

Black History Month

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200 items

To celebrate Black History Month we have created this reading list. It's full of classics, modern classics and factual works by Black authors or about Black history.

We've also added in some interesting video accompaniments to the list, which you can view on Box of Broadcasts, which is available free of charge for all current University of Essex staff and students

Box of Broadcasts (BoB) is an on demand TV and radio service for education. With BoB you can: access millions of recorded broadcasts dating back to the 1990s record programmes from over 65 free-to-air channels create clips, playlists and citation embed content in VLEs and share on social media search programme transcripts and subtitles

Find out how to access it here.

Black History Month

[Website](#) | Official website for Black History Month

100 Great Black Britons

[Website](#)

Fiction (38 items)

List, by Yomi Adegoke, 2023-10-03

[Book](#)

Girl with the Louding Voice, by Abi Dare, 2021-02-23

[Book](#)

Edge of Here, by Kelechi Okafor, 2023-09-14

[Book](#)

Situationship, by Taylor-Dior Rumble, 2023-08-17

[Book](#)

Honey and Spice, by Bolu Babalola, 2023-07-04

[Book](#)

Black Cake, by Charmaine Wilkerson, 2022-02-03

[Book](#)

The black flamingo, by Dean Atta; Anshika Khullar, 2020

[Book](#)

Black leopard red wolf, by Marlon James, 2019

Book

Moon Witch, Spider King, by Marlon James, 2022-03-03

Book

Wahala, by Nikki May, 2022-12-27

Book

Queenie, by Candice Carty-Williams, 2021

Book

People Person, by Candice Carty-Williams, 2022-09-13

Book

When We Were Birds, by Ayanna Lloyd Banwo, 2022-02-10

Book

In Every Mirror She's Black, by Lola Akinmade Akerstrom, 2022-06-09

Book

32 candles: a novel, by Ernessa T. Carter, 2011

Book

The hate u give, by Angie Thomas, 2017

Book

An American Marriage, by Tayari Jones, 2019

Book

The vanishing half, by Brit Bennett, 2021

Book

Red at the bone / Jacqueline Woodson., by Woodson, Jacqueline., 2021

Book

Last Suspicious Holdout, by Ladee Hubbard, 2022-04-14

Book

Love in Colour, by Bolu Babalola, 2021-06-24

Book

Girl, woman, other / Bernardine Evaristo., by Evaristo, Bernardine., 2020

Book

Such a fun age, by Kiley Reid

Book

My sister, the serial killer / Oyinkan Braithwaite., by Braithwaite, Oyinkan., 2019

Book

Freshwater, by Akwaeke Emezi, 2019

Book

Binti, by Nnedi Okorafor, 2015

Book

Americanah, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2017

Book

The sellout, by Paul Beatty, 2016

Book | A biting satire about a young man's isolated upbringing and the race trial that sends him to the Supreme Court, *The Sellout* showcases a comic genius at the top of his game.

Noughts & crosses: the graphic novel adaptation, by Malorie Blackman; John Aggs; Ian Edginton, 2015

Book

White teeth, by Zadie Smith, 2017

Book

NW, by Zadie Smith, 2013

Book | Zadie Smith's brilliant tragi-comic *NW* follows four Londoners. A portrait of modern urban life, *NW* is funny, sad and urgent - as brimming with vitality as the city itself.

The thing around your neck, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2009

Book | A collection of short stories.

Half of a yellow sun, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2007

Book | With astonishing empathy and the effortless grace of a natural storyteller, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie weaves together the lives of three characters swept up in the turbulence of the decade. As Nigerian troops advance and the three must run for their lives, their ideals are severely tested, as are their loyalties to one another.

Purple hibiscus: a novel, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2005, c2004

Book | This extraordinary debut novel from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is about the blurred lines between the old gods and the new, childhood and adulthood, love and hatred - the grey spaces in which truths are revealed and real life is lived.

The woman next door, by Yewande Omotoso, 2016

Book | Hortensia and Marion are next door neighbours in a charming, bougainvillea-laden Cape Town suburb. One day an unforeseen event forces the women together. Could long-held mutual loathing transform into friendship?

The long song, by Andrea Levy, 2010

Book | Set in Jamaica during the last turbulent years of slavery and the early years of freedom that followed.

Small island, by Andrea Levy, 2015

Book | Told in four voices, *Small Island* is a courageous novel of tender emotion and sparkling wit, of crossings taken and passages lost, of shattering compassion and of reckless optimism in the face of insurmountable barriers---in short, an encapsulation of the immigrant's life.

Kindred, by Octavia E. Butler, 2014

[Book](#) | The longer Dana spends in 19th century Maryland - a very dangerous place for a Black woman - the more aware she is that her life might be over before it's even begun.

Racism & Anti-Racism (16 items)

Black and British, by David Olusoga, 2021-06-10

[Book](#)

I Heard What You Said, by Jeffrey Boakye, 2022-06-09

[Book](#)

Taking up space / Chelsea Kwakye, Ore Ogunbiyi., by Kwakye, Chelsea., 2020

[Book](#)

Why I'm no longer talking to white people about race, by Reni Eddo-Lodge, 2017

[Book](#)

Me and white supremacy : how to recognise your privilege, combat racism and change the world / Layla F. Saad., by Saad, Layla F., 2021

[Book](#)

Just Mercy (Film Tie-In Edition), by Bryan Stevenson, 2020-01-09

[Book](#)

Black, listed : Black British culture explored / Jeffrey Boakye., by Boakye, Jeffrey., 2019

[Book](#)

Caste : the lies that divide us / Isabel Wilkerson., by Wilkerson, Isabel., 2021

[Book](#)

Dismantling race in higher education: racism, whiteness and decolonising the academy, edited by Jason Arday; Heidi Safia Mirza, 2018

[Book](#)

How to be an antiracist / Ibram X. Kendi., by Kendi, Ibram X., 2019

[Book](#)

Good Talk, by Mira Jacob, 2021

[Book](#)

They can't kill us all : the story of Black Lives Matter / Wesley Lowery., by Lowery, Wesley., 2017

[Book](#)

White fragility : why it's so hard for white people to talk about racism / Robin DiAngelo., by DiAngelo, Robin J., 2019

[Book](#)

Natives: race and class in the ruins of empire, by Akala, 2019

[Book](#)

The new Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander, 2010

[Book](#) | In a bold and innovative argument, a rising legal star shows readers how the mass incarceration of a disproportionate number of Black men amounts to a devastating system of racial control.

Black like me: the definitive Griffin estate edition, corrected from original manuscripts, by John Howard Griffin, 2004

[Book](#) | Other editions available in the library

Autobiographies, biographies and memoirs (19 items)

100 great Black britons, by Vernon, Patrick; Angelina Osborne, 2021

[Book](#)

Slay in your lane : the Black girl bible / Yomi Adegoke & Elizabeth Uviebinene

., by Adegoke, Yomi., 2019

[Book](#)

Manifesto, by Bernardine Evaristo, 2022-09-22

[Book](#)

I know why the caged bird sings, by Maya Angelou, 1984, c1969

[Book](#) | Sent by their mother to live with their devout, self-sufficient grandmother in a small Southern town, Maya and her brother, Bailey, endure the ache of abandonment and the prejudice of the local "powhitetrash." At eight years old and back at her mother's side in St. Louis, Maya is attacked by a man many times her age—and has to live with the consequences for a lifetime. Years later, in San Francisco, Maya learns that love for herself, the kindness of others, her own strong spirit, and the ideas of great authors ("I met and fell in love with William Shakespeare") will allow her to be free instead of imprisoned.

Singin' and swingin' and gettin' merry like Christmas, by Maya Angelou, 1985, c1976

[Book](#)

Assata : an autobiography, by Assata Shakur, 2014

[Book](#)

Voices of the Windrush generation : the real story told by the people themselves / David Matthews., by Matthews, David., 2018

[Book](#)

When they call you a terrorist / Asha Bandele, Patrisse Khan-Cullor., by Bandele, Asha,

[Book](#)

The autobiography of Malcolm X, by Malcolm X; Alex Haley, 2001, c1965

[Book](#)

Dreams from my father: a story of race and inheritance, by Barack Obama, 2007

[Book](#)

Becoming, by Michelle Obama, 2021

[Book](#)

Born a crime : stories from a South African childhood / Trevor Noah., by Noah, Trevor,, 2021

[Book](#)

Long walk to freedom: the autobiography of Nelson Mandela, by Nelson Mandela, 2002

[Book](#)

| The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader of our time, A Long Walk to Freedom brilliantly re-creates the drama of the experiences that helped shape Nelson Mandela's destiny.

Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave, by Frederick Douglass; Houston A. Baker, 1982

[Book](#)

| Frederick Douglass's celebrated memoir is among the most influential works of the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement in the United States.

Melanin monologues: a black British perspective, by Natreema A. Adjaye, 2015

[Book](#)

Black boy: a record of childhood and youth, by Richard Wright; Herman Finkelstein Collection (Library of Congress), 1945

[Book](#)

| At four years of age, Richard Wright set fire to his home; at five his father deserted the family; by six Richard was - - temporarily - an alcoholic. Moved from home to home, from brick tenement to orphanage, he had had, by the age of twelve, only one year's formal education. It was in saloons, railroad yards and streets that he learned the facts about life under white subjection, about fear, hunger and hatred. Gradually he learned to play Jim Crow in order to survive in a world of white hostility, secretly satisfying his craving for books and knowledge until the time came when he could follow his dream of justice and opportunity in the north.

Zora Neale Hurston: a literary biography, by Robert E. Hemenway, c1977

[Book](#)

| Reconstructs the events, relationships, and achievements that marked the life of the Black novelist, folklorist, and anthropologist, assessing her important works and commitment to the Black folk tradition.

Harriet Tubman: the road to freedom, by Catherine Clinton, c2004

[Book](#)

| Celebrated for her courageous exploits as a conductor on the Underground Railroad, Harriet Tubman has entered history as one of nineteenth-century America's most enduring and important figures. But just who was this remarkable woman?

My life with Martin Luther King, Jr, by Coretta Scott King, 1970

[Book](#)

| This personal, inspirational account of the history of the Civil Rights Movement describes the author's relationship with Martin Luther King, Jr., detailing their marriage, the events of the 1960s, and King's tragic assassination.

Samira's Black History Month picks (72 items)

100 days, by Juliane Okot Bitek, 2016, ©2016

Book

A mercy, by Toni Morrison, 2008

Book

A taste of power: a Black woman's story, by Elaine Brown, 1994

Book

Beloved, by Toni Morrison, 2000

Book

Black boy: a record of childhood and youth, by Richard Wright; Herman Finkelstein Collection (Library of Congress), 1945

Book

Blackamoors: Africans in Tudor England, their presence, status and origins, by Onyeka, 2013, ©2013

Book

Breath, eyes, memory, by Edwidge Danticat, 1998, c1994

Book

Buck: a memoir, by Molefi K. Asante, 2013, ©2013

Book

Chains, by Laurie Halse Anderson, 2010, ©2008

Book

Day of tears, by Julius Lester, 2007

Book

Devil in a blue dress, by Walter Mosley, 2010

Book

For colored girls who have considered suicide, when the rainbow is enuf: a choreopoem, by Ntozake Shange, 2010

Book

Giovanni's room, by James Baldwin, 2007

Book

Go tell it on the mountain, by James Baldwin, 2001

Book

Letter from Birmingham Jail ; I have a dream, by Martin Luther King, 1990

Book

If he hollers let him go, by Chester B. Himes, 2016

Book

Incidents in the life of a slave girl: written by herself, by Harriet A. Jacobs; Lydia Maria

Child; Jean Fagan Yellin; John S. Jacobs, 2000

Book

Invisible man, by Ralph Ellison, 1965

Book

Jazz, by Toni Morrison, 1992

Book

Kaveena, by Boubacar Boris Diop; Bhakti Shringarpure; Sara Hanaburgh, 2016

Book

Kindred, by Octavia E. Butler, 2018

Book

Little Bee, by Chris Cleave, 2009

Book

Mama Day, by Gloria Naylor, 1993, ©1988

Book

Manchild in the promised land, by Claude Brown, 1966

Book

My soul to keep, by Tananarive Due, ©1997

Book

Narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, an American slave, written by himself: authoritative text, contexts, criticism, by Frederick Douglass; William L. Andrews; William S McFeely, 1996

Book

Native son, by Richard Wright, c2000

Book

On beauty: a novel, by Zadie Smith, 2005

Book

Parable of the sower, by Octavia E. Butler; Gloria Steinem, 2016, ©1993

Book

Rachel's blue, by Zakes Mda, 2016

Book

Roll of thunder, hear my cry, by Mildred D Taylor, 2003

Book

Roots, by Alex Haley; Sam Sloan, 2015, ©1976

Book

Selected poems of Langston Hughes, by Langston Hughes, 1986

Book

Silver sparrow, by Tayari Jones, ©2011

Book

Sojourner Truth: ain't I a woman?, by Pat McKissack; Fredrick McKissack, 1992, ©1992

Book

Someone knows my name, by Lawrence Hill, 2007

Book

Song of Solomon, by Toni Morrison, 1989

Book

Tales of the astonishing Black Spark, by Charlie J. Eskew; Ronald Ackins, 2018

Book

Tar baby, by Toni Morrison, 1997, c1981

Book

The book of night women, by Marlon James, 2014, ©2009

Book

The color purple, by Alice Walker, 1983, reprinted 1984

Book

The darkest child, by Delores Phillips, 2005

Book

The emperor has no clothes: teaching about race and racism to people who don't want to know, by Tema Okun, 2010, ©2010

Book

The emperor of Ocean Park, by Stephen L. Carter, ©2002

Book

The fire next time, by James Baldwin, 1964, c1963

Book

The help, by Kathryn Stockett, 2011

Book

The house girl, by Tara Conklin, ©2013

Book

The immortal life of Henrietta Lacks, by Rebecca Skloot, 2011

Book

The bluest eye, by Toni Morrison, 1990, c1970

Book

The intuitionist, by Colson Whitehead, 2017, ©1999

Book

The kitchen house, by Kathleen Grissom, 2013

Book

The known world, by Edward P Jones, 2004

Book

The long song, by Andrea Levy, 2010

Book

The new Jim Crow: mass incarceration in the age of colorblindness, by Michelle Alexander, 2010

Book

The snowy day, by Ezra Jack Keats, 1967

Book

The souls of Black folk, by W. E. B. Du Bois; Brent Hayes Edwards, 2007

Book

The street, by Ann Petry, 1986

Book

The twelve tribes of Hattie, by Ayana Mathis, 2013

Book

The warmth of other suns: the epic story of America's great migration, by Isabel Wilkerson, 2010, ©2010

Book

Their eyes were watching God: a novel, by Zora Neale Hurston; Holly Eley; Sherley Anne Williams, 1986

Book

African presence in early America, by Ivan Van Sertima, c1992

Book

Things fall apart, by Chinua Achebe; Mpalive-Hangson Msiska, 2008

Book

To kill a mockingbird, by Harper Lee, 2010, c1960

Book

Twelve years a slave, by Solomon Northup; Sue L Eakin; Joseph Logsdon, c1968, reprinted 1970

Book

Uncle Tom's cabin: or, Life among the lowly, by Harriet Beecher Stowe; Ann Douglas, 1981

Book

Understanding white privilege: creating pathways to authentic relationships across race, by Frances E. Kendall, 2013

Book

Up from slavery: authoritative text, contexts, and composition history, criticism, by Booker T. Washington; William L. Andrews, c1996

Book

Uprooting racism: how white people can work for racial justice, by Paul Kivel, 2017, ©2017

Book

Wench: a novel, by Dolan Perkins-Valdez, 2017, ©2010

Book

Why we can't wait, by Martin Luther King, 1964

Book

Women, race, & class, by Angela Y. Davis, 1982

Book

Zami, a new spelling of my name, by Audre Lorde, c1982

Book

On Screen (19 items)

HARDtalk, Thursday, 15 Dec 2016

Audio-visual document | Stephen Sackur talks to author Paul Beatty, whose Booker Prize-winning novel *Sellout* deploys biting satire to unpick the Black American experience. After eight years of a Black president, amid a swirl of demographic and social change, Black Americans still feel the bite of discrimination and prejudice. How best to respond?

HARDtalk, Thursday, 5 Jun 2014

Audio-visual document | HARDtalk speaks to the highly acclaimed Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Her fiction explores her country's troubled past and current challenges. How does this writer see Nigeria's story unfolding?

12 Years a Slave, by Robert Mulligan (director), 2008

Audio-visual document

Beloved, by Jonathan Demme; Oprah Winfrey, 2001

Audio-visual document

The color purple, by Steven Spielberg; Danny Glover; Adolph Caesar, 1985

Audio-visual document

We should all be feminists | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie | TEDxEuston, 12/4/2013

Audio-visual document | In this classic talk that started a worldwide conversation about feminism, Adichie asks that we begin to dream about and plan for a different, fairer world -- of happier men and women who are truer to themselves.

Woman's Hour, Wednesday, 19 Oct 2016

Audio-visual document | Interview with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

World Book Club, Sunday, 15 May 2016

[Audio-visual document](#) | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie talks about her novel set during the 1960s Biafran War in Nigeria. With Harriett Gilbert. From June 2009

Black and British: A Forgotten History, Tuesday, 22 Nov 2016

[Audio-visual document](#) | Watch the accompanying television series on Box of Broadcasts

By the People: The Election of Barack Obama, Saturday, 9 Jan 2010

[Audio-visual document](#) | Find out more about Barack Obama's journey to the White House with this documentary on Box of Broadcasts

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (2013), Saturday, 12 Nov 2016

[Audio-visual document](#) | Biopic based on Nelson Mandela's autobiography.

Half of a Yellow Sun (2013), Sunday, 14 May 2017

[Audio-visual document](#) | Watch the 2013 film adaptation of Half of a Yellow Sun for free on Box of Broadcasts

The color purple, by Steven Spielberg; Danny Glover; Adolph Caesar, 1985

[Audio-visual document](#)

Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth, Tuesday, 9 Jul 2013

[Audio-visual document](#) | Find out more about the author of The Color Purple with this documentary on Box of Broadcasts: Featuring interviews with Steven Spielberg and Quincy Jones, this is a penetrating insight into the life and work of an artist, a self-confessed renegade and passionate human rights activist.

Roots (2016), Wednesday, 8 Feb 2017

[Audio-visual document](#) | Remake of the iconic television series based on Haley's book.

Small Island, Tuesday, 20 Apr 2010

[Audio-visual document](#) | Watch the TV adaptation of Small Island on Box of Broadcasts

Wide Sargasso Sea (1993), Thursday, 6 Oct 2011

[Audio-visual document](#) | Watch this on Box of Broadcasts: Dramatisation of Jean Rhys's novel set in 19th-century Jamaica. The tragic story of the first Mrs Rochester from Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre centres on an arranged marriage between a white Creole heiress and a brooding Englishman, who fall in love only to be torn apart by rumours, paranoia and a cultural divide

Drama: Red Velvet, by Lolita Chakrabarti, Saturday, 8 Aug 2015

[Audio-visual document](#) | By Lolita Chakrabarti. Radio version of the Tricycle Theatre's award-winning production about the first black actor to play Othello. Imagined experiences based on the true story of Ira Aldridge.

NW, Monday, 14 Nov 2016

[Audio-visual document](#) | Watch the BBC adaptation of NW for free on Box of Broadcasts

ESSAYS AND COLLECTIONS (9 items)

We should all be feminists, by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, 2014

[Book](#) | Adapted from her TEDx talk (see link in the section below) We Should All Be

Feminists includes anecdotes and analyses about what it means to be a feminist. She argues that "feminist" isn't an insult, but rather a label that should be embraced by all.

Bad feminist: essays, by Roxane Gay, 2014

[Book](#)

Six stories and an essay, by Andrea Levy, 2014

[Book](#) | Andrea Levy draws together a remarkable collection of short stories from across her writing career.

A way of being free, by Ben Okri, 1997

[Book](#)

Bulletproof diva: tales of race, sex, and hair, by Lisa Jones, 1995

[Book](#) | Chock full of the "fierce Black girl humor" that has made her column so popular, this provocative collection of essays and observations on race, sex, identity, and the politics of style speaks to a young generation of Blacks who were raised in an integrated society and are now waiting for America to deliver on its promises of equality.

Living, loving and lying awake at night, by Sindiwe Magona, 1992

[Book](#)

You can't keep a good woman down, by Alice Walker, 1982

[Book](#)

Political blackness in multiracial Britain, by Mohan Ambikaipaker, 2018, ©2018

[Book](#)

Mother country: real stories of the Windrush children, edited by Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff, 2018

[Book](#)

POETRY (8 items)

Citizen: an American lyric, by Claudia Rankine, 2015

[Book](#)

For colored girls who have considered suicide, when the rainbow is enuf: a choreopoem, by Ntozake Shange, c1977

[Book](#) | From its inception in California in 1974 to its highly acclaimed critical success at Joseph Papp's Public Theater and on Broadway, the Obie Award-winning for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf has excited, inspired, and transformed audiences all over the country.

The collected poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010, by Lucille Clifton; Toni Morrison, 2012

[Book](#) | The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965-2010 combines all eleven of Lucille Clifton's published collections with more than fifty previously unpublished poems.

Collected poems, 1948-1984, by Derek Walcott, 1992

[Book](#) | This remarkable collection, which won the 1986 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry, includes most of the poems from each of Derek Walcott's seven prior books of

verse and all of his long autobiographical poem, "Another Life."

I is a long memored woman, by Grace Nichols, 1990

[Book](#) | Rightly proclaimed a significant narrative of the African Caribbean woman in proclaiming the recovery of her memory, the book celebrates and evokes memories of the triangular trade in enslavement from the African continent to the cane plantations of the Caribbean through the voice of an unnamed African woman.

The collected poems of Langston Hughes, by Langston Hughes, 1995

[Book](#)

Faster than light: new and selected poems, 1996 2011, by Marilyn Nelson, ©2012

[Book](#) | Conjuring numerous voices and characters across oceans and centuries, *Faster Than Light* explores widely disparate experiences through the lens of traditional poetic forms. This volume contains a selection of Marilyn Nelson's new and uncollected poems as well as work from each of her lyric histories of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century African American individuals and communities.

Caleb Oluwafemi's Portfolio - Poetry, by Caleb Femi

[Webpage](#)

Non-Fiction continued (5 items)

Black Joy, by Lewis-Giggetts, 2022-11-08

[Book](#)

Hidden figures: the untold story of the African-American women who helped win the space race, by Margot Lee Shetterly, 2016

[Book](#)

Between the world and me, by Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2015

[Book](#)

Our kind of people: inside America's Black upper class, by Lawrence Graham, c1999

[Book](#)

A month and a day: a detention diary, by Ken Saro-Wiwa; William Boyd, 1995

[Book](#)

20th Century Fiction (11 items)

The color purple, by Alice Walker, 1983, reprinted 1984

[Book](#) | Taking place mostly in rural Georgia, the story focuses on the life of women of color in the southern United States in the 1930s, addressing numerous issues including their exceedingly low position in American social culture.

Their eyes were watching God: a novel, by Zora Neale Hurston; Holly Eley; Sherley Anne Williams, 1986

[Book](#)

Sassafrass, Cypress and Indigo, by Ntozake Shange, 1989**Book****Invisible man**, by Ralph Ellison, 1965**Book**

| As he journeys from the Deep South to the streets and basements of Harlem, from a horrifying "battle royal" where Black men are reduced to fighting animals, to a Communist rally where they are elevated to the status of trophies, Ralph Ellison's nameless protagonist ushers readers into a parallel universe that throws our own into harsh and even hilarious relief. Suspenseful and sardonic, narrated in a voice that takes in the symphonic range of the American language, black and white, *Invisible Man* is one of the most audacious and dazzling novels of our century.

The bluest eye, by Toni Morrison, 1990,c1970**Book**

| Set in the author's girlhood hometown of Lorain, Ohio, it tells the story of Black, eleven-year-old Pecola Breedlove. Pecola prays for her eyes to turn blue so that she will be as beautiful and beloved as all the blond, blue-eyed children in America.

Sula, by Toni Morrison, 1982, c1973**Book**

| Toni Morrison tells the story of Nel Wright and Sula Peace, who meet as children in the small town of Medallion, Ohio. Their devotion is fierce enough to withstand bullies and the burden of a dreadful secret.

Things fall apart, by Chinua Achebe, 1976**Book**

| Okonowo is the greatest warrior alive. His fame has spread like a bushfire in West Africa and he is one of the most powerful men of his clan. But he also has a fiery temper. Determined not to be like his father, he refuses to show weakness to anyone - even if the only way he can master his feelings is with his fists. When outsiders threaten the traditions of his clan, Okonowo takes violent action. Will the great man's dangerous pride eventually destroy him?

Wide Sargasso Sea, by Jean Rhys, 1966**Book**

| Born into an oppressive, colonialist society, Creole heiress Antoinette Cosway meets a young Englishman who is drawn to her innocent sensuality and beauty. But soon after their marriage, rumors of madness in her family poison his mind against her. He forces Antoinette to conform to his rigid Victorian ideals.

How the García girls lost their accents, by Julia Alvarez, 1992**Book**

| Uprooted from their family home in the Dominican Republic, the four Garcia sisters arrive in New York City in 1960 to find a life far different from the genteel existence of maids, manicures, and extended family they left behind. What they have lost - and what they find - is revealed in the fifteen interconnected stories that make up this exquisite novel from one of the premier novelists of our time.

Black Shack Alley =: La rue Cases-Nègres, by Joseph Zobel, c1980**Book**

| This work tells the story of growing up Black in the colonial world of Martinique. Not only does the young hero, José, have to fight the ignorance and poverty of plantation life, but he must also learn to survive the all-pervasive French cultural saturation--to remain true to himself, proud of his race and his family.

The lonely Londoners, by Samuel Selvon, 1972**Book**

| In the hopeful aftermath of war they flocked to the Mother Country—West Indians in search of a prosperous future in the 'glitter-city'.

Instead, they have to face the harsh realities of living hand to mouth, of racism, of bone-chilling weather and bleak prospects. Yet friendships flourish among these Lonely Londoners and, in time, they learn to survive.