

Black History Month

Booklist Recommendations for Adults

Fiction

1. **"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store"** by James McBride (2023)
A compelling historical novel about a small town in Pennsylvania, blending themes of community, race, and resilience.
F MCB, LP F MCB, e-book
2. **"Someday, Maybe"** by Onyi Nwabineli (2022)
Onyi Nwabineli's debut novel "Someday, Maybe" follows Eve Ezenwa-Morrow through the strange, depression-ridden soup of time immediately after her husband's death. The title phrase reemerges throughout the book as Eve navigates the uncertainty of her newfound widowhood.
F NWA, e-book, e-audiobook
3. **"The Secret Lives of Church Ladies"** by Deesha Philyaw (2020)
A collection of short stories about Black women grappling with faith, desire, and family dynamics.
F PHI
4. **"The Final Revival of Opal & Nev"** by Dawnie Walton (2021)
A novel about a Black rock star and her rise to fame in the 1970s, tackling issues of race, music, and media.
F WAL, e-book
5. **"Black Cake"** by Charmaine Wilkerson (2022)
A novel about a family's history told through the lens of a traditional Caribbean recipe, with themes of identity, love, and legacy.
F WIL, e-book
6. **"A Psalm for the Wild-Built"** by Becky Chambers (2021)
While not strictly a poetry book, this speculative novel focuses on environmental issues and the desire for a better world, in a way that resonates with themes of Black liberation.
F CHA, e-book
7. **"Queenie"** by Candice Carty-Williams (2019)
This novel tells the story of Queenie Jenkins, a 25-year-old Black woman in London navigating career, mental health, and love. A perfect pick for older teens interested in a raw and honest exploration of adulthood and self-identity.
F CAR, e-book
8. **"We Are Not Like Them"** by Christine Pride & Jo Piazza (2021)
A powerful novel about race, friendship, and loyalty, following two women, one Black and one white, who find their bond tested when a police shooting leads to unrest in their community.
F PRI

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Booklist Recommendations for Adults

Nonfiction

1. **"The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story"** by Nikole Hannah-Jones (2021)
A powerful collection of essays that reexamines the history of slavery in America, offering a new framework for understanding its enduring legacy.
973 SIX, e-book, e-audiobook
2. **"All About Love: New Visions"** by bell hooks (2018)
An insightful and profound exploration of love, examining its transformative power and the ways it has been distorted in society.
e-book
3. **"Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents"** by Isabel Wilkerson (2020)
A landmark work examining the unspoken caste system in America and its deep roots in the history of slavery.
e-book, e-audiobook
4. **"Finding Me"** by Viola Davis (2022)
A candid and inspiring memoir by the Oscar-winning actress that charts her struggles with poverty, racism, and self-discovery.
B DAV, e-book, e-audiobook
5. **"How We Fight for Our Lives"** by Saeed Jones (2019)
A deeply personal and lyrical memoir that touches on race, sexuality, and identity in America.
B JON
6. **"Between the World and Me"** by Ta-Nehisi Coates
A powerful letter from Coates to his son about the realities of being Black in America, filled with poignant reflections on race and history.
305.8 COA, e-book
7. **"Black Fortunes: The Story of the First Six African Americans Who Escaped Slavery and Became Millionaires"** by Shomari Wills (2020)
An inspiring account of the first six African Americans who made fortunes after slavery, offering a deep dive into their lives, struggles, and accomplishments.
e-book
8. **"The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X"** by Les Payne & Tamara Payne (2020)
An exhaustive, definitive biography of Malcolm X that examines his life, legacy, and the societal forces that shaped his revolutionary ideas.
B X