

***DENOTES AFRICAN-AMERICAN AUTHOR**

12 BOOKS THAT SERVED AS THE LITERARY BASIS FOR THEWOOZY.COM

1. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X - ALEX HALEY *

If there is one book that has awakened America to the struggle for power and black identity in the mid-20th century, it is the story of a child named Malcolm Little, who found himself in prison and transformed himself into Malcolm X, the tip of the spear for black militancy.

2. MY BONDAGE AND MY FREEDOM - FREDERICK DOUGLASS*

Frederick Douglass writes with a technical and artistic savvy rarely matched in the history of literature. In the telling of his life story, Douglass illustrates his indomitable integrity and unbreakable spirit.

3. UNCLE TOM'S CABIN - HARRIET BEECHER STOWE *

The power of Stowe's work is rooted in an unrelenting narrative, that combines the best qualities of classic fiction with the hero's journey, all centered on a series of arguments on age old human questions as represented by America's enslavement of African peoples.

4. RADIO FREE DIXIE (ROBERT F. WILLIAMS) - TIMOTHY TYSON

Robert F. Williams story satisfies the need of modern blacks to identify with a leader who never bowed in the face of racial terror. Radio Free Dixie tells the story of how Williams went from the FBI's 10 most wanted list, to living as the esteemed guest of Fidel Castro, Ho Chi Minh and Mao Zedung before being repatriated to the United States as a free man, under the order of President Richard Nixon.

5. 12 YEARS A SLAVE - SOLOMON NORTHRUP*

Solomon Northrup was abducted from freedom in the north and dragged to the darkest pit of southern slavery. Through his journey, we are allowed a rare glimpse into an ultra-literary experience in America's peculiar institution.

6. BLACK SKIN, WHITE MASKS - FRANTZ FANON*

Fanon, a Caribbean born, french educated psychiatrist, went to Algeria and witnessed the Algerian Revolution first-hand. After the overthrow of the French, Fanon watched as the Algerian elite replaced the French as corrupt oppressors, a process that gives this ground breaking psychological investigation its title.

7. AMERICAN SLAVERY AS IT IS - THEODORE DWIGHT WELD

Weld's book forms the most horrible compendium ever assembled of the perverse horrors of slavery. Culled from personal testimony, newspaper articles and sworn affidavit, American Slavery was Weld's irrefutable indictment on the state of American slavery.

8. INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL - HARRIET JACOBS *

Harriet Jacobs, a woman of incredible poise and dignity, was forced to hide herself in a 6 foot unheated crawlspace for several years until she found the opportunity to steal herself away to freedom.

9. THE MISEDUCATION OF THE NEGRO - CARTER G. WOODSON

Woodson, the Harvard educated former coal miner, expounds on the conspiracy to miseducate Negroes and thereby keep them in a state of perpetual subservience.

10. DOPEFIEND - DONALD GOINES*

Donald Goines, former dope fiend and felon, follows in the footsteps of Iceberg Slim as an urban fiction pioneer. Dopefiend is a train wreck of a story set in an urban hell of dope and desperation.

11. NARRATIVE OF OLAUDAH EQUIANO - OLAUDAH EQUIANO

Olaudah's story spans a great deal of the enslaved black diaspora. Kidnapped by slave traders in Africa, Olaudah's journey took him across the Caribbean to the America's and to England. Olaudah later purchased his freedom and became a leading voice in the Abolitionist movement.

12. BLACK BOY - RICHARD WRIGHT*

Richard Wright's polished voice tells the story of what it is to be a Black Boy that is directionless, prone to delinquency and tortured by hunger, -a hunger that extends to a sense of purpose and a need for a meaningful identity.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ESSENTIAL READING LIST

Af-Am Autobiography

Pimp - Iceberg Slim *
Revolutionary Suicide - Huey P. Newton *
Makes Me Wanna Holler - Nathan McCall *
Narrative of the Life of Henry Bibb - Henry Bibb *
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry - Mildred D. Taylor *
Voices from Slavery: 100 Narratives - Norman R. Yetman

Af-Am Historical Non-Fiction

Freedom Summer - Bruce Watson
Bearing the Cross - David J. Garrow
Bury The Chains - Adam Hochschild
On the Laps of Gods - Robert Whitaker
The Warmth of Other Suns - Isabel Wilkerson *
From Slavery to Freedom - John Hope Franklin *
Black Reconstruction in America - W.E.B. Du Bois *
Runaway Slaves - John Hope Franklin & L. Schweninger *

Af-Am Essays - Perspectives - Stories

Roots - Alex Haley *
Notes of a Native Son - James Baldwin *
The Souls of Black Folk - W.E.B. Du Bois *
Up From Slavery - Booker T. Washington *
The Wretched of the Earth - Frantz Fanon *
The Ways of White Folks - Langston Hughes *
Breaking the Chains of Psychological Slavery - Na'im Akbar *

Af-Am Fiction

Beloved - Toni Morrison *

Kindred - Octavia Butler *
The Color Purple - Alice Walker *
Sounder - William H. Armstrong
The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman - Ernest J. Gaines *

NON-AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUST READS

Young Kids

The Cat in the Hat - Dr. Seuss
Madeline - Ludwig Bemelmans
Homer Price - Robert McCloskey
The Snowy Day - Ezra Jack Keats *
Miss Twiggly's Tree - Dorothea Warren Fox
Sylvester and the Magic Pebble - William Steig
The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins - Dr. Seuss
Gordon of Sesame Street Storybook - Matt Robinson *
The Frog Wore Red Suspenders - J. Prelutsky & P. Mathers

Young Adults & Graphic Novels (G)

The Pearl - John Steinbeck
The Raven - Edgar Allen Poe
Animal Farm - George Orwell
A World out of Time - Larry Niven
The Wizard of Oz - L. Frank Baum
Of Mice and Men - John Steinbeck
Alice in Wonderland - Lewis Carroll
Treasure Island - John Louis Stevenson
The U.S. Constitution - J. Hennessey & A. McConnell(G)
Lincoln Shot: A President's Life - B. Denenberg & C. Bing(G)
Cartoon History of the Universe Vols 1-7, 8-13 & III - L. Gonic(G)
A People's History of American Empire - H. Zinn, P. Buhle & M. Konopacki (G)

Adult Fiction

1984 - George Orwell
The Odyssey - Homer
Outlaw - Miguel Pinero
Ecotopia - Ernest Callenbach
The Silmarillion - J.R.R. Tolkien
The Unnamable - Samuel Beckett
Brave New World - Aldous Huxley
Don Quixote - Miguel De Cervantes
The Divine Comedy - Dante Aligheri
The Name of the Rose - Umberto Eco
Of Time and the River - Thomas Wolfe
Absalom, Absalom! - William Faulkner
The Lathe of Heaven - Ursula K. Le Guin

History - Biography

Conquest - Hugh Thomas
Sitting Bull - Ernie La Pointe
The Long Haul - Myles Horton

Young Stalin - Simon Sebag Montefiore
Memory of Fire (Trilogy) - Eduardo Galeano
Einstein: His Life & Universe - Walter Isaacson
Agents of Repression - Churchill & Vander Wall
Gotham, A History of New York - Burrows & Wallace
The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich - William L. Shirer
Sufferings in Africa: Shipwreck & Survival - James Riley & Dean King
In the Heart of the Sea, Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex - Nathaniel Philbrick

Philosophy - Methods - Humanities

Collected Poems - W.H. Auden
Reinventing Freire - Antonia Darder
Guns, Germs & Steel - Jared Diamond
Experience & Education - John Dewey
The Feminine Mystique - Betty Freidan
Thought and Language - Les S. Vygotsky
Teaching Needy Kids - Siegfried Engelmann
Getting the Love You Want - Harville Hendrix
Super Memory, Super Student - Harry Lorayne
Conversations with Wendell Berry - Wendell Berry
Levels of Knowing and Existence - Harry L. Weinberg
We Make the Road by Walking - Paulo Freire, Myles Horton
The Hundred Languages of Children: Reggio Emilia - Edwards, Gandini & Forman

Spirituality

The New Testament
The Hero's Journey - Joseph Campbell
Essays on Zen Buddhism - D.T. Suzuki
The Lakota Way - Joseph M. Marshall III
Awakening the Buddha Within - Lama Surya Das
Roots and Wings - Osho (Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh)

Origin of Life, the Universe & Existence

The Life of the Cosmos - Lee Smolin
Signature In The Cell - Stephen C. Meyer
The Holographic Universe - Michael Talbot
The 5th Miracle: The Origin of Life - Paul Davies
The Inflationary Universe: Cosmic Origins - Alan Guth
The Anthropic Cosmological Principle - J. Barrow & F. Tipler
The Mystery of Life's Origin - C. Thaxton, W. Bradley & R. Olsen