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ABSTRACT

This annotated list of black literature (48 books)--designated for reading aloud by teachers, for multiple-copy and library purchase, and for class study on the elementary school level--attempts to draw upon the significant contributions of black writers in America. A list of titles only (69) is recommended for classroom study and library purchase in the junior high school. In addition, a unit on black literature for senior high school students is proposed and accompanied by a list of suggested reading materials (100 books). (MF)

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Department of Instructional Services

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION  
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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AFRO-AMERICAN LITERATURE

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Believing that Black writers of America have made a significant but often unrecognized contribution to American letters, the committee recommends that the inclusion of appropriate literary selections by Black writers at all grade levels be accomplished by inclusion of such writings in classroom studies and broader selections of similar materials be available in all school libraries. The following report and recommendations indicate which selections have been deemed appropriate for classroom study and which for library collections as well as recommended grade levels.

The quotations preceding the section for the senior high school are particularly appropriate for that level, but can be broadly applied to all levels of instruction.

#### ELEMENTARY

#### BOOKS SUGGESTED FOR READING ALOUD BY THE TEACHER:

##### Grade Kindergarten

Keats, Ezra Jack. Peter's Chair. Harper, 1967. \$3.79

Here, again, is the family so endearingly shown in The Snowy Day and Whistle for Willie. Peter is now bigger and is no longer the only child. What does his father mean, anyway, "Would you like to paint sister's high chair?" Dispirited and jealous, Peter rescues his little chair and other belongings and plans to run away.

\*Keats, Ezra Jack. The Snowy Day. Viking, 1962. \$3.00

Delightful account of a child's first experiences in the snow. Main character is an appealing Negro child. Caldecot Award 1962.

##### Grade 1

Beim, Jerrold. Swimming Hole. Illustrated by Louis Darling, Morrow, 1951, \$2.95

A small picture book that humorously ridicules "color prejudice" in such a way that the youngest child can understand its point.

Keats, Ezra Jack. A Letter to Amy. Harper, 1968. \$3.95

Peter from The Snowy Day is seen to be growing up in this story where he writes a letter to Amy inviting her to his birthday party. When the letter blows away on Peter's way to mail it, the stage is set for the surprise ending.

##### Grade 2

Aliki. A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver. Prentice-Hall, 1965. \$4.25

A picture book about the well known ex-slave who became a citizen honored by the world.

Udry, Janice May. What Mary Jo Shared. Illustrated by Eleanor Mill. Whitman, 1966. \$2.95

Shy little Mary Jo wants to participate in sharing time at school. She finally thinks of sharing her physician father. Mary Jo happens to be a Negro.

Grade 3

Cobb, Alice. The Swimming Pool. Friendship, 1957. \$2.95

A mixed neighborhood is saved from deterioration when young boys see the need for an integrated swimming pool.

Keats, Ezra Jack. John Henry, an American Legend. (Folklore) Pantheon, 1965. \$3.50

A simplified picture book version of the legend of the Negro folk hero which lends itself to reading aloud.

Grade 4

Burchard, Peter. Bimby. Coward, 1968. \$3.50

Bimby is the story of decision in the life of a young slave living on the Sea Islands of Georgia just before the Civil War. Bimby was going with one-armed Jesse to the white folks' picnic. Suddenly, without warning, happiness turned to nightmare, and a growing boy is thrust toward manhood by an unforeseen event.

\*Carlson, Natalie Savage. The Empty Schoolhouse. Harper, 1965. \$3.50

This award winning story about a Negro family in a Louisiana parish is told by Emma, a 14-year-old dropout. This is a sensitive and thought-provoking story of the school integration problem, which after many unhappy incidents resolves itself and the school continues.

Grade 5

Fall, Thomas. Canal Boat to Freedom. Dial, 1966. \$3.50

Excellent story of the Underground Railroad. Strong characterizations, including a heartwarming friendship between Lundius, a former slave and Benja Lown, whose job it is to walk miles along the towpaths, leading the horses that pulled the canal boat.

Newfeld, John. Edgar Allen. S. G. Phillips, Inc., 1968. \$3.95

The Rev. Robert Fickett, His wife and four children who live in a privileged and conservative small town in California, adopt Edgar Allen, a small Negro boy. The story, told by twelve-year-old Michael, relates the events of a turbulent year. The bitter campaign of angry phone calls, threats, a burning cross on the lawn, the threatened loss of his church--combined with inner doubts and confusions, bring the Ficketts to realize that good intentions are not enough.

Grade 6

Jones, Adrienne. Sail, Calypso! Little, Brown, 1968. \$4.95

A lonely stretch of summer beach, two boys, and a derelict boat, half buried in the sand, provide the setting for this story. Clay, a Negro, and Paul, the white boy, discover they must work together to recover the boat.

\*Yates, Elizabeth. Amos Fortune, Free Man. Illustrated by Nora S. Unwin. E. P. Dutton and Company, 1950. \$3.25

Amos Fortune, born free in Africa, was sold in America as a slave. Well treated by a series of masters, Amos learned the tanner's trade and eventually earned his freedom. This is a picture of slavery, slave running, and sales in the North.

BOOKS RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE FOR LIBRARY USE

Grades Kindergarten to 2nd

Elkin, Benjamin. Why the Sun was Late. Parents, 1966. \$3.00  
A free rendition of an old African folk tale.

Grifalconi, Ann. City Rhythms. Bobbs, 1965. \$4.95  
Beautifully illustrated book about Jimmy, a little Negro boy, who suddenly becomes aware of the rhythmic sounds of the subway, the market place, and other city noises.

\*Keats, Ezra Jack. Whistle for Willie. Viking, 1964. \$3.35  
Small children will identify readily with Peter's desire to learn how to whistle. When he finally succeeds, they will know exactly why he whistled not only for his dog, Willie, but all the way to the grocery store and back.

Lexau, Joan M. Benjie. Dial, 1964. \$3.00  
An appealing story of a small, shy Negro boy who lives with his grandmother and is too timid to speak to other people. He finds, when he is thinking of other people, he speaks.

Lexau, Joan M. The Rooftop Mystery. (I Can Read Mystery) Harper, 1968. \$2.57  
Albert helps Sam and his family move four blocks to a new home. Because Sam doesn't want to carry his sister's big doll, he and Albert leave it in a safe place. What happens to the doll is the baffling mystery. The pictures show Sam is a Negro.

McBrown, Gertrude Parthenia. Picture Poetry Book. Illustrated by Lois Jones, Assoc., 1935. \$1.40  
Simple verses, attractively illustrated by a Negro artist. One of the earliest works of its kind which is still useful.

Palmer, Candida. A Ride on High. Lippincott, 1966. \$2.95  
Two small Negro boys go on an elevated train to see a ball game. Tony loses the return trip token. They show their resourcefulness in working out a way to get home.

Randall, Blossom. Fun for Chris. Whitman, 1956. \$1.75  
Two little boys, one a Negro, are playing together, when a neighbor child refuses to join the fun. Chris' mother explains that skin color differs, as flowers and other living things.

Taylor, Sydney. The Dog Who Came to Dinner. Illustrated by John E. Johnson. Follett, 1966. \$1.83

This is the story of two families, one white, the other Negro, each of whom are under the impression that the large, obstreperous dog that is blighting a dinner party belongs to the other.

Vogel, Ilse-Margaret. Hello Henry. Illustrated by the author. Parents, 1965. \$2.95

Two young boys named Henry, whose mothers have become lost in the supermarket, play together contentedly until their mothers find them again. Theirs is a friendship upon first sight, and the fact that one boy is white and one is Negro is handled with ease, simply, and realistically.

Grades 3-4

- Brooks, Gwendolyn. Bronzeville Boys and Girls. (Poetry) Harper, 1956. \$2.50  
A collection of poems about city children by the well-known Negro poet and Pulitzer Prize Winner.
- Carlson, Natalie Savage. Ann Aurelia and Dorothy. Harper, 1965. \$3.79  
A heartwarming story of two good friends. Ann Aurelia lives with a foster mother ("she even joined the PTA for me") and Dorothy is a member of a middle class Negro family. A good girls' story.
- Clymer, Elinor. The Big Pile of Dirt. Holt, 1968. \$3.95  
The plot centers around the universal problem of inner-city children--no place to play. When they discover a junk-filled vacant lot all seems fine, especially when a big pile of dirt is delivered to their playground. After many months the lot is changed into a pocket park by the city.
- Epstein, Sam and Beryl. George Washington Carver: Negro Scientist. Garrard, 1960. \$1.98  
Of all the biographies about Carver for young readers, this one will best sustain attention. Large print and colorful illustration.
- Justus, May. New Boy in School. Hastings, 1963. \$2.95  
This is a Negro boy's experiences in an all-white classroom in a Tennessee school. One friend and some understanding adults ease the transition.
- Koningsburg, Elaine L. Jennifer, Hecate, Macbeth, William McKinley, and Me, Elizabeth. Atheneum, 1967. \$3.41  
Jennifer enjoys making her white friend Elizabeth her apprentice witch in their bout of sorcery and it all leads to the magic of friendship.
- McGovern, Ann. Runaway Slave: The Story of Harriet Tubman. Four Winds, 1965. \$2.50  
The true story of a Negro woman who led over 300 slaves through the Underground Railroad to freedom.
- Molarsky, Osmond. Song of the Empty Bottles. Walck, 1968. \$3.75  
More than anything else Thaddeus loves to listen to Mr. Andrews sing and play at the Neighborhood House and is determined to earn money for his own guitar. As he collects bottles and newspapers he makes up a song which is included in the book. A fine picture of contemporary city life.
- Stevenson, Augusta. Booker T. Washington: Ambitious Boy. Bobbs, 1960. \$2.25  
Useful as an easy-to-read introduction to the life of the great Negro educator, founder of Tuskegee Institute. Deals mainly with his early years.

Grades 5-6

- Borland. Phillis Wheatley: Young Colonial Poet. Bobbs, 1968. \$2.50  
This biography brings to light the personality of the first Negro woman to achieve importance in America. Phillis Wheatley came to Boston on a slave ship, could speak no English and in 1761 was purchased by the Wheatleys, a prominent Boston family. The Wheatley children helped her to learn to speak English. At the age of 12, Phillis began to write poetry and she is remembered in both America and England as a foremost Colonial poet.

Clayton, Edward. Martin Luther King, The Peaceful Warrior. Prentice-Hall, 1964. \$3.50

A biography of the man who believed in non-violence all his life and stressed these principles in his determined fight to win first class citizenship for American Negroes.

\*Graham, Lorenz. Northtown. Crowell, 1965. \$3.95

David's family has moved from the South where they have had personal contact with the violence associated with bigotry. The adjustment to Northtown High School is difficult and his observations about people are sharpened as he is accepted by the captain of the football team who is poor and white and snubbed by the star Negro Athlete, who comes from a professional family.

\*Graham, Shirley and George D. Lipscomb. Dr. George Washington Carver. Julian Messner, Inc., 1944. \$3.25

A mature biography of this famous scientist who, almost alone, lifted the South out of its agricultural depression.

Johnston, Johanna. A Special Bravery. Dodd, 1967. \$3.25

Stories of outstanding Negroes whose "special bravery" made them memorable have been written especially for very young readers. Attucks, J. Forten, Banneker, H. Tubman, Douglass, Smalls, Washington Carver, Hanson, Bethune, J. Robinson, M. Anderson, Bunche, King.

Meadocroft, Enid. By Secret Railway. Crowell, 1948. \$4.50

An interesting account of the Underground Railway that caused many slaves to escape to freedom. An exciting story involving David Morgan and his friend Jim, a young colored boy, who has come North (with his freedom papers) to join his father. The story takes place just prior to Lincoln's nomination for the presidency.

Petry, Ann. Harriett Tubman, Conductor on the Underground Railroad. Crowell, 1955. \$3.95

This book gives a detailed picture of Harriett's childhood and youth as a slave on the plantation--and the training and influence that made her what she was.

Shotwell, Louisa R. Roosevelt Grady. World, 1963. \$2.95

A realistic account of Negro and Mexican children who are denied the opportunity for adequate schooling because their family are migrant farm workers.

Stolz, Mary. A Wonderful Terrible Time. Harper, 1967. \$3.95

Two Negro girls from a ghetto society experience a change in their personal friendship while at a summer camp. A good book as a camp story or as a picture of friendship values--but the most striking aspect of the book is that in these racially mixed communities, integration is not the issue.

Swift, Hildegard. North Star Shining. Morrow, 1947. \$3.95

Vivid account of the important role played by Negroes in our history, written in verse. Illustrated by Lynd Ward.

#### BOOKS SUGGESTED FOR MULTIPLE COPY PURCHASE

The elementary committee recommends the following books be purchased in multiple copies to be stored centrally and requisitioned for use. It is suggested that they be read by a group with the guidance of the teacher.

Grade 2

Young, Margaret B. The Picture Life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Watts, 1968  
\$2.50

Photographic pictures and brief text telling the life story of the man who stressed non-violence for his people.

Grade 3

Burchardt, Nellie. Project Cat. Watts, 1966. \$3.29

A homeless cat draws children who live in a housing development together into an action group.

Grade 4

Carruth, Ella Kaiser. The Story of Mary McLeod Bethune: She Wanted to Read.  
Abingdon, 1966. \$2.25

This is the story of the girl and the woman who wanted desperately to learn and to share that learning with others, and who kept at both projects from the day she walked five miles to attend school for the first time until long after she had risen to a place of honor among the world's great.

Grade 5

Madian, Jon. Beautiful Junk: A Story of the Watts Towers. Little, Brown & Company, 1968. \$3.95

Charley stood in the alley looking at the junk around him. Angrily he picked up a bottle and smashed it on the pavement. Then another. All of the time he was saying, "dirty junk!" Charley was rebelling against his environment. He is amazed to see a man collect the junk and create beautiful towers in Watts Section of Los Angeles. After he climbed the towers, Charley was ready to turn his destructive instincts into helping with the old man's work. Both Charley and the old man are Negroes.

Grade 6

Brodsky, Mimi. The House at 12 Rose Street. Abelard, 1966. \$3.50

Will Franklin and his family move into an allwhite neighborhood. Bobby Myers, and his family, who live next door, prove to be real friends through the trying times. The town and Bobby's Boy Scout Troop eventually accept the new neighbors.

\*Recommended in the Literature Guide

JUNIOR HIGH

SUGGESTED FOR CLASSROOM STUDY

Baldwin, James. The Fire Next Time. Dial, 1963.

Bontemps, Arna. American Negro Poetry. Hill and Wang, 1963.

Dunbar, Paul Lawrence. Collected Works. Dodd.

Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man. Random House.

Gloster, Hugh M. Negro Voices in American Fiction. Russell, 1965.



- Hansberry, Lorraine. Raisin in the Sun. Random, 1951.
- Hughes, Langston. The Best Short Stories of Negro Writers. Little, 1967.
- Hughes, Langston. The Langston Hughes Reader. Braziller, 1958.
- Kelley, William. The Best Short Stories of Negro Writers. Little, 1967.
- McKay, Claude. Anthology--Golden Slippers. Harper.
- Meltzer, Milton, Editor. In Their Own Words. Crowell, 1964.

SUGGESTED PURCHASES FOR LIBRARIES

- Baldwin, James. Go Tell It On The Mountain. Dial, 1963.
- Baldwin, James. How Long Has the Train Been Gone. Dial, 1968.
- Baldwin, James. Nobody Knows My Name. Dial, 1961
- Baldwin, James. Notes of a Native Son. Dial, 1963.
- Barrett, William F. Lilies of the Field. Doubleday, 1962.
- Bennett, Lerone, Jr. Negro Mood. Ballantine, 1964.
- Bennett, Lerone. Before the Mayflower. Johnson, 1962.
- Bennett, Lerone. What Manner of Man. Sands, 1963.
- Bonham, Frank. Durango Street. Dutton, 1965.
- Bontemps, Arna. The Best Short Stories of Negro Writers. Little, 1967.
- Bontemps, Arna. Famous Negro Athletes. Dodd, 1965.
- Boyle, Sara. The Desegregated Heart. Morrow, 1961.
- Bravley, Benjamin. Negro Genius. Tannen.
- Broderick, Francis. W.E.B. DuBois, Negro Leader in a Time of Crisis. Sanford, 1959.
- Brodsky, Mimi. The House at 12 Rose Street. Abelard, 1966.
- Daniel, Sadie L. Women Builders. Assoc. Publishers, 1963.
- Douglass, Frederick. The Life, and Times of Frederick Douglass. Macmillan, Collier.
- Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of a Slave. Doubleday.
- Drake, St. Clair and Horace R. Clayton. Black Metropolis. Harper, 1945.
- DuBois, W.E.B. Souls of Black Folk. Fawcett.
- DuBois, W.E.B. Gift of Black Folk.
- Duderman, Martin. In White America. Houghton.
- Dunbar, Paul Lawrence. Complete Poems of Dunbar. Dodd.

- Ellison, Ralph. Shadow and Act. Random House.
- Farjeon, Eleanor. Kaliedoscope. Walck, 1963.
- Foner, Philip S. The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass. Citadel, 1964.
- Franklin, John Hope. From Slavery to Freedom. Knopf, 1967.
- Herskovits, Melville. The Myths of the Myths of the Negro Past. Beacon.
- Hill, Herbert. Soon One Morning. Knoph, 1963.
- Himes, Chester. The Third Generation. New Am Lib., 1964.
- Hughes, Langston. Famous Negroes of America. Dodd, 1958.
- Hughes, Langston. Fight for Freedom. Norton, 1962.
- Johnson, James Weldon and Rosamund Johnson. Books of American Negro Spirituals. Viking, 1940.
- Johnson, James Weldon. Golden Slippers. Harper.
- Johnson, James Weldon. God's Trombones. Harper.
- Jones, Leroi. Blues People. Morrow.
- Kelley, William. A Drop of Patience. Doubleday.
- King, Martin L. Strength to Love. Harper, 1963.
- Lomax, Louis. When the Word is Given. New Amer. Lib., 1963.
- Margolies, Edward. Native Sons. Rev., 1968.
- Marshall, Paule. Brown Girl, Brownstones. Random, 1959.
- Mayfield, Julian. The Long Night. Vanguard.
- Petry, Ann. Tituba of Salem Village. Crowell, 1964.
- Pools, Rosey E., Editor. Beyond the Blues: New Poems by American Negroes. Kent, England: Hand and Flowers Press, 1962.
- Redding, J. Saunders. The Lonesome Road. Doubleday, 1958.
- Richardson, Benjamin. Great American Negroes. Crowell, 1956.
- Rowan, Carl. Go South to Sorrow. Random House, 1957.
- Rowan. Pitiful and the Proud. Random House, 1956.
- I Am the Darker Brother.
- Walker, Margaret. Jubilee. Houghton, 1966.

- Washington, Booker T. Up From Slavery. Dell.
- Whitney, Phyllis A. Willow Hill. McKay.
- Williams, John. The Best Short Stories of Negro Writers. Little, 1967.
- Williams, John. Sissie. Farrar, 1963.
- Williams, John. This Is My Country Too. New Am. Lib.
- Wright, Richard. Native Son. Harper, 1940.
- Wright, Richard. Black Boy.
- Yerby, Frank. The Foxes of Harrow. Dial, 1946.

(This committee makes the following recommendations for the inclusion of the following books for the following reasons:)

The following quotes are taken from the book The Negro in American Literature by Abraham Chapman.

"Every literature course should deepen the student's understanding of the literary process as a whole and the ways of the human imagination.

"A study of the literature by and about Negroes, on the basis of close reading of the texts and the same literary criteria employed in other literature courses, can teach the student as much about literary structures and forms, imagery, metaphors, point of view, and other components of the literary process as any traditional course in the English curriculum. At the same time it can contribute new and distinct insights into fundamental aspects of the American imagination and can illuminate some of the important social and historical sources of American literature and backgrounds of American thought.

"While the author fused these social and historical truths into the work in the smithy of the literary process, together with the deepest personal and most private truths, the student must understand the social and historical context to appreciate how the artist transformed it all into a whole and unified literary reality.

"Paradoxical as it may seem at first glance, a separate course on the Negro in American literature is an appropriate academic way to establish and study the reality that the Negro is an organic, historic, integral and inseparable part of the literature of the United States.

"This historical, social, and economic context indicates the incessant conflict of values, the tensions, and the turmoil which shaped the American dream.

"If it is imperative "to come to know" the Negro (American), in the words of Styron, and not only for the moral reasons he cites, but because it is necessary and important if American is to know itself, then we need far more than the voices captures in the set-up tape-recorded interviews by Warren and the evidence of the historian, the sociologist and the behavioral scientist. The study of the Negro in American literature has its distinctive relevance, value and meaning. In literature we have the enduring expression in characters, narrative structures, plays, poems, clusters of images, metaphors, symbols, and the fusion of the conscious and subconscious, the richness and depth of the imaginative way of knowing. In literature we have the compacted totality and the concrete details of the contradictory and diverse American feelings, attitudes, and levels of awareness of the Negro in the United States."

#### GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIT

1. To introduce students to Negro contributions to literature.
2. To help students of all races to a better understanding of themselves and of each other.
3. To show that the concerns of American Negroes exhibit the universality of human experience at a special American viewpoint.
4. To explore the uniqueness of Negro experience as related to Negro literary creations.
5. To relate the contents of this unit to contemporary life.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Sensitivity In-serve Training for Teachers (inclusion of all recommended books in the library).
2. Objectives: a) Provide identification for the Negro student in the scope of American literature. b) Provide the white students with insights into the black life. c) Provide evidence to both groups that the black man is also articulate. d) Point out the common element between the two.

Recommendation for the high school teacher:

Negro Literature for High School Students by Barbara Doods, (pp. 117-144)

BOOKS FOR CLASSROOM SETS

- Baldwin, James. The Fire Next Time. Dial, 1963.
- Bone, Robert A. The Negro Novel in America. Yale, 1965.
- Bontemps, Arna. American Negro Poetry. Hill and Wang, 1963.
- Dunbar, Paul Lawrence. Collected Works. Dodd. (Dialects)
- Ellison, Ralph. Invisible Man. Random House
- Gloster, Hugh M. Negro Voices in American Fiction. Russell, 1965.
- Hansberry, Lorraine. Raisin in the Sun. Random, 1951.
- Hughes, Langston. The Best Short Stories of Negro Writers. Little, 1967.
- Kelley, William. The Best Short Stories of Negro Writers. Little, 1967.
- Hughes, Langston. The Langston Hughes Reader. Braziller, 1958.
- McKay, Claude. Anthology--Golden Slippers. Harper.
- Meltzer, Milton, Editor. In Their Own Words. Crowell, 1964.
- Wright, Richard. Native Son. Harper, 1940.

BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

- Anderson, Charles L. Frustration: A Negro Poet Looks at America. Puebla, N.M.:  
U.N. Sch., 1961.
- Aptheker, Herbert. American Negro Slave Revolts. Int. Pubs, 1943.
- Aptheker, Herbert, editor. A Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States. Citadel, 1962.
- Baldwin, James. Go Tell It On The Mountain. Dial, 1963.
- Baldwin, James. How Long Has the Train Been Gone. Dial, 1968.
- Baldwin, James. Nobody Knows My Name. Dial, 1961.
- Baldwin, James. Notes of a Native Son. Dial, 1963.
- Bardolph, Richard. The Negro Vanguard. Vintage, 1959.
- Barrett, William F. Lilies of the Field. Doubleday, 1962.
- Bennett, Lerone, Jr. Negro Mood. Ballantine, 1964.
- Bennett, Lerone. Before the Mayflower. Johnson, 1962.

- Bennett, Lerone. What Manner of Man. Sands, 1963.
- Bonham, Frank. Durango Street. Dutton, 1965.
- Bontemps, Arna. The Best Short Stories of Negro Writers. Little, 1967.
- Bontemps, Arna. Famous Negro Athletes. Dodd, 1965.
- Bontemps, Arna. 100 Years of Negro Freedom. Dodd, 1961.
- Boyle, Sara. The Desegregated Heart. Morrow, 1961.
- Bravley, Benjamin. Negro Genius. Tannen
- Broderick, Francis. W.E.B. DuBois, Negro Leader in a Time of Crisis. Stanford, 1959.
- Brodsky, Mimi. The House at 12 Rose Street. Abelard, 1966. (Slow Readers)
- Bronz, Stephen H. Root of Negro Racial Consciousness: 1920's. Libra, 1964.
- Brown, Claude. Manchild in the Promise Land.
- Butcher, Margaret J. Negro in American Culture. Knopf, 1956.
- Clift, Virgil A., Editor. Negro Education in America. Harper, 1962.
- Daniel, Sadie L. Women Builders. Assoc. Publishers, 1963.
- Douglass, Frederick. The Life, and Times of Frederick Douglass. Macmillan, Collier.
- Douglass, Frederick. Narrative of a Slave. Doubleday.
- Drake, St. Clair and Horace R. Clayton. Black Metropolis. Harper, 1945.
- DuBois, W.E.B. Souls of Black Folk. Fawcett.
- DuBois, W.E.B. The Suppression of the African Slave-Trade. Russell.
- DuBois, W.E.B. Gift of Black Folk.
- Duderman, Martin. In White America. Houghton.
- Dunbar, Paul Lawrence. Complete Poems of Dunbar. Dodd.
- Ellison, Ralph. Shadow and Act. Random House.
- Farjeon, Eleanor. Kaliedoscope. Walck, 1963.
- Foner, Philip S. The Live and Writings of Frederick Douglass. Citadel, 1964.
- Franklin, John Hope. From Slavery to Freedom. Knopf, 1967.
- Franklin, J. H. The Militant South, 1800-1861. Beacon, 1956.
- Franklin, J. H. Reconstruction After the Civil War. U. of Chicago, 1961.
- Frazier, E. Franklin. The Negro in the United States. Macmillan, 1949.

- Hernton, C. C. Sex and Racism in America. Grove.
- Herskovits, Melville. The Myths of the Negro Past. Beacon.
- Hill, Herbert. Soon One Morning. Knoph, 1963.
- Himes, Chester. The Third Generation. New Am. Lib., 1964.
- Hughes, Langston. Famous Negro Heroes of America. Dodd, 1958.
- Hughes, Langston. Fight for Freedom. Norton, 1962.
- Humphrey, Hubert. School Desegregation. Crowell, 1964.
- Johnson, James Weldon and Rosamund Johnson. Books of American Negro Spirituals. Viking, 1940.
- Johnson, James Weldon. Golden Slippers. Harper.
- Johnson, James Weldon. God's Trombones. Harper.
- Jones, Leroi. Blues People. Morrow.
- Kelley, William. A Drop of Patience. Doubleday.
- Killens, John. Black Man's Burden. Trident.
- Lincoln, Charles. Black Muslims in America. Beacon, 1961.
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