



African-American Non-Fiction

*This list includes only a few of many African-American writers. Check the San Leandro Public Library's online catalog or ask a librarian for further information on the subject. To discover more about African American writers, please visit "African-American Writers: a Celebration" at www.mtsu.edu/~vvesper/afam.htm.
** Please note: some of these authors write about African American characters but are not African American.*

Barlow, William. From Swing to Soul. 781.64 BARLOW.

An illustrated history of African-American influence on mid-twentieth century music, featuring profiles of ground-breaking musicians as well as a narrative survey of the blues, jazz, swing and bebop, rhythm & blues, and the emergence of soul.

Boyd, Julia. In the Company of My Sisters: Black Women & Self-Esteem. 305.451 BRACEY.

Psychotherapist Julia Boyd offers this affectionate mix of feminist analysis, pop psychology, and sisterly wisdom written in a colloquial style and interspersed with anecdotes and questions drawn from her "sister circle" support group of friends.

Bracey, John H. Black Nationalism in America. 301.451 BOYD.

An authoritative anthology of black nationalist thought, including the varieties ranging from racial solidarity, cultural nationalism, religious nationalism, through economic nationalism and political nationalism, to territorial separatism and Pan-Africanism.

Dixon, Barbara. Good Health for African Americans. 613.089 DIXON.

Nutritionist Barbara Dixon analyzes the health risk factors for African Americans and suggests feasible means of prevention and treatment, supplying a fascinating historical explanation behind African-American disease and mortality rates.

Edwards, Audrey. Children of the Dream: the psychology of black success. 155.8 EDWARDS.

Forty-one personal vignettes describe African-American success in a wide variety of occupations, with athletics and entertainment excluded. Issues discussed include integration, adaptive skills, and ten characteristics of successful African Americans.

Floyd, Samuel. The Power of Black Music: interpreting its history from Africa to the United States. 780.89 FLOYD.

A history of African-American music cites the contributions of prominent artists and identifies the links between the music, myths, and rituals of Africa and the continuing evolution and vitality of African-American music.

Franklin, John Hope. From Slavery to Freedom: a history of African Americans. 973.049 FRANKLIN.

Called the most authoritative history of African Americans, this vivid account details the journey of African Americans from their African origin, through slavery, to the successful struggle for freedom in the West Indies, Latin America, and the U.S.

_____. Runaway Slaves: rebels on the plantation. 975.0049 FRANKLIN.

Using primary documents such as court records, newspapers, and letters of contemporaries, including slaves themselves, noted historians show that slaves often resisted their condition by means direct and indirect, and frequently to the point of running away.

_____. Reconstruction: after the Civil War. 973.8 FRANKLIN.

Topics include the briefness of the military occupation, the actual conduct of southern governments, the qualifications of Negroes and other members of state legislatures and postwar constitutional conventions, and the positive results of the entire episode.

_____. The Emancipation Proclamation. 973.7 FRANKLIN.

The author draws attention to the evolution of the Emancipation Document in the mind of Lincoln, the circumstances and conditions that led to its writing, its impact on the course of the war, and its significance for later generations.

Fraser, George. Success Runs in our Race. 650.13 FRASER.

Offering more than 350 tips and tactics, and scores of anecdotes, George Fraser shows how to network for information, for influence, and for resources -- not just for personal achievement, but also for benefit of the entire African-American community.

Golden, Marita. Saving our Sons: raising black children in a turbulent world. 305.235 GOLDEN.

Golden uses her own journal and interviews with the parents of kids killed and kids who killed to give shape to her narrative of one parent's search for ways to help her son and "all our sons" live into adulthood in the midst of a racially divided, violent society.

Hooks, Bell. Killing Rage: Ending Racism. 305.8 HOOKS.

Twenty-three essays address a spectrum of topics having to do with race and racism in the United States including psychological trauma among African Americans, anti-Semitism and racism, and internalized racism in movies and the media.



Kimbro, Dennis. Think and Grow Rich: a Black Choice. 158.1 KIMBRO.

Entrepreneur Dennis Kimbro combines bestselling author Napoleon Hill's law of success with his own vast knowledge of business, contemporary affairs, and the vibrant culture of Black America to teach the secrets to success used by scores of African Americans.



Kunjufu, Jawanza. The Power, Passion, and Pain of Black Love. 306.73 KUNJUFU.

This thought-provoking examination of relationships critically looks at issues such as economics, self-esteem, compatibility, trust, and communication from an Africentric perspective.

Maynard, Robert. Letters to My Children. 070.92 MAYNARD.

As the first African American to own a major metropolitan newspaper, *Oakland Tribune* editor, publisher and president Robert Maynard built circulation and won a Pulitzer Prize. This collection of Maynard's columns, compiled by his daughter Dori, features work written from the time he took over the paper until his untimely death in 1993.

Pearson, Hugh. The Shadow of the Panther: Huey Newton and the price of black power in America. 973.0049 PEARSON.

This history of the Black Panthers and account of the rise and fall of Huey Newton traces the development of the civil rights movement from the formation of the Brotherhood of Sleeping-Car Porters in the 1920s through the leadership of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X and demonstrates how Newton's personal conflicts mirrored those of the Black Panther Party.

Reagon, Bernice. We who Believe in Freedom: Sweet Honey in the Rock Still on the Journey. 782.25 REAGON.

This book celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Grammy Award-winning a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock and chronicles the group's social/historical force within the African-American community.

Reed, Ishmael. Airing Dirty Laundry. 305.896 REED.

A noted African-American novelist, poet, and critic expresses his witticism and satire in a collection of provoking essays spanning his career from 1978 to 1983.

Robinson, Frank. Extra Innings. 796.357 ROBINSON.

Robinson, the only man to be named most valuable player in both major leagues and the first black manager in baseball, discusses racism in the diamond sport, the major leagues, and in the front office. He and coauthor Berry Stainback also explore the problems of drug abuse and cheating by pitchers and batters.

Rose, Tricia. Black Noise: rap music and black culture in contemporary America. 782.4216 ROSE.

A comprehensive look at the lyrics, music, cultures, themes, and styles of rap and hip hop music.

Taylor, Susan. Lessons in Living. 291.43 TAYLOR.

Intermingled with personal details of career, divorce, parenting and remarriage are Taylor's strategies for finding inner peace amid the stress of contemporary living, linking personal experience with social and spiritual insights.

Vanzant, Iyanla. Value in the Valley: a black woman's guide through life's dilemmas. 158 VANZANT.

An African-American inspirational author describes the "valley experiences" -- the dark moments in life -- and teaches the skills needed to move beyond those low points, from dealing with a job that one hates but needs to ending abusive relationships.

... African American Wisdom: a book of quotations and proverbs. 808.88 AFRICAN.

The contributors in this beautifully illustrated collection share truths, struggles, knowledge, and joy as they speak candidly on issues of African-American family, community, and worship. Includes Maya Angelou, Nelson Mandela, Alvin Ailey, Frederick Douglass, Bobby Seale, Denzel Washington, Oprah Winfrey, and Jackie Joyner Kersee.

... My Soul is a Witness: African-American women's spirituality. 277.308 MY.

The poems, stories, and personal narratives in this anthology -- by such writers as Maya Angelou, Rita Dove, bell hooks, and Alice Walker -- bear witness to the importance of religion and spirituality in the lives of African-American women.

... Talking Drums: an African-American quote collection. 081.089 TALKING.

Organized into more than seventy-five subject categories and featuring quotes from Muhammad Ali, Dick Gregory, Zora Neale Hurston, LaToya Jackson, and many others, this informative, inspiring, often humorous collection offers views on life from an African-American perspective.



... Unchained Memories: readings from the slave narratives. 973.04 UNCHAINED.

A riveting compilation of more than 40 first-person anecdotes and narratives drawn from interviews with former slaves conducted in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration.

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