



The Norton Anthology of African American Literature

By Nellie Y. McKay

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The groundbreaking and best-selling anthology, including eleven complete major works and fully representing the vernacular tradition with forms including blues, gospel, folk tales, and sermons.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

A whopping 2,665 pages, *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* was 10 years in the making, and it proves to have been well worth the wait. Beginning with vernacular forms such as the spirituals and the blues, it encompasses the whole history of black writing from the poems of Phillis Wheatley to the work of contemporary writers such as Terri McMillan, Toni Morrison, and Charles Johnson. Each section includes an introductory essay, and there is a brief biographical essay for each writer.

From Publishers Weekly

Collaborating on *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*, editors Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Nellie Y. McKay have compiled what may be the definitive collection of its kind. Organized chronologically, the massive work gathers writings from six periods of black history: slavery and freedom; Reconstruction; the Harlem Renaissance; Realism, Naturalism and Modernism; the Black Arts Movement and the period since the 1970s. The work begins with the vernacular tradition of spirituals, gospel and the blues; continues through work songs, jazz and rap; ranges through sermons and folktales; and embraces letters and journals, poetry, short fiction, novels, autobiography and drama.

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Review

A classic of splendid proportions. -- *Cornel West*

My Arkansas by Maya Angelou

Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

Black Art by Amiri Baraka

I Don't Love You by Amiri Baraka

In Memory Of Radio by Amiri Baraka

The Invention Of Comics by Amiri Baraka

A Poem For Black Hearts by Amiri Baraka

Preface To A Twenty Volume Suicide Note by Amiri Baraka

Sos by Amiri Baraka

Three Movements And A Coda by Amiri Baraka

We Have Awaited The Coming Of A Natural by Amiri Baraka

Parker's Mood by Clarence Beeks

Hatred by Gwendolyn B. Bennett

Heritage by Gwendolyn B. Bennett

Sonnet: 2 by Gwendolyn B. Bennett

To A Dark Girl by Gwendolyn B. Bennett

Of The Black Belt by Bible

A Black Man Talks Of Reaping by Arna Bontemps

Golgotha Is A Mountain, A Purple Mound by Arna Bontemps

Miracles by Arna Bontemps

Nocturne At Bethesda by Arna Bontemps

Southern Mansion by Arna Bontemps

The House Of Falling Leaves by William Stanley Braithwaite

Quiet Has A Hidden Sound by William Stanley Braithwaite

Sic Vita by William Stanley Braithwaite
The Watchers by William Stanley Braithwaite
The Chicago Defender Sends A Man To Little Rock, Fall, 1957 by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Chicago Picasso, August 15, 1967 by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Children Of The Poor by Gwendolyn Brooks
Kitchenette Building by Gwendolyn Brooks
A Lovely Love by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Lovers Of The Poor by Gwendolyn Brooks
Malcolm X by Gwendolyn Brooks
Maxie Allen by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Mother by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Preacher: Ruminates Behind The Sermon by Gwendolyn Brooks
Riot by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Rites For Cousin Vit by Gwendolyn Brooks
Sadie And Maud by Gwendolyn Brooks
A Song In The Front Yard by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Sundays Of Satin-legs Smith by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Third Sermon On The Warpland by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Vacant Lot by Gwendolyn Brooks
The Wall by Gwendolyn Brooks
We Real Cool; The Pool Players. Seven At The Golden Shovel by Gwendolyn Brooks
When You Have Forgotten Sunday: The Love Story by Gwendolyn Brooks
Young Heroes: 1. Keorapetse Kgositsile (willie) by Gwendolyn Brooks
Young Heroes: 2. To Don At Salaam by Gwendolyn Brooks
Young Heroes: 3. Walter Bradford by Gwendolyn Brooks
Cabaret by Sterling Allen Brown
Long Gone by Sterling Allen Brown
Ma Rainey by Sterling Allen Brown
Memphis Blues by Sterling Allen Brown
Odyssey Of Big Boy by Sterling Allen Brown
Sam Smiley by Sterling Allen Brown
Slim Greer by Sterling Allen Brown
Southern Road by Sterling Allen Brown
Sporting Beasley by Sterling Allen Brown
Strong Men by Sterling Allen Brown
Tin Roof Blues by Sterling Allen Brown
13. Of The Coming Of John by Elizabeth Barrett Browning
9. Of The Sons Of Master And Man by Elizabeth Barrett Browning
How Long Blues by Leroy Carr
Within The Veil by Michelle Cliff
The Bodies Broken On by Lucille Clifton
Homage To My Hips by Lucille Clifton
If Mama by Lucille Clifton
Kali by Lucille Clifton
The Lost Baby Poem by Lucille Clifton
Malcolm by Lucille Clifton
Move by Lucille Clifton
Prayer by Lucille Clifton
What Spells Raccoon To Me by Lucille Clifton

Wishes For Sons *by Lucille Clifton*
American Sonnet (10) *by Wanda Coleman*
At The Record Hop *by Wanda Coleman*
Bedtime Story *by Wanda Coleman*
Emmett Till *by Wanda Coleman*
Mastectomy *by Wanda Coleman*
Today I Am A Homicide In The North Of The City *by Wanda Coleman*
Voices *by Wanda Coleman*
At The Closed Gate Of Justice *by James David Corrothers*
An Indignation Dinner *by James David Corrothers*
Me 'n' Dunbar *by James David Corrothers*
Paul Laurence Dunbar *by James David Corrothers*
The Snapping Of The Bow *by James David Corrothers*
How Long Has Trane Been Gone *by Jayne Cortez*
From The Dark Tower *by Countee Cullen*
Heritage *by Countee Cullen*
Incident *by Countee Cullen*
Saturday's Child *by Countee Cullen*
The Shroud Of Color *by Countee Cullen*
Tableau *by Countee Cullen*
To John Keats, Poet, At Spring Time *by Countee Cullen*
Yet Do I Marvel *by Countee Cullen*
A Parody *by Frederic Douglass*
David Walker (1785-1830) *by Rita Dove*
Daystar *by Rita Dove*
Demeter Mourning (from Mother Love) *by Rita Dove*
Demeter's Prayer To Hades *by Rita Dove*
The Event *by Rita Dove*
History *by Rita Dove*
Mother Love *by Rita Dove*
Motherhood *by Rita Dove*
The Oriental Ballerina *by Rita Dove*
Parsley *by Rita Dove*
Pastoral *by Rita Dove*
Persephone Abducted *by Rita Dove*
Receiving The Stigmata *by Rita Dove*
Statistic: The Witness (from Mother Love) *by Rita Dove*
A Litany Of Atlanta *by William Edward Burghardt Du Bois*
The Song Of The Smoke *by William Edward Burghardt Du Bois*
An Ante-bellum Sermon *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Black Samson Of Brandywine *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
A Cabin Tale; The Young Master Asks For A Story *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
The Colored Soldiers *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Dinah Kneading Dough *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Douglass *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Ere Sleep Comes Down To Soothe The Weary Eyes *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
The Haunted Oak *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Her Thought And His *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Little Brown Baby *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*

A Negro Love Song *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Not They Who Soar *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Ode To Ethiopia *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Philosophy *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
The Poet *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Sympathy (2) *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
We Wear The Mask *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
When Malindy Sings *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
Worn Out *by Paul Laurence Dunbar*
April Is On The Way *by Alice Ruth Moore Dunbar-nelson*
I Sit And Sew *by Alice Ruth Moore Dunbar-nelson*
Sonnet *by Alice Ruth Moore Dunbar-nelson*
It Don't Mean A Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing *by Duke Ellington*
I Am A Black Woman *by Mari E. Evans*
Status Symbol *by Mari E. Evans*
Lines, Suggested On Reading 'an Appeal' By A.e. Grimke *by Sarah Louisa Forten*
Beautiful Black Men *by Yolande Cornelia Giovanni*
For Saundra *by Yolande Cornelia Giovanni*
Nikki-rosa *by Yolande Cornelia Giovanni*
The Message *by Grandmaster Flash & The Furious Five*
The Black Finger *by Angelina Weld Grimke*
For The Candle Light *by Angelina Weld Grimke*
Tenebris *by Angelina Weld Grimke*
When The Green Lies Over The Earth *by Angelina Weld Grimke*
A Winter Twilight *by Angelina Weld Grimke*
A Parting Hymn *by Charlotte L. Forten Grimke*
Beale Street Blues *by William Christopher Handy*
St. Louis Blues *by William Christopher Handy*
Yellow Dog Blues *by William Christopher Handy*
An Appeal To My Countrywomen *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Aunt Chloe's Politics *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Bury Me In A Free Land *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
A Double Standard *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Eliza Harris *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Ethiopia *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Learning To Read *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
The Slave Mother *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Songs For The People *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Vashti *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Words For The Hour *by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper*
Br'er Sterling And The Rocker *by Michael S. Harper*
Dear John, Dear Coltrane *by Michael S. Harper*
Deathwatch *by Michael S. Harper*
The Ghost Of Soulmaking: For Ruth Oppenheim *by Michael S. Harper*
Goin' To The Territory *by Michael S. Harper*
Grandfather *by Michael S. Harper*
Here Where Coltrane Is *by Michael S. Harper*
In Hayden's Collage *by Michael S. Harper*
A Ballad Of Remembrance *by Robert Earl Hayden*

The Diver *by Robert Earl Hayden*
El-hajj Malik El-shabazz *by Robert Earl Hayden*
Frederick Douglass *by Robert Earl Hayden*
Homage To The Empress Of The Blues *by Robert Earl Hayden*
A Letter From Phillis Wheatley *by Robert Earl Hayden*
Middle Passage *by Robert Earl Hayden*
Mourning Poem For The Queen Of Sunday *by Robert Earl Hayden*
O Daedalus, Fly Away Home *by Robert Earl Hayden*
Runagate Runagate *by Robert Earl Hayden*
Soledad *by Robert Earl Hayden*
Conditions: 21 *by Essex Hemphill*
Conditions: 22 *by Essex Hemphill*
Conditions: 24 *by Essex Hemphill*
Fine And Mellow *by Eleanora Holiday*
The Creditor To His Proud Debtor *by George Moses Horton*
Division Of An Estate *by George Moses Horton*
George Moses Horton, Myself *by George Moses Horton*
The Lover's Farewell *by George Moses Horton*
On Hearing Of Intention .. To Purchase The Poet's Freedom *by George Moses Horton*
Bad Man *by James Langston Hughes*
Ballad Of The Landlord *by James Langston Hughes*
Danse Africaine *by James Langston Hughes*
Dream Boogie *by James Langston Hughes*
Dream Variations [or, Variation] *by James Langston Hughes*
Gal's Cry For A Dying Lover *by James Langston Hughes*
Gypsy Man *by James Langston Hughes*
Hard Daddy *by James Langston Hughes*
Harlem *by James Langston Hughes*
Homesick Blues *by James Langston Hughes*
A House In Taos *by James Langston Hughes*
I, Too *by James Langston Hughes*
Jazzonia *by James Langston Hughes*
Juke Box Love Song *by James Langston Hughes*
Lament Over Love *by James Langston Hughes*
Mother To Son *by James Langston Hughes*
Motto *by James Langston Hughes*
The Negro Speaks Of Rivers *by James Langston Hughes*
Po' Boy Blues *by James Langston Hughes*
Red Silk Stockings *by James Langston Hughes*
Song For A Dark Girl *by James Langston Hughes*
Sylvester's Dying Bed *by James Langston Hughes*
The Weary Blues *by James Langston Hughes*
When Sue Wears Red *by James Langston Hughes*
John Pearson's Sermon *by Zora Neale Hurston*
Sunnyland *by Elmore James*
My God In Heaven Said To Me *by Fenton Johnson*
The Scarlet Woman *by Fenton Johnson*
Song Of The Whirlwind *by Fenton Johnson*
Spiritual: Singing Hallelujia *by Fenton Johnson*

Spiritual: The Lonely Mother by *Fenton Johnson*
Tired by *Fenton Johnson*
The Heart Of A Woman by *Georgia Douglas Johnson*
I Want To Die While You Love Me by *Georgia Douglas Johnson*
Lost Illusions by *Georgia Douglas Johnson*
My Little Dreams by *Georgia Douglas Johnson*
Youth by *Georgia Douglas Johnson*
Invocation by *Helene Johnson*
Poem by *Helene Johnson*
Remember Not by *Helene Johnson*
Sonnet To A Negro In Harlem by *Helene Johnson*
Brothers by *James Weldon Johnson*
The Creation (a Negro Sermon) by *James Weldon Johnson*
Fifty Years (1863-1913) by *James Weldon Johnson*
Lift Every Voice And Sing by *James Weldon Johnson*
My City by *James Weldon Johnson*
O Black And Unknown Bards by *James Weldon Johnson*
Sence You Went Away by *James Weldon Johnson*
Hell Hound On My Trail by *Robert Johnson*
Trouble In Mind by *Richard M. Jones*
The Female And The Silence Of A Man by *June Jordan*
I Must Become A Menace To My Enemies by *June Jordan*
In Memoriam: Martin Luther King, Jr. by *June Jordan*
Intifada by *June Jordan*
Poem About My Rights by *June Jordan*
Poem For Guatemala by *June Jordan*
Grandfather Was Queer, Too by *Bob Kaufman*
Jail Poems by *Bob Kaufman*
Unanimity Has Been Achieved, Not A Dot Less For Its Accident by *Bob Kaufman*
Walking Parker Home by *Bob Kaufman*
War Memoir: Jazz, Don't Listen To It At Your Own Risk by *Bob Kaufman*
For Black Poets Who Think Of Suicide by *Etheridge Knight*
Hard Rock Returns To Prison From The Hospital For The Criminal Insane by *Etheridge Knight*
The Idea Of Ancestry by *Etheridge Knight*
Banking Potatoes by *Yusef Komunyakaa*
Birds On A Powerline by *Yusef Komunyakaa*
Facing It by *Yusef Komunyakaa*
February In Sydney by *Yusef Komunyakaa*
Sunday Afternoons by *Yusef Komunyakaa*
Coal by *Audre Lorde*
The Evening News by *Audre Lorde*
Father Son And Holy Ghost by *Audre Lorde*
A Litany For Survival by *Audre Lorde*
Now That I Am Forever With Child by *Audre Lorde*
The Winds Of Orisha by *Audre Lorde*
Careless Seems The Great Avenger; History's Pages But Record by *James Russell Lowell*
Freedom (2) by *James Russell Lowell*
Falso Brillhante by *Nathaniel Mackey*
Song Of The Andoumboulou: 8 by *Nathaniel Mackey*

America Calling by *Haki R. Madhubuti*
Back Again, Home by *Haki R. Madhubuti*
The Long Reality by *Haki R. Madhubuti*
Malcolm Spoke/who Listened? by *Haki R. Madhubuti*
A Poem To Complement Other Poems by *Haki R. Madhubuti*
On Watching A Caterpillar Become A Butterfly by *Clarence Major*
Round Midnight by *Clarence Major*
Swallow The Lake by *Clarence Major*
At Jonestown by *Colleen Johnson Mcelroy*
Caledonia by *Colleen Johnson Mcelroy*
The Griots Who Know Brer Fox by *Colleen Johnson Mcelroy*
Pike Street Bus by *Colleen Johnson Mcelroy*
Tapestries by *Colleen Johnson Mcelroy*
A Woman Who Loves by *Colleen Johnson Mcelroy*
Africa by *Claude Mckay*
America by *Claude Mckay*
Enslaved by *Claude Mckay*
Harlem Shadows by *Claude Mckay*
If We Must Die by *Claude Mckay*
My Mother (1) by *Claude Mckay*
Outcast by *Claude Mckay*
St. Isaac's Church, Petrograd by *Claude Mckay*
To The White Fiends by *Claude Mckay*
The White House by *Claude Mckay*
8. Of The Quest Of The Golden Fleece by *William Vaughn Moody*
The Rubaiyat, 1889 Edition: 44 by *Omar Khayyam*
Don't Believe The Hype by *Public Enemy*
The Evil That Men Do by *Queen Latifah*
Prove It On Me Blues by *Gertrude Pridgett Rainey*
See, See Rider by *Gertrude Pridgett Rainey*
Chattanooga by *Ishmael Reed*
Dualism by *Ishmael Reed*
I Am A Cowboy In The Boat Of Ra by *Ishmael Reed*
Oakland Blues by *Ishmael Reed*
Railroad Bill, A Conjure Man; A Hoodoo Suite by *Ishmael Reed*
For Sistuhs Wearin' Straight Hair by *Carolyn M. Rodgers*
It Is Deep (don't Never Forget The Bridge That You Crossed) by *Carolyn M. Rodgers*
Jesus Was Crucified Or: It Must Be Deep (an Epic Poem) by *Carolyn M. Rodgers*
Good Morning, Blues by *Jimmy Rushing*
Sent For You Yesterday by *Jimmy Rushing*
For Our Lady by *Sonia Sanchez*
Homecoming by *Sonia Sanchez*
Poem At Thirty by *Sonia Sanchez*
Present by *Sonia Sanchez*
Summer Words For A Sister Addict by *Sonia Sanchez*
The Revolution Will Not Be Televised by *Gil Scott-heron*
Bocas: A Daughter's Geography by *Ntozake Shange*
Lady In Green by *Ntozake Shange*
Nappy Edges (a Across Country Sojourn) by *Ntozake Shange*

Dim Face Of Beauty *by William Sharp*
It's A Low Down Dirty Shame *by Ollie Shepard*
Backwater Blues *by Bessie Smith*
In The House Blues *by Bessie Smith*
Did John's Music Kill Him *by Alfred B. Spellman*
At The Carnival *by Anne Spencer*
Before The Feast Of Shushan *by Anne Spencer*
Dunbar *by Anne Spencer*
Lady, Lady *by Anne Spencer*
Letter To My Sister *by Anne Spencer*
The Wife-woman *by Anne Spencer*
O Sister, Sister, Thy First-begotten *by Algernon Charles Swinburne*
Our Spiritual Strivings *by Arthur Symons*
Arthur's Return *by Alfred Tennyson*
Bars Fight, August 28, 1746 *by Lucy Terry*
Stand By Me *by C. A. Tindley*
The Birth Of John Henry *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Dark Symphony: 1. Allegro Moderato *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Dark Symphony: 3. Andante Sostenuto *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Dark Symphony: 4. Tempo Primo *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Dark Symphony: 5. Larghetto *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Dark Symphony: 6. Tempo Di Marcia *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
An Ex-judge At The Bar *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
A Legend Of Versailles *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Libretto For The Republic Of Liberia: Do (2) *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Libretto For The Republic Of Liberia: Mi *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Libretto For The Republic Of Liberia: Re *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Libretto For The Republic Of Liberia: Sol *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Libretto For The Republic Of Liberia: Ti *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Satchmo *by Melvin Beaunearus Tolson*
Beehive *by Jean Toomer*
Cane: Her Lips Are Copper Wire *by Jean Toomer*
Cane: November Cotton Flower *by Jean Toomer*
Cane: Portrait In Georgia *by Jean Toomer*
Conversion *by Jean Toomer*
Cotton Song *by Jean Toomer*
Evening Song *by Jean Toomer*
Face *by Jean Toomer*
Georgia Dusk *by Jean Toomer*
Harvest Song *by Jean Toomer*
Nullo *by Jean Toomer*
Prayer *by Jean Toomer*
Reapers *by Jean Toomer*
Song Of The Son *by Jean Toomer*
Storm Ending *by Jean Toomer*
Conversation Overheard, The Way They Saw It *by Quincy Troupe*
Impressions Of Chicago; For Howlin' Wolf *by Quincy Troupe*
In Texas Grass *by Quincy Troupe*
14. The Sorrow Songs (from Lay This Body Down) *by Anonymous*

God *by Anonymous*
Hellhound On My Trail *by Anonymous*
Walk Together Children *by Anonymous*
Another Man Done Gone *by Anonymous - African American*
Been In The Storm So Long *by Anonymous - African American*
Black Spiritual: Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (1) *by Anonymous - African American*
Can't You Line It *by Anonymous - African American*
City Called Heaven *by Anonymous - African American*
Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel? *by Anonymous - African American*
Down By The Riverside *by Anonymous - African American*
Down-hearted Blues *by Anonymous - African American*
Folk Song *by Anonymous - African American*
Frankie And Johnny *by Anonymous - African American*
Freedom In The Air *by Anonymous - African American*
Go Down, Moses *by Anonymous - African American*
Go Down, Old Hannah *by Anonymous - African American*
God's A-gonna Trouble The Water *by Anonymous - African American*
Goin' To Chicago Blues *by Anonymous - African American*
Hoochie Coochie *by Anonymous - African American*
I Been Rebuked And I Been Scorned *by Anonymous - African American*
I Know Moon-rise *by Anonymous - African American*
I'm A-rollin' *by Anonymous - African American*
Jack And Dinah Want Freedom *by Anonymous - African American*
John Henry (1) *by Anonymous - African American*
Learn To Count *by Anonymous - African American*
Many Thousand Gone *by Anonymous - African American*
Me And My Captain *by Anonymous - African American*
Oh, Freedom *by Anonymous - African American*
Peace Be Still *by Anonymous - African American*
Pick A Bale Of Cotton *by Anonymous - African American*
Poor Lazarus *by Anonymous - African American*
Promises Of Freedom *by Anonymous - African American*
Railroad Bill (1) *by Anonymous - African American*
Run, Nigger, Run *by Anonymous - African American*
Shine And The Titanic *by Anonymous - African American*
The Signifying Monkey *by Anonymous - African American*
Sinking Of The Titanic *by Anonymous - African American*
Song *by Anonymous - African American*
Soon I Will Be Done *by Anonymous - African American*
Stackolee *by Anonymous - African American*
Take My Hand, Precious Lord *by Anonymous - African American*
This Little Light Of Mine *by Anonymous - African American*
Walk Together Children *by Anonymous - African American*
Were You There When They Crucified My Lord *by Anonymous - African American*
Wild Negro Bill *by Anonymous - African American*
You May Go But This Will Bring You Back *by Anonymous - African American*
'good Night, Willie Lee, I'll See You In The Morning' *by Alice Walker*
On Stripping Bark From Myself *by Alice Walker*
Outcast *by Alice Walker*

Women by *Alice Walker*
 For Malcolm X by *Margaret Abigail Walker*
 For My People by *Margaret Abigail Walker*
 Poppa Chicken by *Margaret Abigail Walker*
 Prophets For A New Day by *Margaret Abigail Walker*
 (what Did I Do To Be So) Black And Blue by *Thomas Waller*
 His Excellency General Washington by *Phillis Wheatley*
 On Being Brought From Africa To America by *Phillis Wheatley*
 On Imagination by *Phillis Wheatley*
 On The Death Of The Rev. Mr. George Whitefield, 1770 by *Phillis Wheatley*
 To Maecenas by *Phillis Wheatley*
 To S.m., A Young African Painter, On Seeing His Works by *Phillis Wheatley*
 To The Right Hon! William Earl Of Dartmouth by *Phillis Wheatley*
 To The University Of Cambridge, In New-england by *Phillis Wheatley*
 America by *James Monroe Whitfield*
 Sefl-reliance by *James Monroe Whitfield*
 Yes! Strike Again That Sounding String by *James Monroe Whitfield*
 Just God! And These Are They by *John Greenleaf Whittier*
 Gulf Coast Blues by *Clarence Williams*
 I Want Aretha To Set This To Music by *Sherley Anne Williams*
 The Peacock Poems: 1. The Trimming Of The Feathers by *Sherley Anne Williams*
 Conjugal Visits by *Albert James Young*
 A Dance For Ma Rainey by *Albert James Young*
 -- Table of Poems from *Poem Finder*®

The entire black literary canon, according to Gates's scheme, may be understood as an extension of the folk ritual of insult known as "signifying," a form of mock rebellion in which a speaker's meaning is reversed and turned back upon himself for purposes of one-upmanship. But by making a fetish of lower-class culture, Gates ducks the question of how black writers might free themselves to transcend their material, social, and political surroundings. No less importantly, he forfeits the role of the intellectual as critic and judge of his own social order--an order in which, today, the black lower class happens to play a deeply problematic role. This is not to say that the Gates perspective is entirely without merit. It has illuminated the work of writers like Zora Neale Hurston, and has also helped clarify patterns of influence among black writers, including Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, and Ishmael Reed. In the end, though, what *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* shows is the deep inadequacy of the vernacular model--and, more broadly, of the ideological reductivism that now dominates the field of black literary studies and much of our current discourse on race alike. -- *Commentary, Phillip M. Richards*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Henrietta Jimerson:

As people who live in the modest era should be update about what going on or information even knowledge to make them keep up with the era which can be always change and advance. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.

Harold Cole:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era everywhere everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not need people to be aware of each information they get. How people have to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help persons out of this uncertainty Information mainly this The Norton Anthology of African American Literature book because book offers you rich data and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred % guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Logan Merritt:

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Teresa Randall:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray an individual, why because this The Norton Anthology of African American Literature book written by well-known writer who knows well how to make book which might be understand by anyone who all read the book. Written in good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still hesitation The Norton Anthology of African American Literature as good book but not only by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't evaluate book by its protect, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick that!?. Oh come on your examining sixth sense already told you so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

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