

# Black History Month 2024 – Reading List

February is Black History Month, a time to honour the contributions, achievements and experiences of Black people in Canada. This year's Black History Month theme is "Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build", and our reading list focuses on Black Canadian history, politics, and culture. It includes works from Black Canadian writers such as Dionne Brand, Rinaldo Walcott, Cecil Fraser, George Elliott Clarke, and M. Nourbese Philip. All the books on this reading list are part of this month's thematic display and are available at the library. The eBooks are available online, and the DVDs can be borrowed from the Circulation Desk.

## Prints

### History

#### *United States*

- McKittrick, Katherine, and Clyde Adrian Woods. [\*Black Geographies and the Politics of Place\*](#). Between the Lines, 2007.
- Prince, Bryan. [\*I Came As a Stranger : The Underground Railroad\*](#). Tundra Books, 2004.

#### *Canada*

- Matsuoka, Atsuko Karin, and John Sorenson. [\*Ghosts and Shadows : Construction of Identity and Community in an African Diaspora\*](#). University of Toronto Press, 2001.
- Tettey, Wisdom, and Korbla P Puplampu. [\*The African Diaspora in Canada : Negotiating Identity & Belonging\*](#). University of Calgary Press, 2005.
- Creese, Gillian Laura. [\*The New African Diaspora in Vancouver : Migration, Exclusion, and Belonging\*](#). University of Toronto Press, 2011.
- Foster, Cecil. [\*A Place Called Heaven : The Meaning of Being Black in Canada\*](#). HarperCollins, 1996.
- Foster, Cecil. [\*Blackness and Modernity : The Colour of Humanity and the Quest for Freedom\*](#). McGill-Queen's University Press, 2007.

- James, Carl E. [\*Race & Well-Being : The Lives, Hopes, and Activism of African Canadians.\*](#) Fernwood Pub, 2010.
- Walcott, Rinaldo. [\*Rude : Contemporary Black Canadian Cultural Criticism.\*](#) Insomniac Press, 2000.
- Sadlier, Rosemary, and Qijun Wang. [\*The Kids Book of Black Canadian History.\*](#) Kids Can Press, 2003.
- Walcott, Rinaldo. [\*Black Like Who? : Writing Black Canada.\*](#) 2nd rev. ed., Insomniac Press, 2003.
- Madden, Paula. [\*African Nova Scotian-Mi'kmaw Relations.\*](#) Fernwood Pub, 2009.

## Folklore

- Onuora, Adwoa Ntozake. [\*Anansem : Telling Stories and Storytelling African Maternal Pedagogies.\*](#) Demeter Press, 2015.

## Sports

- Abdel-Shehid, Gamal. [\*Who Da Man? : Black Masculinities and Sporting Cultures.\*](#) Canadian Scholars' Press, 2005.

## Feminism

- Wane, Njoki Nathani, and Notisha Massaquoi. [\*Theorizing Empowerment : Canadian Perspectives on Black Feminist Thought.\*](#) Inanna Publications and Education, 2007.

## Music

- Wilson, Jason. [\*King Alpha's Song in a Strange Land : The Roots and Routes of Canadian Reggae.\*](#) UBC Press, 2020.
- Batten, Jack. [\*Oscar Peterson : The Man and His Jazz.\*](#) Tundra Books, 2012.

## Visual arts

- Crooks, Julie, et al., editors. [\*Making History : Visual Arts & Blackness in Canada\*](#). Royal Ontario Museum, 2023.
- Ohri, Aditi, et al. [\*Towards an African Canadian Art History : Art, Memory, and Resistance\*](#). Edited by Charmaine Nelson, Captus Press, 2019.

## History and Criticism of Canadian Literature

- Bailey Nurse, Donna. [\*What's a Black Critic to Do? : Interviews, Profiles, and Reviews of Black Writers\*](#). Insomniac Press, 2003.
- Clarke, George Elliott. [\*Odysseys Home : Mapping African-Canadian Literature\*](#). University of Toronto Press, 2002.
- Siemerling, Winfried. [\*The Black Atlantic Reconsidered : Black Canadian Writing, Cultural History, and the Presence of the Past\*](#). McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015.
- Moynagh, Maureen Anne, editor. [\*African-Canadian Theatre\*](#). First ed., Playwrights Canada Press, 2005.

## Canadian Literature

- Compton, Wayde. [\*Bluesprint : Black British Columbian Literature and Orature\*](#). Arsenal Pulp Press, 2001.
- Black, Ayanna. [\*Voices : Canadian Writers of African Descent\*](#). 1st ed., HarperCollins, 1992.
- [\*Black Girl Talk\*](#). Sister Vision, 1995.
- Harris, Claire, et al. [\*Grammar of Dissent : Poetry and Prose by Claire Harris, M. Nourbese Philip and Dionne Brand\*](#). Edited by Carol Morrell, Goose Lane, 1994.
- Clarke, Austin. [\*When He Was Free and Young and He Used to Wear Silks : Stories\*](#). Anansi, 1971.
- Brand, Dionne. [\*Ossuaries\*](#). McClelland & Stewart, 2010. Performance bond
- Hill, Lawrence. [\*Black Berry, Sweet Juice : On Being Black and White in Canada\*](#). 1st ed., HarperFlamingo, 2001.
- Mayr, Suzette. [\*Monoceros : A Novel\*](#). 1st ed., Coach House Books, 2011.

- Philip, Marlene Nourbese. [\*She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks\*](#). Ragweed Press, 1989. Discerner of hearts
- Douglas, Orville Lloyd. [\*Under My Skin\*](#). First ed., Guernica Editions, 2014.
- Edugyan, Esi. [\*Half-Blood Blues\*](#). Thomas Allen, 2011.

#### *Dramatic Works*

- Anthony, Trey. [\*'da Kink in My Hair\*](#). 1st ed., Playwrights Canada Press, 2005.
- Dixon, Beau, et al. [\*Beneath Springhill : The Maurice Ruddick Story\*](#). Scirocco Drama, 2021.
- Grant, Shauntay, and Playwrights Canada Press. [\*The Bridge\*](#). First ed., Playwrights Canada Press, 2021.
- Parris, Amanda, and Playwrights Canada Press. [\*Other Side of the Game\*](#). First ed., Playwrights Canada Press, 2019.

#### Children's Picture Books

- Warner, Jody, and Richard Rudnicki. [\*Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged!\*](#) Greenwood Books/House of Anansi Press, 2010.
- Richardson, Jael Ealey, and Matt James. [\*The Stone Thrower\*](#). Greenwood Books, 2016.
- Badoe, Adwoa, and Baba Wagué Diakité. [\*The Pot of Wisdom : Ananse Stories\*](#). 1st ed., Douglas & McIntyre, 2001.

#### EBooks

- Vernon, Karina, editor. [\*The Black Prairie Archives : An Anthology\*](#). Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2019.
- Mackey, Frank. [\*Black Then : Blacks and Montreal, 1780-1880's\*](#). McGill-Queen's University Press, 2004.
- Clarke, George Elliott. [\*Directions Home : Approaches to African-Canadian Literature\*](#). University of Toronto Press, 2012.
- Prince, Althea, editor. [\*In the Black : New African Canadian Literature\*](#). Insomniac Press, 2014.

## Video

- Hamilton, Sylvia, and Shelagh Mackenzie. [\*Black Mother, Black Daughter\*](#). National Film Board of Canada, 2005.
- National Film Board of Canada, director. [\*Journey to Justice\*](#). 2013.
- Brand, Dionne, et al., directors. [\*Listening for Something : Adrienne Rich and Dionne Brand in Conversation\*](#). 2014.
- Maynard, Robyn, and Leanne Betasamosake Simpson. [\*Rehearsals for Living\*](#). Knopf Canada, 2022
- Fraticelli, Rina. [\*Sisters in the Struggle\*](#). NFB, 2010.
- Inkster, Dana, et al., directors. [\*Welcome to Africville\*](#). V Tape, 2009.