretta Scott King award for 1982. This sequel to ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY continues the saga of the Logan family further detailing the false accusations, taunts and persecution blacks suffer at the hands of their white neighbors.

Coretta Scott King Award for text, 1991. Continues the story of the Logan family begun in SONG OF THE TREES.


The Logans are the only black family to own their own land in this Mississippi community during the Depression. A strong, proud black family is depicted, resisting the efforts of whites to dispossess them. Taylor, a black author, received the Newbery Medal in 1977 for this title. Also Coretta Scott King Award or Honor book. Followed by LET THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN, MISSISSIPPI BRIDGE (1990), and THE ROAD TO MEMPHIS (1990). Preceded by THE FRIENDSHIP.


Coretta Scott King award or honor book. Based on a true story of a black family leaving their home during the depression and being cheated of their valuable and beautiful trees.


Sequel to MARKED BY FIRE (q.v.). Abyssinia falls in love with a young attorney when tragedy strikes again. Coretta Scott King Honorable Mention Book, 1984.


The story of a twelve-year-old boy of black and Cherokee extraction, his relationship with his black father and grandfather and an Appaloosa rodeo horse.


Tarantula spiders share secrets with Nutmeg and make her giggle. When she is fifteen she helps solve a mystery of disappearing friends later found dead.

F Thomas, Joyce Carol, 1938- (African American). MARKED BY FIRE. IL Grades 7-up.

A special child, born among the black women who worked in a rural Oklahoma cotton field, is the gifted darling of the community. Then, at the age of ten, she is raped and the story deals with her recovery and maturing. Followed by BRIGHT SHADOW (q.v.).
F Thomas, Joyce Carol, 1938- (African American). WATER GIRL. Avon, 1986. IL Grades 7-up.

A black teenager learns she was adopted. MARKED BY FIRE (above) is the story of the girl's mother.


An African American Cinderella story about a girl who wants to sing and a choir that needs a voice. Other in print titles include A GATHERING OF FLOWERS.


A young woman's black skin embarrassed her lighter-colored family and friends at home and in college. Later she found the same problem in Harlem.


In letters to God and her sister, Celie tells her story from sexual abuse as a child to material success as an adult. What it means to be poor, abused, challenged and able to find value in one's self.


Black women of different ages and classes who respond assertively to changes in their world.


The gap between what politicians talk about and people live are the focus of the book about a black civil rights worker turned artist and a friend who works with poor blacks in the South.


Copeland abandons his family. When he finally returns, his son has grown up so mean that winds up in prison for brutality. When the son is released the tragedy erupts again.


This story, based on the life of Walker's great-grandmother, tells of a slave and the daughter of a slave who dreamed of education for her children.


A bright and beautiful black girl must adjust to a new school, her parent's divorce and biracial marriage, and other social and academic pressures teens face.


Justin's grandfather comes to Justin's rescue by teaching him how to do "women's work." Coretta Scott King Award, 1987. MARIAH KEEPS COOL (Bradbury, 1990) is another in-print title.


Martha is not quite fifteen but considered marriageable on the remote Louisiana island where her grandmother is herb-doctor and midwife. Martha realizes she must leave the island to get the education she desires.


A black doctor returns to the south to practice where his family members are violated and killed and his house call on a white woman is misunderstood by a howling mob of whites.


A black Creole girl gives birth to a child in Philadelphia. She meets prejudice there, in Harlem, and in white Manhattan.


Set in a community founded on Pittsburgh's east end by a runaway slave, these stories cover from the mid 1800s to the 1970s. SENT FOR YOU YESTERDAY earned the P.E.N/Faulkner Award for fiction. Powerful and lyrical. ALL STORIES ARE TRUE (Random Vintage, 1993) offers 10 more stories set mainly in Homewood. U. of Pittsburg issued the HOMEWOOD BOOKS in 1992.

Four men, in retaliation for the brutality of the white treatment of blacks, plot the lynching of a white policeman.


A writer returns to his old neighborhood obsessed with finding a boy seen running from the flames of the fire. Based on the 1985 bombing by police of a West Philadelphia row house owned by the Afrocentric cult Move. Passionate and angry picture of urban disintegration.


Junior high formula fiction with main characters who are African American urban kids.


A strong vital picture of a young black girl raised by her grandmother and of life in the black section of a small Georgia town.


When grandmother dies, Ludell must move to New York just before graduation and away from Willie. She is angry and resentful. Sequel to *LUDELL* (above).


The problems faced by six black students chosen to desegregate a white school in Georgia in 1965 are the focus of this story. Attacks by dogs, exclusion from activities in both schools, maintaining friendships were just a few of their problems.


Focuses on injuries and efforts to save a man who had conducted seminars in black military history and who was wounded in Vietnam.


Subtitle: A Riveting Story of the South During Slavery. Moving novel of friendship between an escaped slave and the plantation owner's wife.
Grandmother Shammama tells her own version of creation in which Mahtmi creates the first being in his own image and names him Kwanza. When Kwanza goes off on his own, Mahtmi gets lonely and creates other people. This makes Kwanza jealous so Mahtmi shows his great love for Kwanza by tightly curling each hair on his head. Elegant story with good rhythms for a read-aloud. Gives a reason for black pride.

Excluded from the ballet show, Joyce finds self-esteem by participating in an African dance group. The divisions in an integrated high school, neighborhood tensions, Black Muslim values are presented from a teenage point of view.

Novel about a mulatto girl who grows up as an indentured servant in nineteenth-century Massachusetts. Combines slave narrative and sentimental novel.

Maizon wins a scholarship at a private boarding school where she is lonely for her Brooklyn neighborhood where she wasn't in the minority.

Posthumously published short stories of blacks displaying desperate heroism in face of cruelty.

Written before NATIVE SON and published after Wright's death, this is the story of a postal clerk during the Depression, deep in debt and frustrated by discrimination.

Following in the corrupt footsteps of his wealthy family, a Mississippi man is forced to flee to France.

A vivid and bitter picture of a young black man, persecuted because of his race, who becomes a killer and fugitive, finally being tried and convicted. Sensational but skillfully crafted.

Four stories reflecting the conflicts between whites and blacks in the South. Story Magazine's Prize, 1936.


In the 1930s in a Maryland ghetto, the residents live in poverty and powerlessness, but the heroine is determined to escape with her children.


The significance of the cornrow hairstyle, black activists and ancestral life in Africa are all included in the stories a black mother and Great-Granmaw tell.


Angie has fears about her parents' separation and being teased about her dark skin until she finds the "shimmershine feeling" that makes her value herself.


TJ's fantasies are peopled by his Harlem neighbors. There is Mr. Man, the janitor; Miss Lee; Miss Beanpole and his friends, WT and Blinky.


Three small boys leave Alabama to visit Harlem so they can see tall buildings. They visit their uncle, participate in their own musical group, but decide to return home in time for the persimmons to be ripe. LONESOME BOY (Beacon Pr., 1988) is in print.


Two black children in Haiti move with their parents from a farm to a village where there father learns to be a fisher.


Shawn, always eager for school, panics as the actual day arrives.


Abby's baby book tell all about how she was adopted. At first Kevin doesn't understand her need to be important by sharing her book, but later he wants to take her to show and tell to brag that "we get to keep her forever."


Sandy's uncle makes her uncomfortable when he kisses her on the lips and hugs her. She's afraid to tell her parents for fear that they won't like her.


Two black children and their lively grandma enjoy window shopping. I NEED A LUNCH BOX (Harper, 1988) is another in-print title.


The Sun falls in love with an earth woman who bears two sons with opposite natures and destinies.


King didn't believe his teacher's talk about Spring so he and a friend went to look for it in a vacant lot.


Tate remembers promises people seem not to be keeping until her fifth birthday arrives. Coretta Scott King Honorable Mention Book, 1974. ALL US COME CROSS THE WATER (Holt, 1973), which helps a child understand that all blacks came in the same boat - slavery, is also o.p.

Christmas in the city. Also classified as poetry.


A young boy says goodbye when his father dies, illustrating the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance. Coretta Scott King Award for 1984. Also classified as poetry.


A small black boy learns to accept a new stepfather and an expected new baby with gentle attention and assuring talks about love. Also classified as poetry.


A small black boy living in New England learns about his family when he visits his grandmother who shows him her pictures.


This counting book counts 12 bicyclists in a race which means the order of the numbers keeps changing.


Summers at Bigmama's are sweet memories for Crews and fun for his readers.


A small plane takes off, flies over cities, countryside, mountains and lands with its one passenger - a small boy. Winner of New York Times Choice of Best Illustrated Children's Books of the Year, 1986. Also classified as 629.13. Other in print Crews titles include FREIGHT TRAIN (Greenwillow, 1978; Puffin, 1985); HARBOR (Greenwillow, 1982; Morrow, 1987); LIGHT (Greenwillow, 1981); PARADE (Greenwillow, 1983; Morrow, 1986); SCHOOL BUS (Greenwillow, 1984; Puffin, 1985); TEN BLACK DOTS (Greenwillow, 1986).


This Caldecott Honor Book in 1981 follows a truck from its loading station, down the highways and to a truck stop.

A prize winning (New Jersey Institute of Technology Author Award) alphabet book which provides concepts children can see and use.


Cullen's cat tells about the strange animals who didn't get into Noah's Ark.


In a spoof of the business world, Chuku gets the contract to design the skies over New York City with its tall buildings, dirty air and people who never look up.


Like "Not Me" in the comic strips, Jimmy Lee has to take the blame for everything Artie does wrong. CLEAN YOUR ROOM, HARVEY MOON (Bradbury, 1991) is a story in rhyme for PS-2.


A manual for two-year olds and helpful in counteracting racism.


This Swahili alphabet book won the Art Books for Children Citation, 1976; Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, 1974; and was a Caldecott Honor Book in 1975. MOJA MEANS ONE; SWAHILI COUNTING BOOK (DIAL, 1971, 1987. IL GRADES PS-3) is also in print.


Zamani is a West African boy. On his first trip to the market he buys his mother a gift and receives his first grown-up clothes.


Tanya helps her mother and grandmother make a quilt which tells the story of her family's life. Christopher Award, 1987; Coretta Scott King Award, 1986. Also in print THE BEST TIME OF DAY (Random, 1976).

A young African helps his father pick just the right tree to make a canoe.


Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, this is a dream of a child about 'Long-ago Africa.' Greenfield is a black author. Africa - Fiction


Tyree is allowed to get his pillow and blanket and watch for the first pink light when his daddy should be coming home. Other titles for young children include MY DOLL, KESHIA, BIG FRIEND, LITTLE FRIEND, DADDY AND I and I MAKE MUSIC (Writers & Readers Publishing).


Rhondy and her Grandmama have to move to a cheaper home which makes Grandmama sad. But Rhondy cheers her by reminding her about the love they have for each other. Illuminates the uniqueness and universality of the black experience.
Grandpa, an actor, is practicing a cruel expression. His face is so expressive that Tamika thinks him incapable of love. Other Greenfield titles for the K-3 crowd include SHE COME BRINGING ME THAT LITTLE BABY GIRL (Lippincott, 1974).

Janell's imaginary friend irritates her mother, but her Aunt Bea encourages her to find real friends at school.

His parents try to plan his life and friends, but Billy has ideas of his own.

Turn of the century story about Christmas, picking a tree, dinner preparation and the festival itself as celebrated by a black family. AUNT FLOSSIE'S HATS (AND CRAB CAKES LATER) is a 1991 title about two sisters who visit their great-aunt.

A nine-hour train ride takes Beppy and Babs to visit Lulu for the summer. Traveler's Aid, the conductors, and their own self-reliance assure them of safety. Set in the 1930s.

Designed to heighten esteem of African American children.

After raring like her big sister Kyla all day, the little sister has the tables turned on her when Kyla does like her. A sweet and loving story by a black author.

A pig from Alaska and Maya learn about fun together.


With sorrow for what they're leaving, but with hope for a better future outside the inner city, a family prepares to move.


Three little sisters enjoy each other's company.


Language and art are subtle and rich with emotion in this story of a girl and her mother remembering the mother's childhood.


Little girl worries about her mother being lonely when the girl starts to school in this new twist on an ever present concern.


A seven year old goes for a walk with a neighbor's dog. Also classified in Fiction.


A city-dwelling black family gets ready for Christmas.


Donny has just one dollar to spend for Mama's birthday gift and he knows just what to get but he must overcome his reluctance to go out alone. Jones and Greenfield are mother and daughter.

A sly fox tries to steal the eggs she is delivering to a neighbor but the feisty little black girl outsmarts the fox.


Hugh learns to tell tall tales.


Mirandy wants Brother Wind to be her partner in the cakewalk contest. Coretta Scott King Award, 1989.


Nettie's friends - three animals - help her dress her tattered doll for a wedding.


A magical dashika brings a black snowman to life to help Jacob discover beauty in his black heritage. A different Christmas story which can be read all year long.


When Calvin Miles was 39 years old he learned to read and write. This book was composed as an assignment about Christmas. It was published by the Literacy Volunteers of New York City and revised at the request of Viking Children's Books editors to become this story of a boy who wished for a bike for Christmas.


Michael's dad, who works in a theatre, introduces Michael and his friends to ballet.


Whoever heard of a dragon married to a fairy? But that is what happens in this whimsical story when a dragon seeks help from a fairy to find him a wife.

A prose poem in which Jimmy explores the inner city as he dreams of flying like a bird.


Even though his parents don't own a car, Matthew likes Saturday mornings when the car owners wash their cars, because "something wild happens" whenever people set out to wash their cars.


Grandma gives her youngest granddaughter dancing shoes. The little girl feels that the shoes are magic since she can do so many dances. In the process of showing off she falls in the mud and her feet don't feel the same. Can she recapture the magic? Both author and illustrator are black.


The new drugstore cat had a short tale and a temper to match causing it to scratch a customer and prompting the druggist's daughter to consider taking the cat back to the country.


A sequel to TAR BEACH. Cassie has Harriet Tubman as her guide to retrace the steps of escaping slaves.


By a popular black author. THE BLACK FAMILY DINNER QUILT (Tradesy House, 1993) is one of Ringgold's "story quilt books".


By a black author/illustrator. Based on a story quilt of Cassie Lightfoot who lived in Harlem in the 1930s and dreamt she could fly. Caldecott Honor Book, Coretta Scott King Award for illustrations, 1992.

Four stories about pollution, playing with fire, bad manners and stubbornness.


Baby brother ruins his older brothers block castle, but the older brother tenderly allows baby to help anyway. The characters are black, the situation is universal.


Because he was the first child born in the new town of Yoruba, Javaka's eighth birthday is a time of special celebration.


Two black children talk of the relationship with their father and of how he acts when they misbehave.


A warm and touching story about two children who play together when their parents are gone. Robert resents Steve's invasion of his space until Stevie is gone.


Willie blows a mean horn says his small son who tells of his father playing a trumpet in a jazz jamboree.


Emeke is jeered by his friends because he wants to fly and decides to ask Good Snake for help.


Jason is allowed to help his mother bathe his new baby sister and he is permitted to hold her. Then mother gives him the hug he craves.
Andro makes such good rhythms with his eating utensils that he seems miraculous to Ty. When Ty brings the stuff for kitchen bands and his family and friends, Andro really proves his musical skills.

Omar's mother works as a maid for rich white people. Omar goes with her from the South Bronx one Christmas Eve. The snow they see on the way delights Omar.

White was a native of the British West Indies and was brought to the United States when he was five. The story of Sati must come out of that background. Sati was a Rastifarian, a member of a branch of Christianity which came out of Egypt, brought to the West Indies by the blacks. Then his aunt brought him to New York where he had to make many adjustments.

Three black children romp through the neighborhood, seeing hopscotch, a spurting hydrant, a storefront church service, the movies and gangs.