



African American Experience Book suggestions for Team F

Historical

- *A Thousand Never Evers* by Shana Burg—set in Mississippi in 1963, a young girl faces many race related injustices during the Civil Rights movement
- *Bad Boy* by Walter Dean Myers – a memoir of the author’s life in Harlem in the 1950s.
- *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson –Isabel, a young slave girl, becomes a Revolutionary War spy.
- **Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper – In the 8th Century, 15 year old Amari is brutally kidnapped from her African village and sold into slavery in Florida.
- *Feathers* by Jacqueline Woodson – Set in 1971, Frannie’s 6th grade class is all black until a new pale boy arrives.
- *Flygirl* by Sherri L. Smith – in 1941, a light-skinned African American girl becomes a Airforce Service Pilot.
- *Forge* by Laurie Halse Anderson – The continuation of Chains but told by a slave boy freed by Isabel.
- *Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes – 12-year-old Laneshia lives through Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia – In 1968, three sisters travel to California to meet their mother and become involved in the Black Panther’s movement.
- *The Rock and the River* by Kekla Magoon – Set in 1968, 13-year-old Sam lives in a world split between peaceful protest (Martin Luther King Jr.) and the voices of the Black Panthers

Short & Sweet

- *Cruisers* by Walter Dean Myers – middle school misfits reenact Civil War negotiations
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers – 16-year-old Steve is on trial for murder and tells his story as a screenplay.
- *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson – 16-year-old Bobby struggles to raise a baby on his own.

Series

- *Make Lemonade(trilogy)* by Virginia Euwer Wolff – 14-year-old LaVaughn meets Jolly, a 17-year-old single parent and learns how to make the best of tough circumstances.
- *Bluford High Series* – a series about the students in an urban high school.

Realistic

- *A Girl Named Mister* by Nikki Grimes – 14 year old Mary (Just Mister) is pregnant and tries to come to terms with her situation by studying the Virgin Mary (written in verse).
- *After Tupac & D Foster* by Jacqueline Woodson – Three best friends try to find their “big purpose” in the early 1990s in Queens, NY.
- *All of the Above* by Shelley Pearsall – In an inner city school, a 7th grade math teacher tries to build the world’s largest tetrahedron with his students.
- **Autobiography of My Dead Brother* by Walter Dean Myers – 15-year-old Jesse tells the story of his best friend who was killed in a drive-by shooting.
- *Bang* by Sharon Flake – A teenage boy and his father try to get over the death of his little brother in a drive-by shooting,
- *Cruisers* by Walter Dean Myers – middle school misfits reenact Civil War negotiations

Realistic Continued...

- *Game* by Walter Dean Myers – A high school senior, Drew tries to get a basketball scholarship to overcome his mediocre grades.
- **Kendra* by Coe Booth – Kendra’s parents were 14 when she was born and now her grandmother is afraid she, too, will get pregnant.
- *Make Lemonade (trilogy)* by Virginia Euwer Wolff – 14-year-old LaVaughn meets Jolly, a 17-year-old single parent and learns how to make the best of tough circumstances.
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers – 16-year-old Steve is on trial for murder and tells his story as a screenplay.
- *November Blues* by Sharon Draper – 16 year old November discovers that she’s pregnant shortly after her boyfriend dies in a tragic accident.
- **Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers – In 2003 18-year-old Robin has joined the army and is headed to war in Iraq.
- **Tears of a Tiger* by Sharon Draper – A high school basketball player struggles with the drunk driving accident that killed his best friend.
- *The Battle of Jericho* by Sharon Draper – 16-year-old Jericho pledges an elite high school social club and goes through their secret hazing rituals.
- *The First Part Last* by Angela Johnson – 16-year-old Bobby struggles to raise a baby on his own.
- *The Skin I’m In* by Sharon Flake – 7th grader Maleeka is teased mercilessly about her dark skin and gets into trouble trying to fit in.
- **Tyrell* by Coe Booth – 15-year-old Tyrell deals with issues of homelessness, prison, violence and drugs.

*Starred books contain tough topics such as rape, violence and explicit sexual references. They may not be appropriate for all students.

Suggested Authors

Walter Dean Myers
Sharon Flake
Sharon Draper
Jacqueline Woodson

Suggested Biographies

Alice Walker
Aretha Franklin
Emmett Till
Jackie Robinson
Langston Hughes
Malcolm X
Marian Anderson
Martin Luther King Jr.
Maya Angelou
Michael Jackson
Ray Charles
Rosa Parks
Ruby Bridges
Sojourner Truth
Thurgood Marshall
W.E.B. DuBois
Walter Dean Myers

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