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Annotated Bibliography of Culturally Relevant/Diasporan Student Texts and Supplemental Materials

*** additional texts** **Secondary Texts**

Achebe, Chinua (1958). **Things fall apart**. Nigeria: Heinemann. **Things Fall Apart** is about the tragic fall of the protagonist, Okonkwo, and the Igbo culture. Though Okonkwo is a respected leader in the Umuofia tribe of the Igbo people, he lives in fear of becoming his father – a man known for his laziness and cowardice. Throughout his life, Okonkwo attempts to be his father's total opposite.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi (2013). **Americanah**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. A story of love and race centered on a young man and woman from Nigeria who face difficult choices and challenges in the countries they come to call home.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi (2003). **Purple hibiscus**. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books. Fifteen-year-old Kambili's world is circumscribed by a family of wealth. Her Catholic father, under whose shadow Kambili lives, while generous and politically active in the community, is repressive and obsessively religious at home. When Nigeria begins to fall apart under a military coup, Kambili's father sends her and her brother away to stay with their aunt, a University professor, whose house is noisy and full of laughter. There, Kambili and her brother discover a life and love beyond the confines of their father's authority.

Alexie, Sherman (1993, 2005). **The lone ranger and tonto fistfight in heaven**. New York: Grove.

This is a book of twenty-four interlinked tales that are narrated by Native American characters. These stories are woven together by memory, fantasy, and stark reality, and paint a portrait of life in and around the Spokane Indian Reservation, depicting distances between Native people and whites, reservation Natives and urban Natives, men and women, and modern Native Americans and the traditions of their past.

Alvarez, Julia (1991). **How the garcia girls lost their accent**. Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books. Uprooted from their family home in the Dominican Republic, the four Garcia sisters Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofia 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 premiere novelists of our time.

Alvarez, Julia (1995). **In the time of the butterflies**. New York: Penguin Books.

This is a fictional account of the four Mirabal sisters, symbols of defiant hope in the Dominican Republic, a country shadowed by dictatorship and despair. They sacrifice their safe and comfortable lives in the name of freedom. They were called Las Mariposas, “The Butterflies.” In this novel, these sisters speak across decades to tell their own stories; this novel makes a haunting statement about the human cost of political oppression.

Angelou, Maya (1997). **Even the stars look lonesome**. New York: Random House. This wise book has Maya Angelou talking of things she cares about most. It is a book of lifetime lessons.

Angelou, Maya (1969). **I know why the caged bird sings**. New York: Random House. This is an autobiography describing the early years of the writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a seven-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma.

Baldwin, James (1953). **Go tell it on the mountain**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. This is a 1953 semi-autobiographical novel by James Baldwin. It tells the story of John Grimes, an intelligent teenager in 1930s Harlem, and his relationship to his family and his church.

Baldwin, James (1974). **If Beale Street Could Talk**. New York: Dell Publishing. Fonny. A talented young artist finds himself unjustly arrested and locked in New York’s Tombs. His pregnant girlfriend, Tish, is determined to free him. This is a powerful story of justice and punishment.

Bambara, Toni Cade (1992). **Gorilla, my love**. New York: Penguin Books. This African American fiction gives us compelling portraits of a wide range of unforgettable characters, from sassy children to cunning old men, in scenes shifting between uptown New York and rural North Carolina.

Bambara, Toni Cade (1977). **The sea birds are still alive**. New York: Penguin Press. This novel is about the twin themes of oppression and hope as she describes the experiences of black women and their resilience and ability to resist and survive.

Bambara, Toni Cade (1999). **Those bones are not my child**. The novel was published posthumously in 1999. It deals with the disappearance and murder of forty black children in Atlanta between 1979 and 1981.

Brent, Linda (Harriet Jacobs) (1973). **Incidents in the life of a slave girl**. New York: Harcourt Brace. This is a narrative of an enslaved woman who hid in her grandmother’s attic for seven years to escape sexual exploitation by her master.

Butler, Octavia (1979). **Kindred**. New York: Doubleday. **Kindred** is a novel that incorporates time travel and is modeled on slave narratives.

Carroll, Rebecca (1997). **Sugar in the raw**. New York: Clarkson Potter. 15 black women between the ages of 11 and 18, from places as diverse as Brooklyn and Seattle, Alabama and Vermont, speak out about their inner and outer lives.

Cisneros, Sandra (1991). **The house on mango street**. New York: Vintage Press. This is a coming-of-age novel and it is written from the perspective of teenage Latina, Esperanza Cordero, who struggles with her life in a Chicano and Puerto Rican neighborhood of Chicago.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi (2015). **Between the world and me**. New York: Spiegel & Grau. This text offers a new framework for understanding our nation's history and current crisis. What does it mean to inhabit a black body and find a way to live within it?

*Coates, Ta-Nehisi (2019). **The water dancer**. New York: One World. This novel speaks to devastating loss, a magical gift/cultural memory, and an underground war for African American liberation.

Cofer, Judith Ortiz (2006). **Call me maria**. New York: Scholastic Books. Told in first person narrative, Maria is a girl caught between two worlds: Puerto Rico, where she was born, and New York, where she now lives in a basement apartment in the barrio. As she struggles to lose her island accent, Maria does her best to find her place within the unfamiliar culture of the barrio. Finally, with the Spanglish of the barrio people ringing in her ears, she finds the poet within herself.

Danticat, Edwidge (2001). **The butterfly's ways: voices from the haitian diaspora in the US**. New York: Soho Press. In five sections—Childhood, Migration, Half/First Generation, Return, and Future—the thirty-three contributors to this anthology write of their lives in Haiti and the United States. Their *dyaspora*, much like a butterfly's fluctuating path, is a shifting landscape in which there is much travel between two worlds, between their place of origin and their adopted land; the voices link different generations and backgrounds

Danticat, Edwidge (2005) **The dew breaker**. New York: Vintage Press. Edwidge Danticat's brilliant exploration of the "dew breaker"-- or torturer-- is an unforgettable story of love, remorse, and hope; of personal and political rebellions; and of the compromises we make to move beyond the most intimate brushes with history.

Dawsey, Darrell (1996). **Living to tell about it**. New York: Doubleday Books. This book is a seminal text that looks beyond the statistics and perceptions at the real lives of most black young men in America. They all have stories.

Douglass, Frederick (1845). **Narrative of the life of frederick douglass**. Massachusetts: Anti-Slavery Office. This is an 1845 memoir and treatise on abolition written by famous orator and former enslaved Frederick Douglass. It is generally held to be the most famous of a number of narratives written by former enslaved people.

Fleischman, Paul (2004). **Seedfolks**. New York: Harper Trophy. The author uses thirteen speakers to bring to life a community garden's founding and first year. The book's short length, diverse cast, and suitability for adults as well as children have led it to be used in countless one-book reads in schools and in cities across the country.

Gaines, Ernest A. (1992). **A gathering of old men**. New York: Vintage Press. Set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s, this novel is a powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man.

Gaines, Ernest A. (1994). **A lesson before dying**. New York: Vintage Contemporaries. A young man, who returns to 1940s Cajun country to teach, visits a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting and the power of literacy.

Haley, Alex and Malcolm X (1964). **The autobiography of malcolm x**. New York: Ballantine Books. Malcolm X, the Muslim leader, firebrand, and anti-integrationist, tells the extraordinary story of his life and the growth of the Black Muslim movement. His fascinating perspective on the lies and limitations of the American Dream, and the inherent racism in a society that denies its nonwhite citizens the opportunity to dream, gives extraordinary insight into the most urgent issues of our own time.

Hansberry, Lorraine (1959). **A raisin in the sun**. New York: Samuel French. **A Raisin in the Sun** portrays a few weeks in the life of the Youngers, an African-American family living on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s. At the heart of the drama is the universal message of the desire for social progress.

Hurston, Zora Neale (2018). **Barracoon: the story of the last “black cargo**. New York: Amistad. This non-fiction text illuminates the horror and injustices of slavery as it tells the true story of one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade—abducted from Africa on the last "Black Cargo" ship to arrive in the United States.

Hurston, Zora Neale (1937). **Their eyes were watching god**. New York: Harper. This is the story fiercely independent Janie Crawford, and her evolving selfhood through three marriages and a life marked by poverty, trials, and purpose.

Jackson-Opoku, Sandra (1997). **The river where blood is born**. New York: One World Books. This novel is part folktale, part spiritual, and part modern romance. The novel takes the reader on a journey along the river of one family's history, charting a course across two centuries and three continents, from ancient Africa into today's America. Through the lives of the women characters we come to understand the real meaning of “having roots.”

James, Marlon (2010). **The book of night women**. New York: Riverhead Books. This is the story of Lilith, born into slavery on a Jamaican sugar plantation at the end of the eighteenth century. Even at her birth, the slave women around her recognize a power that they and she will come to both revere and fear. The Night Women, as they call themselves, have long been plotting a slave revolt, and as Lilith comes of age they see her as the key to their plans.

Jenkins, George, Davis, Sampson, and Hunt, Rameck (2003). **The pact: three young men make a promise and fulfill a dream**. New York: Riverhead Books. The three doctors grew up in the streets of Newark, facing city life's temptations, pitfalls, even jail. But one day these three young men made a pact. They promised each other they would all become doctors, and stick it out together through the long, difficult journey to attaining that dream. This is a story about joining forces and beating the odds.

Johnson, Guy (1998). **Standing at the scratch line**. New York: Strivers Row. This novel is set in the 1900's and chronicles the life and family of King Tremain. Through all of his adventures, two forces drive him: He wants to be treated with respect and he wants to create a family dynasty that recreates his Louisiana home.

Johnson, Angela (2010). **First part last**. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. Bobby is your classic urban teenaged boy. On his sixteenth birthday he gets some news from his girlfriend, Nia, that changes his life forever. She's pregnant. Bobby's going to be a father. With powerful language and keen insight, the author looks at the male side of teen pregnancy as she delves into one young man's struggle to figure out what "the right thing" is and then to do it.

Karenga, Maulana (1998). **Kwanzaa: a celebration of family, community, and culture**. Los Angeles: University of Sankore Press. This is the definitive text on the origins, values, and practices of Kwanzaa.

Khan-Cullors, Patrisse and Bandele, Asha (2017). **When they call you a terrorist: a Black lives matter memoir**. New York: St. Martin's Press. This is a memoir about what it means to be a Black woman in America – the founding of a movement that demands restorative justice for all in America.

Kincaid, Jamaica (1990). **Lucy**. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. This novel is about Lucy, a teenage girl from the West Indies, who comes to North America to work as an au pair for a white family. Upon first meeting the family, Lucy imagines that they are quite happy. Yet, almost at once, she begins to notice the cracks in their façade. Lucy examines assumptions of her employers' world and compares them to the realities of her native home. She is at the same time, exploring her own identity and sexuality. Kincaid paints a portrait of adolescent questioning.

Lorde, Audre (1982). **Zami**. Berkeley: Crossing Press. This is an autobiographical novel that chronicles the life of the poet, Audre Lorde. It is very reflective and especially speaks to the women that shaped her.

*Mbue, Imbolo (2016). **Behold the dreamers**. New York: Random House. Jende Jonga, a Cameroonian immigrant living in Harlem, has come to the US to provide a better life for himself and his family. He finds a job as a chauffeur for a wealthy family and believes he now has access to the American Dream. As he works for the Edwards family, he discovers that the world of great privilege conceals troubling secrets. This novel is about marriage, immigration, class, race, and the trapdoors in the American Dream.

*McBride, James (2013). **The good lord bird**. New York: Riverhead Books. This the story of a young boy, Henry Shackleford, born enslaved in the Kansas Territory, a battleground between anti- and pro slavery forces, who joins John Brown's antislavery crusade. In so doing, he must pass as a girl, Onion, to survive.

Mohr, Nicholasa (2011). **Nilda**. New York: Pinata Books. This is a classic novel about life as an immigrant in New York City that offers a poignant look at one young girl's experiences. Issues of race, religion and machismo are realistically and movingly depicted in this groundbreaking coming-of-age novel that was one of the first by a Latina author to be hailed by the mainstream media.

Mohr, Nicholasa (1997) **A matter of pride and other stories**. New York: Arte Publico Press. A celebration of the female spirit connects these stories of Latinas, and as the tales unfold, vivid characters come to life.

Morrison, Toni (1977). **Song of solomon**. New York: Vintage Press. Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. The author chronicles the coming of age story of Milkman in a fully realized black world.

Morrison, Toni (2016). *God help the child*. New York: Vintage Press. A provocative novel, *God Help the Child*—the first book by Toni Morrison to be set in our current moment—tells a story about the way the sufferings of childhood can shape, and misshape, the life of the adult.

Morrison, Toni (1973) **Sula**. New York: Vintage Press. Morrison's second novel focuses on a young black girl named Sula, who matures into a strong and determined woman in the face of adversity and the distrust, even hatred, of her by the community in which she lives. Morrison delves into the strong female relationships between the novel's women and how these bonds both nurture and threaten individual female identity.

Morrison, Toni (2003). **The bluest eye**. New York: Vintage Press. Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin,

curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife.

Noah, Trevor (2016). **Born a crime**. New York: Random House. This is the story of a young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist in South African apartheid. It is also the story of that young man's relationship with his fearless, rebellious, and fervently religious mother, a woman determined to save her son from the cycle of poverty, violence, and abuse that would ultimately threaten her own life.

Obama, Barack (1995). **Dreams from my father: a story of race and inheritance**.

New York: Times Books. This is a memoir by Barack Obama, who was elected as U.S. President in 2008. The memoir explores the events of Obama's early years in Honolulu and Chicago up until his entry into law school in 1988.

Obama, Michelle (2018). **Becoming**. New York: Crown Publishing. This is an intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.

*Reynolds, Jason and Kendi, Ibram X. (2020) **Stamped: racism, antiracism, and you**. New York and Boston: Little, Brown and Company. This is a remix for students of the National Book Award-winning **Stamped From The Beginning** by Ibram X, Kendi. The text shows how racist ideas started and were spread, and how they can be discredited.

Santiago, Esmeralda (2006). **When i was puerto rican**. New York: De Capo Press. This is a memoir of a young woman's journey from Puerto Rico to Brooklyn, and eventually on to Harvard. In the first of her three acclaimed memoirs, Esmeralda brilliantly recreates her tremendous journey from the idyllic landscape and tumultuous family life of her earliest years, to translating for her mother at the welfare office, and to high honors at Harvard.

See, Lisa (2019). **The island of the sea women**. New York: Scribner. Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls living on the Korean island of Jeju, are best friends that come from very different backgrounds. When they are old enough, they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective, led by Young-sook's mother. As the girls take up their positions as baby divers, they know they are beginning a life of excitement and responsibility, but also danger.

Shakur, Tupac (1999). **The rose that grew from concrete**. New York: Pocket Books. This is a compilation of poems by the spoken word artist, Tupac Shakur.

Shange, Ntozake (2010). **Betsey brown**. New York: St. Martin's Griffin. This is a story of a young girl's awakening amidst her country's civil rights struggles. Set in St. Louis in 1957, the year of the Little Rock Nine, Shange's story reveals the effect of racism on an American child and her family. Woven into this masterful portrait of an extended family

is the story of Betsey's adolescence, the rush of first romance, and the sobering responsibilities of approaching adulthood.

Skloot, Rebecca (2011). **The immortal life of henrietta lacks**. New York: Broadway Books. Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells, taken without her knowledge in 1951, became one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more. Henrietta's cells have been bought and sold by the billions, yet she remains virtually unknown, and her family can't afford health insurance. This text tells a riveting story of the collision between ethics, race, and medicine; of scientific discovery and faith healing; and of a daughter consumed with questions about the mother she never knew.

*Stone, Nic (2018). **Dear martin**. New York: Ember Press. Justyce is an African American teen caught between two worlds. He knows that the education he's receiving at a private school will grant him more economic opportunities, however he begins to question the effects his private school education on his own identity. He questions his blackness, his relationship with his biracial girlfriend, and his attraction to his white debate partner Sarah Jane. Through a series of journal entries, Justyce attempts to figure out his place in the world by exploring the life of Dr. Martin Luther King and what it means to be a black male in today's world. .

*Stone, Nic (2020) **Dear justice**. New York: Ember Press. Incarcerated teen Quan writes letters to Justyce about his experiences in the American juvenile justice system

Tan, Amy (2006). **The joy luck club**. New York: Penguin Books. In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, begin meeting to eat dim sum, play mahjong, and talk. United in shared unspeakable loss and hope, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Rather than sink into tragedy, they choose to gather to raise their spirits and money. Amy Tan examines the sometimes painful, often tender, and always deep connection between mothers and daughters.

Thompson, Margaret Cezair (2000). **The true history of paradise**. New York: Random House. Epic in scope, Cezair poignantly portrays the complexities of family and racial identity in a troubled Jamaica that is in crisis.

Walker, Alice (1982). **The color purple**. New York: Mariner Books. This is the story of two sisters—one a missionary in Africa and the other a child wife living in the South—who sustain their loyalty to and trust in each other across time, distance, and silence.

*Whitehead, Colson (2019). **The nickel boys**. New York: Doubleday. This novel chronicles the story of two African American boys who have been sentenced to a brutal reform school in Jim Crow Florida. It is based on a real story of a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children.

Wilson, August (1986). **Fences**. New York: Plume Press. Troy Maxson is a strong man, a hard man. He has gone through life in an America where to be proud and black is to face pressures that could crush a man, body and soul. This is a modern classic, a play that deals with the impossibly difficult themes of race in America, set during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, and the disintegration of a family.

Wilson, August (1990). **Piano lesson**. New York: Plume Press. At the heart of the play stands the ornately carved upright piano that, as the Charles family's prized, hard-won possession, has been gathering dust in the parlor of Berniece Charles's Pittsburgh home. Boy Willie, Berniece's exuberant brother from the south, has a dream of buying the same Mississippi land that his family had worked as slaves with the proceeds of the sale of the heirloom piano. But Berniece refuses to sell, clinging to the piano as a reminder of the history that is their family legacy. This dilemma is the real "piano lesson."

Wilson, August (1993). **Two trains running**. New York: Plume Press. It is Pittsburgh, 1969, and the regulars of Memphis Lee's restaurant are struggling to cope with the turbulence of a world that is changing rapidly around them and fighting back when they can. The diner is scheduled to be demolished, a casualty of the city's renovation project that is sweeping away the buildings of a community, but not its spirit. Wilson paints a vivid portrait of everyday lives in the shadow of great events, and of unsung men and women who are anything but ordinary.

Wright, Richard (2005). **Native son**. New York: Harper. This novel tells the story of this young black man caught in a downward spiral after he kills a young white woman in a brief moment of panic. Set in Chicago in the 1930s, Richard Wright's powerful novel is a reflection on the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by people in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America.

Yousafzai, Malala (2016). **I am malala: how one girl stood up and changed the world**. New York: Little, Brown and Company. This is Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala's bestselling memoir. It chronicles how she risked her life for an education.

Primary and Intermediary Texts

Ada. Alma Flor (1995). **My name is maria isabel**. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. María Isabel, a Hispanic child growing up in the U.S., begins having problems in her new classroom when her teacher changes her name to Mary. This compelling portrait of an experience common to many language minority children inspires discussions on self-identity and biculturalism.

Alexander, Kwame and Nelson, Kadir (2019). **The undefeated**. New York: Versify. This text explores the not-so-distant past to underline the endurance and spirit of those surviving and thriving in the present.

Browne, Mahogany L. (2018). **Woke baby**. New York: Roaring Brook Press. Woke babies are revolutionaries and cry out for justice.

Byers, Grace (2018). **I am enough**. New York: Balzer + Bray. This book is about loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind.

Bynum, Betty (2013). **I'm a pretty little black girl**. Los Angeles: Dream Title Publishing. This is a book for girls of all colors to celebrate their individual and special beauty.

Dorros, Arthur (1997). **Abuela**. New York: Picture Puffins. Rosalba and her grandmother, her abuela, are on a magical journey as they fly over the streets, sights, and people of New York City, which sparkles below. The story is narrated in English, and sprinkled with Spanish phrases as Abuela points out places that they explore together. The loving bond that only a grandmother and granddaughter can share magnifies the exhilaration in Rosalba's and Abuela's story.

Harrison, Vashti (2018). **Little dreamers: visionary women around the world**. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. Featuring the true stories of 35 women creators, ranging from writers to inventors, artists to scientists, *Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World* inspires as it educates. Readers will meet trailblazing women.

Karenga, Maulana (1998). **Kwanzaa: a celebration of family, community, and culture**. Los Angeles: University of Sankore Press. This is the definitive text on the origins, values, and practices of Kwanzaa.

Lessac, Frane (2007). **Island counting**. New York: Candlewick Books. On a trip to the Caribbean, one little island offers many exotic items to count! With vivid colors and an invitingly naive touch, Frané Lessac leads a laid-back counting lesson in true island style.

*Nyong'o, Lupita (2019). **Sulwe**. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. This children's story is about how Sulwe learns to see and appreciate her unique beauty.

*Perkins, Useni (1993) **Hey black child**. New York: Little, Brown and Company. This text celebrates black children and seeks to inspire all young ones to dream big and achieve their goals.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis (2013). **Let it shine**. New York: HMH Books for Young Readers. Pinkney presents eloquent portraits of 10 intrepid African-American activists for the causes of abolition, women's rights and civil rights.

Sauer, Tammi (2016). **Mary had a little glam**. New York: Sterling Children's

Books. In this take on the familiar nursery rhyme, fashion-forward Mary helps some of her friends to go glam, but in doing so, Mary discovers that sometimes less is more, particularly at recess.

Shange, Ntozake (2004). **Ellington was not a street**. New York: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers. In a reflective tribute to the African-American community of old, the author recalls her childhood home and the close-knit group of innovators that often gathered there. These men of vision lived at a time when the color of their skin dictated where they could live, what schools they could attend, and even where they could sit on a bus or in a movie theater. Yet their lives and their works inspire us to this day, and serve as a guide to how we approach the future challenges.

Slade, Suzanne (2016). **Thinking like a girl in computer called Katherine**. New York: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. The author tells the story of mathematician Katherine Johnson who helped put a person on the moon in 1969.

Vicente, Alidis (2011). **The coqui and iguana**. Operation Outreach USA. This is a story about a young girl's adventure while on a family vacation in Puerto Rico. The book takes place in La Parguera, one of Puerto Rico's three bioluminescent bays. During a nighttime family excursion, she and one of her native cousins, Sebastian, are taken to La Parguera. Apprehensive about being in a strange place in complete darkness, surrounded by foliage and unfamiliar nocturnal noises, the main character is reluctant to embark on the outing. To ease her apprehension, Sebastian tells her a story about a native frog, the coquí, and an iguana.

Walker, Rob (2009). **Mama says: a book of love for mothers and sons**. New York: The Blue Sky Press. These are words of wisdom about living life with compassion and courage. Written in rhyming text, this is a "must have" for every family. There are gentle, but powerful life lessons spoken to a child, delivered with a mother's immutable love. The text teaches the universal importance of kindness, sharing, diligence, and faith, along with the importance of courage and a willingness to always try your best.

Yousafzai, Malala (0000) **Malala: my story of standing up for girls' rights**. New York: Little, Brown and Company. This is an abridged version of Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala's bestselling memoir. It chronicles how she risked her life for an education.

Middle School Texts

Berry, James (1990). **Thief in the village**. New York: Random House. This collection presents a clear picture of life for children in Jamaica by showing both cultural differences and issues of life that are universal for children.

Bridges, Ruby (1999). **Through my own eyes**. New York: Scholastic Books. In 1960, America watched as a tiny six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. An icon of the civil rights movement, Ruby Bridges chronicles each of this pivotal event in history through her own words.

Cartaya, Pablo (2018). **The epic fail of arturo zamora**. New York: Puffin Books. This book is about Arturo who refuses to let his family and community go down without a fight, and as he schemes with Carmen, Arturo discovers the power of poetry and protest through untold family stories and the work of José Martí..

Curtis, Christopher Paul (2002). **Bud, not buddy**. New York: Yearling Trade. This is an award-winning classic about a boy from Depression-era Michigan who decides to hit the road to find his father.

Curtis, Christopher Paul (1997). **The watsons go to birmingham**. Yearling Trade. Kenny narrates this middle-grade novel, 9, about his middle-class black family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Kenny's 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head south to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. And they happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

Diaz, Junot (2018). **Island born**. New York: Dial Books. When Lola's teacher asks the students to draw a picture of where their families immigrated from, all the kids are excited except Lola. She can't remember The Island she left when she was just a baby. But with the help of her family and friends, and their memories, Lola's imagination takes her on an extraordinary journey back to The Island. This book is a celebration of creativity, diversity, and our imagination's boundless ability to connect us to our families, to our past and to ourselves.

Draper, Sharon (2008). **The copper sun**. New York: Atheneum. This novel is the epic story of a young girl torn from her African village, sold into slavery, and stripped of everything she has ever known—except hope.

Engle, Margarita (2017). **All the way to havana**. New York: Henry Holt & Co. Together, a boy and his parents drive to the city of Havana, Cuba, in their old family car. Along the way, they experience the sights and sounds of the streets, neighbors talking, musicians performing, and beautiful, colorful cars. In the end, though, it's their old car, Cara Cara, that the boy loves best. This is a celebration of Cuban people and their resourceful innovation.

Flake, Sharon (2007). **Bang**. Chicago: Hyperion Book. A teenage boy must face the harsh realities of inner city life, a disintegrating family, and destructive temptations as he struggles to find his identity as a young man.

Hamilton, Virginia (1985). **The people could fly: american black folktales**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. In the 24 selections of this text, the main body of black folklore is represented and brings us closer to the hearts and minds of the people who first gave their oral accounts.

Hughes, Langston (2015). **Sail away**. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Langston Hughes celebrates mermaids, wildernesses of waves, and the creatures of the deep through his poems and cut-paper collage illustrations by multiple Coretta Scott King Award–winner Ashley Bryan.

Isadora, Rachel (2002). **Caribbean dream**. New York: Picture Puffins Books. Here is a place where children run, splash, and sing, on an island in the West Indies, in a world that is nothing short of magical. The author’s watercolors and lyrical, evocative text celebrate the things that make the Caribbean a very special home.

Jenkins, George, Davis, Sampson, Hunt, Rameck, with Draper, Sharon. (2006). **We beat the streets**. New York: Puffin Books. This is a younger adaptation of **The Pact**, a powerful, and inspirational book that will speak to young readers everywhere.

Karenga, Maulana (1998). **Kwanzaa: a celebration of family, community, and culture**. Los Angeles: University of Sankore Press. This is the definitive text on the origins, values, and practices of Kwanzaa.

Lai, Thanhha (2013). **Inside out and back again**. New York: Harper Collins. Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee, fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama, this coming-of-age novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration.

Neri, G. (2016). **Chess rumble**. New York: Lee & Low Books. 2016. Because of his fights in school, a young boy is close to being kicked out of school and his home. He is presented an alternative when Marcus encounters CM, an unlikely chess master who challenges him to fight his battles on the chess board.

Otheguy, Emma (2019). **Silver meadows summer**. New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers. This story of moving out and moving on is a touching portrayal of the experience of leaving one's home country and making new friends--sometimes where least expected. It is also about standing up for family and your beliefs.

Park, Linda Sue (2010). **A long walk to water**. New York: Carlton Books. This is a short novel about the true story of Salva Dut, a part of the Dinka tribe and a Sudanese Lost Boy, and the fictional story of Nya, a young village girl that was a part of the Nuer tribe.

Shang, Wendy Wan-Long (2013). **The great wall of Lucy Wu**. New York: Scholastic Books. Lucy Wu, aspiring basketball star and interior designer, is on the verge of having the best year of her life. The text focuses on Lucy starting the sixth grade and dealing with the troubles that come with growing up, but also with having a split cultural identity.

*Woodson, Jacqueline (2020)). **Harbor me**. New York: Puffin Books. Six kids have to meet for a weekly chat--by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for "A Room to Talk"), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them--everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. Together, they grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.

Yep, Laurence (2001). **Dragonwings**. New York: Harper Collins. Inspired by the story of a Chinese immigrant who created a flying machine in 1909, **Dragonwings** touches on the struggles and dreams of Chinese immigrants navigating opportunity and prejudice in San Francisco.

Callender, Kheryn (2018). **Hurricane child**. Scholastic Press. Twelve-year-old Caroline and her father in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Caroline, known as a "Hurricane Child," since she was born during a hurricane, is plagued with bad luck. She sees a spirit—the woman in black—that no one else can see. She is bullied daily at school by both children and her teachers who make cruel remarks about her dark skin tone. Her feelings of loneliness are compounded by the fact that her mother left and never returned. When a new student from Barbados joins her class, Caroline is drawn to her confidence and disinterest in befriending the bullies. The two girls soon become close friends and Caroline develops a crush on her, but her feelings are unfortunately met with resistance. Nevertheless, Kalinda agrees to help Caroline find her mother in the midst of a terrible storm and as a result, Caroline is able to feel more at peace with herself, her family, and her friend.

Annotated Bibliography of Teacher Materials

Africans in America, Part I (1998, 2000) WGBH Boston. WGBH Educational Foundation: Boston.

Africans in America is the groundbreaking four-part series exposes the truth about Africans in the diaspora through surprising revelations, dramatic recreations, rare archival photography and first-person accounts. **Africans in America** helps define the reality of slavery's past through the insightful commentary of a wide range of voices including Colin Powell, John Edgar Wideman and leading scholars. Narrated by Angela Bassett, it offers unparalleled understanding – from slavery's birth in the early 1600's through the

onset of civil war in 1860. Part I is entitled “The Terrible Transformation” and chronicles how indentured servitude for the African became chattel enslavement.

Baldwin, James (2017). **I am not your negro**. Magnolia Entertainment. Filmmaker Raoul Peck envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, **Remember This House**. The result is an examination of race in America, using Baldwin’s original words and archival material.

*Blain, Keishan (2018). **Set the world on fire**. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. This text is about Black Nationalist women and the global struggle for freedom.

*Brown, Adrienne Maree (2017). *Emergent strategy shaping change, changing worlds*. Chicago: AK Press. This text speaks to radical self-help, society-help, and planet-help. It is designed to shape the futures we want to live.

In Motion: The African American Migration Experience. The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (www.nypl.org/research/sc/schtml) and companion book to web site, National Geographic Publishers.

All communities in American society trace the origins in the United States to one or more migration experiences. But until recently, people of African descent have not counted as part of America’s migratory tradition. The transatlantic slave trade has created an enduring image of African peoples as transported commodities, and is usually considered the most defining element in the construction of the African Diaspora, but it is centuries of additional movements that have given shape to the nation we know today. **In Motion: The African American Migration Experience** presents new interpretation of African American history, one that focuses on the self-motivated activities of peoples of African descent to reinvent themselves and their worlds. Of the thirteen defining migrations that formed and transformed African America, only the transatlantic trade and the domestic slave trades were coerced; the eleven others were voluntary movements of resourceful and creative people, risk-takers in an exploitative and hostile environment. Having survival skills, efficient networks, and dynamic culture, these people were able to thrive and spread, and to be at the very core of the settlement development of the Americas. These Africans in the diaspora changed not only their worlds, but also the Western hemisphere.

Douglass, Frederick (1852). *What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?* An address delivered in Rochester, New York, on July 5, 1852. **The Norton Anthology of African American Literature**. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

The nineteenth century was marked by legislative, moral, and political struggle over the question of slavery in the United States. At the center of this debate was Frederick Douglass, an ex-enslaved person and fugitive, an orator for justice. This speech by Frederick Douglass was delivered before the Rochester Antislavery Sewing Society and is an example of his tireless work that led to the end of chattel slavery in the United

States. In addition, on a day set aside to celebrate the freedom and independence of citizens of the United States, Douglass speaks to the hypocrisy of this society as it dedicates all of its power to keeping black men and women enslaved, denying them all of their inalienable rights, their “American Dream”. Furthermore, this speech is oratory in the grand manner and is in the oral tradition of Africans in the diaspora.

Delpit, Lisa and Dowdy, Joanne Kilgour (2002). **The skin we speak: thoughts on language and culture in the classroom.** New York: The New Press. This text offers a cutting edge look at crucial educational issues, particularly the struggles that non-standard English speakers have.

Giovanni, Nikki, ed. (2008). **Hip hop speaks to children: a celebration of poetry with a beat.** Naperville, Illinois. This book and CD are meant to be beginnings of journeys of poetic discovery. They are filled with a wide range of styles, eras, and poets. There are 51 selections from 42 poets and performers, and 30 performances on the audio CD.

Goodwin, Susan and Swartz, Ellen (2006). **Teaching children of color: seven Constructs of effective teaching in urban schools.** Rochester, NY: RTA Press. This text offers insights into instruction that exposes teachers and their students to an internal view of teaching and learning. It is designed to support professional development and new learning for teacher educators.

Michie, Gregory (2005). **See you when we get there.** New York: Teachers College Press. This text features portraits of five young teachers (two African Americans, two Latinas, and one Asian American) who are working for change. Through their voices with classroom vignettes and his own experiences, Michie examines what motivates and sustains these teachers, as well as what they see as the challenges and possibilities of public education.

*Rankine, Claudia (2014). **Citizen: an American lyric.** Minneapolis: Graywolf Press. Rankine’s text explores the micro-aggressions people of color, particularly women, experience every day.

Shakur, Tupac (2000). **The rose that grew from concrete.** (CD) Santa Monica, CA: Amaru/Interscope Records. This is a compilation of poems by Tupac Shakur, set to music and spoken by Tupac and other forward thinking artists.

Tatum, Alfred (2009). **Reading for their life: (re) building the textual lineages of african american males.** Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann Press. In this text, Tatum takes a bold step beyond just teaching reading to young black males. He shows how teachers can encourage adolescent African American males to connect with reading by defining who they are through **textual lineages**-texts with significance, carefully chosen for instruction because they are useful to young black males and because they matter.

*Wilkerson, Isabel (2020). **Caste: the origins of our discontents.** New York: Random

House. Wilkerson gives the reader a portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

