



# Black Voices: An Anthology of Afro-American Literature

*Abraham Chapman (Editor)*

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BLACK VOICES is the most widely-read and acclaimed Afro-American anthology ever assembled. In its 720 pages is the core of the black literary heritage of America, ranging from slavery days to the post-Martin Luther King era. It includes fiction, poetry, autobiography and criticism by forty-four men and women who rank among the most talented writers - black or white - that this country has produced. If there is room in your budget for only one anthology of black American literature, BLACK VOICES should be your choice.

## Black Voices: An Anthology of Afro-American Literature Details

Date : Published September 1st 1968 by Signet (first published January 1st 1968)

ISBN : 9780451626608

Author : Abraham Chapman (Editor)

Format : Paperback 718 pages

Genre : Poetry, Anthologies, History, Cultural, African American, Race, Nonfiction

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# From Reader Review **Black Voices: An Anthology of Afro-American Literature** for online ebook

**Veronica Harris says**

Partially read... (page 202/699)

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**Sylvain says**

Even though I've taken a full-year University class on American literature, we still only looked at two texts from African-American writers. Both slave narratives, of course. And great narratives they are, but it still pigeonholes African-American literature, and clearly there is a much larger wealth of it out there, as this book (already over 40 years old) demonstrates. Though it makes sense for it to end with the literary criticism section, it's also a bit of a letdown. Particularly strong are the opening fiction and autobiography sections, though the poetry section also has some highlights. It has definitely made me want to read more from some of the authors selected for this worthwhile anthology.

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**Rob says**

I've never read such a comprehensive literary view of African Americans. *Black Voices*, edited by Abraham Chapman, presents prominent and groundbreaking short stories, poetry, autobiographies, and literary criticism by African Americans. As I digested the works within, I was given a renewed understanding of the plight of African Americans in the United States. Yes, I knew the basics and particulars of unjust slavery and lack of civil rights rolled into outright bigotry; however, reading these writings provided a keener insight into African Americans' deplorable conditions and struggles towards equality (my vantage point had been stilted by attending a predominately white high school). A key passage connected African American expressions to origins of the shackles of slavery: "Much that is original in black American folklore, or singular in Negro spirituals and blues can be traced to the economic institution of slavery and its influence on the [African American] soul" (634). Perhaps this means the painful degradation of African Americans places them firmly in the roots of the country (U.S.A.) that abused them, forming a distinct identity risen from misalliance. Such a history belongs in classrooms and given the equal focus of white history and literature. *Black Voices* is a valuable resource.

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**Vincent Odhiambo says**

My naivety showed when I initially read the pre-emptory notes to the Langston Hughes section of the book, he was apparently the only Negro writer who lived entirely on the professional earnings of his literary activities. I frantically scoured my mind for a riposte, Ellison apart from playing Writer in Residence at the many colleges was, it turns out, a music major and a damn fine jazz trumpeter! Same could be said of Frank London Brown who played jazz with Thelonius Monk. Charles Chesnutt and Stanley Sanders were lawyers, Rudolph Fisher and Frank Horne were medical doctors. Well, William Edward DuBois was everything. Interesting case would be Baldwin, his sojourn in Europe partly lifts him from the socio-economic landscape

his peers had to deal with stateside. The political environment as consequence of the Black struggle and especially with the country still reeling from the shadow of slavery, these I feel to a great extent contributed that quirky bit of statistic. My naivety still shows mind.

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### **Jenn says**

I have repurchased so many copies of this book that it is unreal. I read it over and over until it is literally a set of pages with no binding. This has been going on since I was around maybe 7 or 8. I am now 41.

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### **Bill says**

I got this for African American Voice and Articulation in Emerson College. I wound up reading the whole thing. A wonderful collection of writing. I wish I still had it.

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### **Gwen Lester-Cunningham says**

This book is a classic. I read it in high school and recently purchased it to keep in my personal library. I read through it again and got even more satisfaction than I did as a teen.

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### **Frank Roberts says**

I bought this and read it back in high school, when buying books was a high luxury for a poor kid. I know I am a white guy originally from WV, but the works in here really spoke to me, in a way few other works ever have. Even though it was published in the late 60s, the works in it are timeless.

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### **Rachel says**

Again, I only read a selection from this book. It contains some great short stories and excerpts, including "Neighbors."

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### **Mary says**

I read a selection of passages from this book for my African-American Literature class. The authors I read in this book were DuBois, Johnson, Dunbar, Toomer, McKay, Cullen, Bontemps, and Hughes.

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**Sheila Rocha says**

This is by far my favorite compilation of American poetry and prose. From Robert Hayden to Gwendolyn Brooks and more...a path for the community to begin its walk through the profound writings of 20th century Black America.

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**Zenzele-Leandria Young says**

Had this book in High School and it came back to my memory due to talking with one of my sisters about the writers during the Harlem Renaissance period. I felt that this book gave a lot of insight to a few of the top authors of that time. I am looking to purchase a copy. My mother through away my original copy with my dog-eared pages & highlights. :(

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**Sandy says**

I still remember reading these intense stories in my junior year in high school. One in particular has always stuck with me about an old and tired out share cropper and his wife who have struggled for years to make ends meet and scrape by, but finally, late in life they still have nothing to show for all their years of hard work. One day, deliberately dressed in their Sunday best, they get in their beat up old vehicle and drive into the river. Powerful story.

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**Rochelle says**

Very good reading lots of different authors, poetry, essays interesting and informative.

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**Bernadette says**

Excellent anthology of the best of African American writers of the 20th century.

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