

African American Classics (20th Century)

Attaway, William. *Blood On The Forge* . New York: Monthly Review Press, 1987. The earliest US novel to connect industrial savagery with ecological horror; three brothers leave the racist rural south for the racist red hot steel mills of the north

Baldwin, James. *Notes of A Native Son* . Boston: Beacon Press, 1952. America's finest evocative essayist; a stunningly original writer .

Bambara, Toni Cade. *The Seabirds Are Still Alive*. New York: Random House, 1992. Bambara combines gritty humor with astute analysis, featuring "The Apprentice", about a remarkable grassroots organizer and her protégé.

Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Blacks*. Chicago: Third World Press, 1987. America's finest urban and urbane poet; few create urban imagery with such sparkling finesse.

Brown, Sterling A . *The Collected Poems*. New York: Harper and Row, 1980. The elegant maestro mixes sharp social protest with highly wry humor. A master.

Dumas , Henry. *The Echo Tree And Other Stories*. New York: Vintage, 2003. "Fon" and "Strike and Fade" show thrilling breakthroughs in fiction.

Fair,Ronald. *Hog Butcher*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1966. A child sees a cop murder his sports idol; family and friends help resist police pressure to not testify.

Gaines, Ernest. *A Gathering Of Old Men* . New York: Vintage, 1980.Nine elderly black men on a farm arrive with shotguns; each claims killing a bullying bigot.

Himes, Chester. *If He Hollers, Let Him Go*. New York: Doubleday, 1945. The most sizzling novel of race and class in America with a mouth - dropping ending.

Himes, Chester. *Run, Man, Run*. New Jersey: Chatham Bookseller. 1987. A drunken cop murders four black workers, wounds a fifth, and stalks the sole survivor.

Hughes, Langston .*The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes* . New York: Random House, 1994.Hughes pioneered jazzy colloquial poems into "people's poetry."

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Urbana and Chicago: Illinois U. Press,. 1984. A dynamic black woman battles floods and storms of sexism.

Jess, Tyehimba. *Olio*. Seattle and New York: Wave Books, 2016. This century's best long poem so far: a kaleidoscope of 19th century African American cultural genius.

Johnson, Charles. *The Dreamer*. New York: Scribner's, 1991. Dr. King's staff finds a double- a homeless erudite Korean War vet who is totally unpredictable.

Jones, Leroi, and Neale, Larry. *Black Fire*. New York: William Morrow, 1968. A vivid anthology of stories, poems, plays and essays from the “Black Arts movement.

Kearney, Fred. *Buck Studies*. Fence Books. Albany, N.Y: 2016. The delightful daring typography alone makes surrealists and beats resemble accountants.

Killens, John O. *Youngblood*. New York: The Dial Press, 1954. A civil rights struggle explodes during a “Jubilee” celebration.

Marshall Paulie. *The Chosen People , The Timeless Place*. New York: Vintage, 1969. A dynamic local leader “educates” a Peace Corps “pro” about social protests.

McPherson, James Alan. *Elbow Room*. New York: Little Brown, 1975. One of our finest short story collections. 1978 Pulitzer Prize . He’s an astonishing innovator.

Morrison, Toni . *Beloved*. New York: Random House, 1990. One of world literature’s most astonishing novels , a masterwork showing the resistance to slavery’s horrors.

Nelson, Marilyn. *A Wreath For Emmet Till* . With stunning virtuosity of the sonnet crown form, Nelson’s outrage and compassion shine.

Petry, Ann. *The Street*. New York: Signet. 1990. A gritty tale of a single mother in a big city raising her child through hard times and harder neighborhoods.

Reed, Ishmael. *Mumbo Jumbo*. New York: Avon, 1973. The apex of a top satirist’s work . Reed skewers the “Roaring Twenties” with a magical counter-world.

Smith, Patricia, *Blood Dazzle*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2008. Multiple visions of Hurricane Katrina audaciously include the point of view of the hurricane.

Toomer, Jean. *Cane*. America’s first experimental novel New York: Liveright, 1923. The jeweled fulcrum of the Harlem Renaissance, the found generation.

Walker, Alice. *Meridian*. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1970. Who takes on a tank? One woman activist does in this gem about the early Southern Civil Rights movement.

Walker, Margaret. *Jubilee*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1965. This Civil War love story counters *Gone With The Wind*’s toxic fluff with a brave slave and a freeman.

Williams, John A. *The Man Who Cried I Am*. New York. Signet. 1968. Two black writers find a plot to mass- incarcerate African Americans, and get death threats.

Wright, Richard. *Uncle Tom’s Children* . New York: Harper Rowe, 1938. These searing stories rival any, especially “Big Boy Leaves. Home”, and “Fire and Cloud.”

For further information contact Ernie Brill erbrill69@gmail.com, or 413-320-1807.

Native American Literature

Alexie, Sherman. *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight In Heaven* . New York. Harper Collins, 1993. Two friends, a realist and a visionary,, challenge social strictures.

Erdrich, Louise. *The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001 . A retiring priest fears people may discover he's a woman while shielding from the public a concocted miracle.

Glancy Diana *The Stone Woman .The Story of Sacajawea*. Woodstock New York: Overlook Press,. 2004. A Shoshone girl leads the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Glancy, Diana. *Pushing The Bear*. New York: Harcourt, 1996. This story shows the military-enforced relocation of the Cherokee from the South to desolate Oklahoma.

Gunn-Allen , Paula. *Spiderwoman's Granddaughters* . New York: Ballantine. 1982. An outstanding short story collection by Native American women.

powers

Hogan, Linda. *Mean Spirit* New York: Ballantine, 1990. A Native detective studies murders of Cherokee oil- landowners in an eerie tale of resistance to manic greed.

Kenney, Maurice. *Tekonwatonti Molly Brant* . Buffalo N.Y.: White Pine Press, 2007. A stunning epic poem of a Mohawk woman leader in the American revolution.

Momaday N. Scott. *House Made of Dawn*. New York: Harper and Rowe, 1968 A Native American undergoes transitions from country to city. PULITZER PRIZE 1968 .

Ortiz, Simon. *From Sand Creek*. New York: Thunder's Mouth, 1980 .The massacre of a Cheyenne village of women, children, and elderly men by Custer's 7th Calvary.

Powers, Susan, *The Grass Dancers*. New York: Berkeley, 1997. A sparkling tale of multiple generations of magical Sioux women and their families .

Sanchez, Thomas. *Rabbit Boss*. New York: Vintage, 1995 An epic about Native Americans of Northern California resisting "Manifest Destiny".

Silko, Leslie. *Ceremony*. New York. Viking. 1977. A traumatized World War II vet heals by reviving his tribal values.

Walters, Anna Lee. *Ghost Singer*. Albuquerque University of New Mexico Press, 1988 Can Indian spirits appropriate from museums tribes' expropriated artifacts?

Welch, James. *Fool's Crow* . New York: Viking, 1986. The intricate post- Civil War coming of age of a young Blackfoot Medicine man discovering his full powers.

Asian American Writers

Bulosan, Carlo. *America Is In The Heart*. Seattle: University of Washington, 1977. Filipino farmworkers fight to unionize for a dignified life during the Depression.

Chu, Louis. *Eat A Bowl of Tea*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1977. Uneasy newlyweds adjust to pressured life in New York City's Chinatown community.

Edited by Luis H. Francia and Eric Gamalinda. *Flippin' Filipinos*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 1996. Striking, varied poetry and fiction.

Kingston, Maxine Hong. *Chinaman*. New York: Knopf, 1980. This novel shows the Pacific Chinese immigration and the building of the railroads.

Kingston, Maxine Hong. *The Fifth Book of Peace*. New York: Knopf, 1994. Protesting the illegal war in Vietnam.

Lee, Chang. *Native Speaker*. New York. Riverhead. 1995. Warmly and adroitly told, a story of South Koreans immigrating to New York and finding their way.

Leong, Monfoon. *Number One Son*. San Francisco: East West Publishing, 1975. Deep stories, from Chinese gold miners to creatively using tradition for problem-solving.

Mirikitani, Janice. *Out Of The Dust*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2014. Sterling poems by one of America's outstanding and most underrated poets.

Mori, Toshio. *Yokahama, California*. Seattle: U. of Washington. 1985. Tight poignant tales of Japanese agricultural workers during and after World War II.

Nguyen, Viet Thanh. *The Refugees*. New York: Grove, 2016. Vietnamese refugees undergo intense changes; these stories possess unusual emotional depth.

Okada, John. *No No Boy*. Seattle: U. of Washington, 1976. A war resister returns from prison to family chaos. Okada's wife saved the book he hurled into the fire.

Vang, Mai Der. *Afterland*. Minneapolis: Greywolf., 2017. Masterful images of Hmong people's surviving war-torn Laos.

Yamanaka, Lois. *Heads by Harry*. New York: Harper Centennial. 2000. The lives, loves, and antics of an energetic, eccentric Hawaiian -Japanese family.

Yamashita, Karen Tei. *I Hotel*. Minneapolis: Coffee House Press, 2004. An historic housing fight pits elderly Filipino and Chinese workers against rich hotel greed.

Yu, Timothy. *100 Chinese Silences*. Los Angeles: Les Figs Press, 2016. Yu satirically skewers appropriators of Asian poetry (Pound, Ginsberg, Snyder, Collins, et al))

Latino American Literature

Accosta, Oscar. *Revolt Of The Cockroach People*. New York: Anchor, 1972 . New York. Vintage 1989. An eccentric nineteen sixties Chicano lawyer fights for social justice.

Alvarez, Cristina. *How The Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*. New York: Knopf, 1994. A family warily adjusts to the U. S. after fleeing the murderous dictator Trujillo.

Anaya, Rudolfo. *Bless Me Ultima*. New York. Bantam: 1994. A curandera (healer) living with a family is threatened by fanatic neighbors who think she is a witch .

Cofer, Judith Ortiz. *The Line of the Sun*. Athens: Georgia. University of Georgia. 1992
Puerto Rican family moves to the US, coping with homesickness and assimilation

Diaz, Junot. *Drown*. New York. Riverhead. 2006 Hard - hitting urban stories.

Espada, Martin. New York: Norton Blazing, compassionate social justice poems.

Garcia, Cristina. *Dreaming in Cuban*. New York: Knopf, 1992. A rare immigration novel where characters battle between love and hatred of Cuba.

Herrera, Juan Felipe. *Half Of The World In Light: New and Selected Poems*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2008 . In - depth, vivid explorations of Chicano lives.

Morales , Alejandro. *The Bricklayers*. Houston: Art Publico. An intriguing saga about early brickmaking and house building in and around early LA .

Pietri, Pedro. *Selected Poems*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2015. This breakthrough brings the gem "Suicide Note From A Cockroach In A Low-Income Housing Project."

Rodriguez, Abraham. *Spidertown*. New York: Hyperion, 1993. A South Bronx nerd gets over- involved with a local gang.

Rodriguez, Luis. *Always Running*. New York: Touchstone ,1993. Gang king wants out.

Saenz,Benjamin.*FlowersFor The Bro*

Torres, Edwin*The All-Union Day of The Shock Worker*. New York: Roof Books, 2001.The typographical experimentation alone will blast your brain open.

Villareal, Jose. *Poco*. New York. Anchor: 1970. One of the first novels of the Mexican immigration to the US. A terse and poignant tale .

Viramontes Helena. *Under Jesus' Footstep* . New York: Dutton, 1995. Young farm workers fall in love despite nearly lethal workplace conditions.

Literature of Race and Resistance: a global list

Amado, Jorge. *The Tent of Miracles*. New York: Knopf, 1972. Satirizing racial bias in Brazil brings an exuberant community of daring learners and teachers

Argueta, Manlio. *One Day Of Life*. New York: Vintage, 1986. A teen leads pro-democracy demos in San Salvador; her grandparents resist rural soldiers' torture.

Baldwin, James New York. *The Fire Next Time*. New York: Dell 1968. Brilliant essays on survival for the young. (By the same author: *Nobody Knows My Name*)

Barker, Pat. *Blow Your House Down*. New York: Putnam, 1983. Prostitutes in an industrial city hunt a serial murderer of their sisters determined to get justice.

Brooks, Gwendolyn. *Blacks*. Chicago: Third World Press, 2008. One of the great urban poets and innovators of twentieth century forms, traditional and new.

Cesaire, Aimee. *Return To My Native Land*. Paris: Presence Africaine. This pioneering epic poem, written in 1939, inspired anti-colonial poets to plumb the depths of self-determination and revolution with fresh, startling imagery.

Darwish, Mahmoud. *I Don't Want This Poem To End*. Oxford, England: Skyscraper Publications. 2017. The last book by one of the two greatest poets of the 20th century; razor sharp images, long-standing activism, and deep-reaching love poems

Djebar, Assia. *Children of The Future*, New York : The Feminist Press. Algerian mountain women rule their village while their men battle the French.

Gaines, Ernest. *A Gathering of Old Men* New York: Vintage. 1983. Nine elderly men bring shotgun to a meeting; each admits to killing a bullying, vile bigot.

Giardenia, Denise. *Storming Heaven*. A beautifully written, multiple points of view novel of the huge battle for Appalachian miner's union recognition circa 1919.

Hikmet, Nazim. New York: Persea Books, 2002 One of the finest poets of the 20th century, jailed by the Turkish government for his unabashedly socialist views .

Hughes, Langston. *Collected Poems*. New York: Random House 1994. Hughes championed everyday people and became one of the world's beloved poets.

Jian, Ma. *Beijing Coma*. New York. Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2008. Multiple viewpoints of the Tiananmen Square 1989 protesters in action from the inside out.

Kadare, Ishmael. *The General of the Dead Army*. New York: Grossman Publishers 1972 .An Italian priest post WWII Albania wishes to exhume dead fascist Italian soldiers; locals have other ideas.

Kalilfeh, Sahar. *The End of Spring*. Northampton, MA: Interlink Books A stirring story of the 2001 Intifada in Palestine (by the same author Of Noble Origins).

Kobayashi, Takejii , *The Factory Ship and the Absentee Landlord*. Tokoyo : Two short arousing novels where sailors and peasants organize successful wildcat strikes.

McGrath, Thomas. *The Movie At The End Of The World. And Letters To An Imaginary Friend* . Straight Out of North Dakota, One of the radical world's finest poets, blending everyday speech, lyricism, surrealism, and political acuity..

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. As slave-catchers close in on an escaped mother, she decides to kill her children rather than have them grow up in slavery

Neruda, Pablo. *Cantos Generales*. One of the two greatest poets of the 20th century who wrote sumptuous love poems along with scorching excoriations of dictators.

Ngugi Wa' Thiongo. *Weep No More,, The River Between, and A Grain of Wheat*. London and New York. Heineman Books' three spirited novels bring a trilogy story of Kenya's fight for freedom against the British.

P'Bitek, Okot. *The Song of Lawino*. A long epic argument on extents: "aid" from Europe or trust in tradition? A couple battles it out.

Rao, Raja. *Kanthapura*. A village embraces the Gandhi movement, aware of the risks.

Rizal, Jose. *Noli Me Tangere (Touch Me Not)*. New York: Penguin 2006 The novel that sparked the Philippine revolution against Spain.

Sembene, Ousmane. *Gods Bits of Wood*. New York: Doubleday, 1957. Senegalese railroad workers go on a national strike for better lives. The women of the families lead a three hundred mile march to the capitol to battle against the French army.

Tamer, Zakaria. *The Hedgehog and Other Tales*. Cairo: American University at Cairo Press, 2009. A "flash fiction" master whose short shorts personify irony, dark humor

Traven, B. *The Rebellion Of The Hanged*. New York: Hill and Wang, 1974. Woodsmen revolt in Mexico, part of a six novel series by a mysterious author.

Yamashita, Karen. *I Hotel*. In depth depiction of the titanic 1970 housing war to preserve people's housing, mainly elderly Filipino and Chinese workers from eviction by encroaching money-laden tourist and hotel powers

Yapa, Sunil. *Your Heart Is A Muscle The Size Of Your Fist*. Inside views of the 1997 demonstrations against the WTO (World Trade Organization)

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Literature of The Middle East

Adonis. *A Time Between Roses and Ashes*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2004. One of the most original poets in the world Adonis revolutionized Arabic poetry, breaking tradition with thrilling innovations and new forms.

Behrangi, Samad. *The Little Black Fish and Other Modern Persian Stories*. Washington DC: Three Continents Press. 1982. Stinging penchant satires of life in rural Iran.

Darwish, Mahmoud. *The Butterfly's Burden*. Port Townsend, Washington: Copper Canyon Press. 2007. A sensational collection of the most renowned poet in the Middle East, famous for his ability to write social freedom AND personal love poems

Kemal, Yashir. *Mehmed My Hawk*- Turkey's Robin Hood epic: a courageous people's outlawed peasant battles a ruthless landowner.

Ladinsky, Daniel (trans.) *The Poems of Hafiz*. *The master of joy and delight*.

Mitchell, Stephen (trans) *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. The famous, anonymous-myth-epic, written on cuniform slabs (The author rocks

Oz, Amos. *The Hills of Evil Council*. In 1940s Palestine, a young boy during the the British occupation anxiously wonders if the weapons in his basement make his father a terrorist against the British or a Jewish freedom-fighter.

Rumi. *Open Secret* (Versions of Rumi) . Translated by John Moyne and Coleman Barks. Putney, Vermont: Threshold Books, 1984. The combination of high art and spirituality offer something for everyone.

Saadawi, Narwaal. *Woman At Point Zero* A woman kills her pimp. Get the back story.

Al-Shaykh , Hanan. *Women of Sand and Myrhh*. Three different women, two Arabic and one American struggle for dignity in the Middle East.

Tamer, Zacharia. *The Hedgehog and Other Stories*. Cairo, Egypt: American University Press at Cairo. 2009. One of the finest short-short story writers , with a dry humor. His art at showing whole worlds in few pages is uncanny.

A Thousand And One Tales of The Arabian Night s. Edited by Jack Zipes .New York: Signet , 1998. A world- famous early example of "Magical" realism. Surprisingly, a huge hit among students who hated reading.

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Literature of Race and Resistance

Achebe, Chinua. Things Fall Apart.
Adnan, Etel. Sitt Marie Rose.
Allende, Isabel. The House of Spirits.
Amado, Jorge. The Tent of Miracles.
Argueta, Manlio. One Day Of Life.
Asturias, Miguel Angel. El Senor Presidente. (and The Green Pope, Eyes of the Interred)
Bontemps, Arna. Black Thunder
Brown, Loyd. Iron City.

Cardenal, Ernesto. Psalms of Liberation
Carpentier, Alain. Reasons of State
Chamoiseau, Patrice. Texaco.
Castillo, Otto Rene. Let's Go!
Cesaire, Aimee. Return To My Native Land.

Darwish, Mahmoud. Journal of An Ordinary
Depestre, Rene. A Rainbow For The Christian West.

Gaines, Ernest. A Gathering Of Old Men
Giardenia, Denise. Storming Heaven
Himes, Chester. If He Hollers, Let Him Go
Hogan, Linda. Mean Spirit.
Huong, Duong Thuy. Zenith.
Kim Hyesoon. It's OK; I'm Pig.
Jian, Ma. Beijing Coma-
Kadare, Ismail. The General Of The Dead Army.
Kanafani, Ghassan. Palestine's Children
Kemal, Yashir. Mehmed My Hawk.
Khalifeh, Sahar. Of Noble Origins.

Killens, John A. Youngblood-
Kobayashi, Takejii The Factory Ship and the Absentee Landlord
Laguma, Alex In The Fog at Season's End- (and The Time of The Butcherbirds)
Malraux, Andre Days of Wrath-
Morrison, Toni. Beloved.
Ngugi Wa' thiongo. Petals of Blood.
Rive, Richard. Emergency-
Rao, Raja Kanthapur
Rohini. To Do Something Beautiful.

Salih, Tayeb. The Wedding of Zein
Seghers, Anna. The Seventh Cross.
Sembene, Ousmane. Gods Bits of Wood.
Semprun, Jorge. What A Beautiful Sunday.o
Sepulveda, Luis. The Shadow Of Who We Were.
Serge, Victor. The Case of Comrade Tulayev.
Silone, Ignazio. Fontamara.
Trumbo, Dalton. Johnny Got His Gun.
Vallejo, Cesar. Tungsten.
Viera, Jose. The Real Life of Domingo Xavier.
Yamashita, Karen Tei. I Hotel.
Yapa. Sunil. Your Heart Is A Muscle The Size Of A Fist
Walker, Alice. Meridian
Walker, Margaret. Jubilee.
Williams, John A. The Man Who Cried I Am.
Williams, Raymond. The Second Generation.
Wright, Richard. Uncle Tom's Children

Holocaust Literaturee

Singer, I.J The Brothers Ashkenazi

Horvath. The Age of Fish

Uhlman, Fred. Reunion.

Fink, Ida. A Scrap of Time.

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