



Black History Month Authors

A selection of prominent and noteworthy Black American authors and works you can find at the Pasadena Public Library

[*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*](#) by **Michelle Alexander** b. 1967: nonfiction writer, professor, civil rights advocate

[Maya Angelou](#) 1928-2014: autobiographer, poet, civil rights activist

[James Baldwin](#) 1924-1987: poet, novelist, playwright, essayist, social critic

[Amiri Baraka](#) 1934-2014: poet, playwright, novelist, essayist, political activist, music critic

[Octavia Butler](#) 1947-2006: science fiction writer ([*Kindred*](#) was the 2006 One City, One Story selection)

[Ta-Nehisi Coates](#) b. 1975: nonfiction writer, novelist, journalist

[Angela Y. Davis](#) b. 1944: nonfiction writer, philosopher, professor, activist

[Samuel R. Delany](#) b. 1942: science fiction writer, essayist, memoirist, critic

[Frederick Douglass](#) 1818-1895: writer, orator, abolitionist, social reformer

[W.E.B. DuBois](#) 1868-1963: sociologist, historian, civil rights activist, novelist

[Michael Eric Dyson](#) b. 1958: academic, nonfiction writer, minister, radio host

[Ralph Ellison](#) 1914-1994: novelist, literary critic

[*Locking Up Our Own: Crime and Punishment in Black America*](#) by **James Forman, Jr.** b. 1967: nonfiction writer, professor, legal scholar

[Roxane Gay](#) b. 1974: novelist, essayist, short story author, memoirist, professor, editor, social commentator

[Alex Haley](#) 1921-1992: novelist, journalist



[**bell hooks**](#) b. 1952: nonfiction writer, professor, social activist

[**Langston Hughes**](#) 1902-1967: poet, novelist, playwright

[**Zora Neale Hurston**](#) 1891-1960: novelist, short story writer, folklorist, anthropologist

[**Peniel E. Joseph**](#) b. 1972: nonfiction writer, scholar, professor

[**Martin Luther King, Jr.**](#) 1929-1968: essayist, minister, activist

[**How to Be an Antiracist**](#) and [**Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America**](#) by **Ibram X. Kendi** b. 1982: nonfiction writer, activist, professor, historian

[**When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir**](#) by **Patrisse Khan-Cullors** b. 1983: memoirist, artist, activist; and **Asha Bandele**: nonfiction writer, novelist, journalist, poet

[**Audre Lorde**](#) 1934-1992: poet, nonfiction writer, librarian, civil rights activist

[**Toni Morrison**](#) 1931-2019: novelist, editor, professor

[**Barack Obama**](#) b. 1961: nonfiction writer, autobiographer, former President of the United States

[**So You Want to Talk About Race**](#) by **Ijeoma Oluo** b. 1980: nonfiction writer

[**Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption**](#) by **Bryan Stevenson** b. 1959: memoirist, attorney, social justice activist, professor

[**Alice Walker**](#) b. 1944: novelist, poet, short story writer, activist

[**Jesmyn Ward**](#) b. 1977: novelist, nonfiction writer, professor

[**Phyllis Wheatley**](#) c. 1753-1784: poet

[**Isabel Wilkerson**](#) b. 1961: nonfiction writer, journalist

[**August Wilson**](#) 1945-2005: playwright



[Richard Wright](#) 1908-1960: novelist, short story writer, poet

[*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*](#) by **Malcolm X** 1925-1965: autobiographer (with Alex Haley), activist