

African - American Fiction



Titles Recommended by the
Reader's Advisory Committee
of the
Reference & Adult Services Division
of SCLA

Clover by Dori Sanders

After her father dies within hours of being married to a white woman, a ten-year-old black girl learns with her new mother to overcome grief and to adjust to a new place in their rural black South Carolina community.

River Cross My Heart by Breena Clarke

After the drowning death of their daughter in the Potomac River, a family leaves their rural North Carolina world in search of a better life among friends and relatives in Georgetown, as they grapple with their loss and struggle to move forward.

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines

In 1948 Louisiana, a young teacher is asked to impart some of his own pride and learning to a young Black man awaiting execution, only to come face to face with his own cynicism and hopelessness.

The Wedding by Dorothy West

In a story that documents the rise of the Black middle class, written by a woman who lived it, a racially mixed wedding is about to take place on Martha's Vineyard in the 1950s--amidst extreme tension and resistance.

Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley

Easy Rawlins, a tough World War II veteran and detective is hired by a financier and gangster to locate Daphne Monet, a search that leads him from elegant board meetings to the raucous jazz joints of late forties Los Angeles.

Coffee Will Make You Black by April Sinclair

Coming of age during the 1960s, Stevie Stevenson's struggles with her parent's traditional values and her own awakening sexuality are further complicated by her high school's increasing political awareness and demonstrations for civil rights.

Bedrock Faith by Eric Charles May

A deeply engaging debut novel about a morality clash in an insular Chicago neighborhood..

Cane River by Lalita Tademy

This book follows four generations of African American women from slavery to the early twentieth century as they struggle for economic security and the future of their families along the Cane River in rural Louisiana.

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Tells the story of two sisters: Nettie, a missionary in Africa, and Celie, a child-wife living in the South, in the medium of their letters to each other and in Celie's case, the desperate letters she begins, "Dear God."

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

When Janie Starks returns home, the small black community buzzes with gossip about the outcome of her affair with a younger man.

Coldest Winter Ever by Sister Souljah

Winter Santiago, the daughter of one of Brooklyn's most powerful drug czars, uses her own weapons--including sex and an aggressive attitude--to stay on top, after her father's empire is threatened by a drug war.

Not a Day Goes By by E. Lynn Harris

A commitment-shy sports agent and an up-and-coming Broadway femme fatale believe they have met their match in each other, but their forthcoming nuptials are threatened by a comeuppance from the past.

What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day by Pearl Cleage

When Ava Johnson discovers she is HIV positive, she journeys back to her sleepy northern Michigan hometown, where she manages to find new love.

...you may also consider these authors:

Omar Tyree
Toni Morrison
James Baldwin
Maya Angelou
Eric Jerome Dickey

Alex Haley
Terry McMillan
James McBride
Zane
W.E.B. DuBois