

By, About, & For Black Women, a Personal Bibliography:

Compiled by Historian [Leslye Joy Allen](http://leslyejoyallen.com) at the request of
[Erich McMillan-McCall](http://www.project1voice.org), founder of [Project1Voice!](http://www.project1voice.org)

(Titles with an asterisk* are, in my humble opinion, particularly suitable for teens)

Candace Allen. *Valaida: A Novel*. Great Britain: Virago Press, 2004.

William L. Andrews, ed. *Three Black Women's Autobiographies of the Nineteenth Century*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986.

*Maya Angelou. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. New York: Random House, 1969.

Jonetta Rose Barras. *Whatever Happened to Daddy's Little Girl: The Impact of Fatherlessness on Black Women*. New York: The Ballantine Publishing Group, 2000.

*Melba Patillo Beals. *Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High*. Reissue edition. New York: Simon-Pulse, 2007.

Patricia Bell-Scott, ed. et. al. *Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers and Daughters*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1991.

Lois Benjamin, ed. *Black Women in the Academy: Promises and Perils*. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 1997.

Gwendolyn Brooks. *Maud Martha: A Novel*. Chicago: Third World Press, 1993. (First published in 1953).

Elaine Brown. *A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story*. New York: Anchor Books Doubleday, 1992.

*Pearl Cleage. *Flyin' West: A Play*. New York: Dramatists Play Service, Inc., 1995.

Pearl Cleage. *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day: A Novel*. New York: Avon Books, 1997.

Lucille Clifton. *Good Times: Poems by Lucille Clifton*. New York: Random House, 1969.

Anna Julia Cooper. *A Voice from the South*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
(First published in 1892)

Vicki L. Crawford, ed. et al. *Women in the Civil Rights Movement: Trailblazers & Torchbearers 1941 - 1965*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993.

Linda Dahl. *Morning Glory: A Biography of Mary Lou Williams*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Angela Davis. *Angela Davis: An Autobiography*. New York: Random House, 1974.

Mari Evans. *I Am a Black Woman: Poems by Mari Evans*. New York: Morrow, 1970.

Cynthia Griggs Fleming. *Soon We Will Not Cry: The Liberation of Ruby Doris Smith Robinson*. Lanham, MD: Rowan and Littlefield Publishers, 1998.

Lucinda H. Gedeon, ed. *Elizabeth Catlett Sculpture: A Fifty Year Retrospective*. Purchase, NY: Neuberger Museum of Art, 1998.

Paula Giddings. *When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America*. New York: Bantam Books, 1984.

Glenda Elizabeth Gilmore. *Gender & Jim Crow: Women and the Politics of White Supremacy in North Carolina, 1896-1920*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

Nikki Giovanni. *The Women and the Men: Poems*. New York: William Morrow, 1975.

Nikki Giovanni. *Sacred Cows and Other Edibles*. New York: Quill/William Morrow, 1988.

Beverly Guy-Sheftall, ed. *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought*. New York: The New Press, 1995.

D. Antoinette Handy. *The International Sweethearts of Rhythm: The Ladies Jazz Band from Piney Woods Country Life School*. Revised ed. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, Inc. 1998.

*Lorraine Hansberry. *A Raisin in the Sun: A Play*. New York: Signet, 1961.

*Lorraine Hansberry. *To Be Young, Gifted and Black: A Play*. New York: Vintage Books, 1969.

Ruth Edmonds Hill, ed. *The Black Women Oral History Project: From the Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe College*. 10 vols. Westport, CN: Meckler, 1991.

*Darlene Clark Hine and Kathleen Thompson. *A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America*. New York: Broadway Books, 1998.

Bell Hooks. *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 1989.

David E. Houck and David E. Dixon, eds. *Women and the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1965*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2011.

Gloria T. Hull, ed. *All the Women are White, all the Blacks are men, but some of us are brave*. Old Westbury, NY: Feminist Press, 1982.

Zora Neal Hurston. *Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Novel*. New York: Harper and Row, 1990. (First published in 1937)

Harriet Jacobs. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: Written by Herself*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1987. (First published in 1861)

*Sue Monk Kidd. *The Secret Life of Bees*. New York: Penguin Books, 2003.

Missy Dehn Kubitschek. *Claiming the Heritage: African-American Women Novelists and History*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2010.

Brian Lanker. *I Dream a World: Portraits of Black Women Who Changed America*. New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1989.

Gerda Lerner, ed. *Black Women in White America: A Documentary History*. New York: Pantheon, 1962.

Kent Anderson Leslie. *Woman of Color, Daughter of Privilege: Amanda America Dickson, 1849-1893*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1995.

Audre Lorde. *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Berkeley, CA: Ten Speed Press, 1984.

David Margolick and Hilton Als. *Strange Fruit: The Biography of a Song*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2001.

Carolyn Mazloomi. *Spirits of the Cloth: Contemporary African American Quilts*. New York: Clarkston Potter Publishers, 1998.

- Danielle L. McGuire. *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance - A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010.
- Terry McMillan. *Mama: A Novel*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1987.
- Diane McWhorter. *Carry Me Home: Birmingham, Alabama: The Climactic Battle of the Civil Rights Revolution*. Reissue Edition. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2013. (First published in 2001).
- Kay Mills. *This Little Light of Mine: The Life of Fannie Lou Hamer*. Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 2007.
- Cherríe L. Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa. *The Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. Watertown, MA: Persephone Press, 1981.
- Toni Morrison. *Beloved: A Novel*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.
- Shirley Botelee Mock. *Dreaming with the Ancestors: Black Seminole Women in Texas and Mexico*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2013.
- Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe. *Viewfinders: Black Women Photographers*. New York: Writers & Readers Publishing, 1993.
- Gloria Naylor. *The Women of Brewster Place*. New York: Penguin Books, 1980.
- Nell Irvin Painter. *Sojourner Truth: a Life, a Symbol*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1996.
- Anne Petry. *The Street: A Novel*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1946.
- Elisabeth Petry. *At Home Inside: A Daughter's Tribute to Ann Petry*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008.
- Sonya Yvette Ramsey. *Reading, Writing, and Segregation: A Century of Black Women Teachers in Nashville*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2008.
- Barbara Ransby. *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003.
- Jontyle Theresa Robinson, Curator. *Bearing Witness: Contemporary Works by African American Women Artists*. New York: Spelman College and Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1996.

- Sonya Sanchez. *We a BaddDDD People*. Detroit: Broadside Press, 1970.
- Carole Cash Stemley. *Playing the Game of Life on God's Turf*. New York: Vantage Press, 2006.
- Dorothy Sterling, ed. *We Are Your Sisters: Black Women in the Nineteenth Century*. New York: W. W. Norton, 1984.
- Rosalyn M. Story. *And So I Sing: African-American Divas of Opera and Concert*. New York: Warner Books, 1990.
- Kristen Clark Taylor. *The First to Speak: a Woman of Color inside the White House*. New York: Doubleday, 1993.
- Rosalyn Terborg-Penn. *African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998.
- Kathleen Thomas ed. et al. *The Faces of Our Past: Images of Black Women from Colonial America to the Present*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999.
- Sherrie Tucker. *Swing Shift: "All Girl" Bands of the 1940s*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.
- Gayle Wald. *Shout, Sister, Shout!: The Untold Story of Rock-and-Roll Trailblazer Sister Rosetta Tharp*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2007.
- Willa Ward-Royster. *How I Got Over: Clara Ward and the World - Famous Ward Singers*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1997.
- David E. Weaver. *Black Diva of the Thirties: The Life of Ruby Elzy*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2004.
- Ida B. Wells-Barnett. *The Memphis Diary of Ida B. Wells*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.
- Alice Walker. *In Love & Trouble: Stories of Black Women*. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, 1973, 1972, 1970, 1968, 1967.
- Sherley Anne Williams. *Dessa Rose: A Novel*. New York: Berkeley Books, 1987.

*Shay Youngblood. *Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery: A Play*. New York: Dramatists Play Service, 1994.

*Shay Youngblood. *The Big Mama Stories*. Firebrand Books, 1989.

Selected Bibliography for Black Girls (preschool to middle school):

Laurie Halse Anderson. *Chains*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2010. (age 10 and up).

Ysaye M. Barnwell. *No Mirrors in My Nana's House*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (age 5 and up).

Victoria Bond. *Zora and Me*. Reprint edition. Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2011. (age 10 and up).

Christopher Paul Curtis. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*. New York: Laurel Leaf, 2000. (age 8 and up).

Christopher Paul Curtis. *The Mighty Miss Malone*. Reprinted version. New York: Yearling, 2013. (age 9 and up).

Rita Williams Garcia. *One Crazy Summer*. New York: Amistad, 2011. (age 8 and up).

Rita Williams Garcia. *P. S. Be Eleven*. New York: Amistad, 2013. (age 8 and up).

Nikki Grimes. *Road to Paris*. Strand, London, UK: Puffin, 2008. (age 8 and up)

Karen Hesse. *Witness*. New York: Scholastic Paperbacks, 2003. (age 8 and up).

Deborah Hopkinson. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*. New York: Dragonfly Books, 1995. (ages 3 - 7).

Ann Ingalls and Maryann McDonald. *The Little Piano Girl: The Story of Mary Lou Williams, Jazz Legend*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. (ages 6 -9).

Angela Johnson. *Just Like Josh*. Reprint edition. New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2007. (ages 5 - 7).

Patricia C. McKissack. *A Friendship for Today*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2007.
(age 8 and up).

Vaunda Micheaux Nelson. *Almost to Freedom*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books,
2003. (age 6 and up).

Jewell Parker Rhodes. *Ninth Ward*. Little Brown Books for Young Readers, 2012.
(age 10 and up).

Faith Ringgold. *Cassie's Word Quilt*. Reprint Edition. New York: Dragonfly Books,
2004. (ages 3 -7).

Vera B. Williams. *A Chair for my Mother*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2007.
(ages 4 -8).

Add Your Favorite Books Here: