

# Black History Month

## Fiction Texts

## Non Fiction Texts

## Poems

## Popular Culture

<p><b>Buffalo Soldier (13+)</b> <b>Tanya Landman</b></p> <p>Plantation slave Charley Smith is eleven when America blows itself apart, with Abraham Lincoln's decision to prohibit slavery. Charley thinks a slice of heaven is coming her way. But it's a taste of hell.</p> 	<p><b>Black and British (13+)</b> <b>David Olusoga</b></p> <p>David Olusoga's latest edition of <i>Black and British</i> has been revised and rewritten especially for secondary school children, and explains and illustrates the much-overlooked history of Black peoples in Britain and beyond.</p> 	<p><b>A Change is Gonna Come (12+)</b></p> <p>Featuring poems and stories from 12 black, Asian and minority ethnic authors – including four previously unpublished writers – this absorbing book offers refreshing perspectives and thought-provoking questions about the meaning of change that will hit home with everyone.</p> 	<p><b>British Library – Windrush Stories</b></p> <p>In June 1948 the <i>Empire Windrush</i> arrived at Tilbury Docks, Essex carrying hundreds of people from the Caribbean. 70 years on, <i>Windrush Stories</i> invites us to consider a longer, more complicated and ongoing relationship between Britain and the Caribbean.</p>
<p><b>The Hate U Give (12+)</b> <b>Angie Thomas</b></p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her best friend Khalil.</p> 	<p><b>The Extraordinary Life of Series (10+)</b></p> <p>Published by Penguin, this series explores the extraordinary life of many influential people such as Nelson Mandela, Serena Williams, Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole, Katherine Johnson and many more.</p> 	<p><b>Still I Rise (11+)</b> <b>Maya Angelou</b></p> <p><i>"You may write me down in history With your bitter, twisted lies, You may tread me in the very dirt But still, like dust, I'll rise."</i></p> 	<p><b>TV</b> <b>BBC Adaptation of Malorie Blackman's Noughts and Crosses.</b></p> <p>In a dystopian London, Sephy and Callum fall in love despite the odds. Can they breach the divide between the black elite and white underclass?</p> 
<p><b>Crongton Knights (12+)</b> <b>Alex Wheatle</b></p> <p>McKay's life on the South Crongton Estate is rough. His Mum has died, his Dad works all hours of the day to keep away the Bailiffs, and his brother is always out looking for trouble. McKay never looks for trouble, but in one mad night everything changes.</p> 	<p><b>This Book is Anti-Racist (10+)</b> <b>Tiffany Jewell</b></p> <p>Often using personal anecdotes about her own schooling, family and experiences as a young mixed race girl, Jewell's fascinating, friendly and hugely relatable guide is essential reading for kids with questions about racism, politics and history as well as the current #blacklivesmatter movement.</p> 	<p><b>What Stephen Lawrence Taught Us (12+)</b> <b>Benjamin Zephaniah</b></p> <p><i>"As we continue emptying our pockets on the pavements, And we continue to ask ourselves Why is it so official That black people are so often killed Without killers?"</i></p>	<p><b>Podcast</b> <b>The Black Curriculum Podcast</b></p> <p>Available on Spotify and Apple Podcast, this podcast explores British Black history with short discussion on topics such as sound system culture and the Bristol bus boycott.</p> 
<p><b>The Crossover (10+)</b> <b>Kwame Alexander</b></p> <p>Josh and JB are basketball legends at their school. They also happen to be identical twins, but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look. As the boys build up the most important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them.</p> 	<p><b>Grown: The Black Girls' Guide to Glowing Up</b> <b>Melissa Cummings-Quarry (14+)</b></p> <p>Being a teenager and trying to understand who you are and what you stand for is hard. But if you're a Black girl and don't always see yourself represented in the books you read, the films you watch, the adverts you see or the history you're taught, it can be even tougher.</p> 	<p><b>Half Caste (12+)</b> <b>John Agard</b></p> <p><i>"but yu must come back tomorrow  Wid de whole of yu eye And de whole of yu ear And de whole of yu mind."</i></p> 	<p><b>Film</b> <b>Black Panther</b></p> <p>T'Challa is the king of Wakanda, the secretive and highly advanced African nation, as well as the powerful warrior known as the Black Panther. This is the first Marvel film with a predominantly black cast.</p> 
<p><b>How High The Moon (14+)</b> <b>Karyn Parsons</b></p> <p>In a small town in 1940s South Carolina, Ella has got some very exciting news. She'll be leaving her grandparents and cousin Henry behind, because her mother finally wants her to join her in the busy city of Boston. But can the reality ever live up to Ella's dreams?</p> 	<p><b>Timelines from Black History: Leaders, Legends, Legacies (9+)</b></p> <p>The lives and achievements of leading lights as diverse as Stormzy, basketball star LeBron James, poet and novelist Maya Angelou are chronicled in this excellent book that follows black history across many centuries to today's contemporary world.</p> 	<p><b>waiting on the mayflower (14+)</b> <b>Evie Shockley</b></p> <p><i>"1. august 1619  arrived in a boat, named and unnamed, twenty, pirated  away from a portuguese slaver, traded for victuals."</i></p>	<p><b>Art</b> <b>Kara Walker</b></p> <p>Kara Elizabeth Walker is an American contemporary painter, silhouettist, print-maker who explores races and identity in her work. She is best known for her room-size tableaux of black cut-paper silhouettes.</p> 

We encourage all in our community to continue to explore black narratives throughout this month and beyond, and some suggested reads are listed below.....

**Noughts Crosses by Malorie Blackman**

A gripping dystopian novel that explores themes of race, power, and love. Set in a world where the ruling class are dark-skinned "Crosses" and the underclass are light-skinned "Noughts".

**The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas**

This book resonates with young people globally and it tells the story of Starr, a 16-year-old who witnesses the police shooting of her unarmed friend, sparking social and personal upheaval.

**Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle**

Based on the true story of Tacky's War in 1760, this historical novel follows Moa, a teenager who joins a rebellion of enslaved people against their captors in Jamaica.

**I Am Thunder by Muhammad Khan**

A thought-provoking novel about a British-Pakistani girl, Muzna, who finds herself caught between the expectations of her strict parents and a world that misunderstands her. It explores themes of identity, faith, and radicalization.

**Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah**

A moving story about Leonard, who migrates from Jamaica to England with his mother as part of the Windrush generation, capturing the challenges of adapting to a new life in Britain.

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**The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf**

This award-winning book tells the story of a Syrian refugee, Ahmet, and the children who befriend him. It highlights themes of empathy and the immigrant experience in a school setting, perfect for classroom discussion.

**Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds**

A novel-in-verse that follows Will as he descends in an elevator, contemplating revenge after his brother's murder. Though an American author, Reynolds' work resonates with universal experiences of violence and its impacts.

**The Good Immigran (Young Adult Edition) edited by Nikesh Shukla and Chimene Suleyman**

A collection of essays by Black, Asian, and minority ethnic voices in the UK, sharing stories of identity, belonging, and challenges of growing up in Britain.

**This Book is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell, illustrated by Aurélia Durand**

An accessible, empowering guide for young people that breaks down concepts of racism, privilege, and how to become anti-racist.

**Black and British: A Short, Essential History by David Olusoga**

A beautifully written and concise adaptation of David Olusoga's award-winning book, aimed at younger readers. It provides an accessible introduction to the long, complex history of Black people in Britain.

# PODCASTS

- <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/kid-friendly-videos-and-podcasts-for-exploring-black-history-and-culture>
- <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/lists/kids-family-podcasts-with-black-hosts-and-black-lead-characters>