

SIMONE LEIGH (Nov. 03, 2023—March 03, 2024)

HIRSHHORN READING ROOM ASSETS AND SUGGESTED TITLES

This suggested reading list features a selection of texts on and relating to Black feminism which centers the idea that racism and sexism are not experienced independently but are, as internationally recognized writer and activist Audre Lorde says, “inseparable.”

The booklist was created in collaboration with Sankofa Video, Books & Café, a leading Black-owned bookstore and self-described “liberated territory that hopes to be a place where thoughtful consideration of the past and future can take place via books, films, and programming particularly generated by and about people of African Descent.” The Hirshhorn is grateful to partner with Sankofa.

Purchase these and other titles, and discover robust community engagement at [Sankofa.com](https://www.sankofa.com).

BOOKS FOR ADULTS IN THE LERNER ROOM INCLUDE:

Vision & Justice: Aperture 223, Aperture (Author), Sarah Lewis (Editor)

Misogynoir Transformed: Black Women’s Digital Resistance, Moya Bailey

The Black Woman: An Anthology, Toni Cade Bambara

A Black Women’s History of the United States, Berry and Gross

The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century, Grace Lee Boggs

Bad Fat Black Girl: Notes from a Trap Feminist, Sesali Bowen

Selected Poems, Gwedolyn Brooks

Chlorine Sky, Mahogany Browne

Listening to Images, Tina M. Campt

Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements, Charlene Carruthers

Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment, Patricia Hill Collins

Thick: And Other Essays, Tressie McMillan Cottom

Blues Legacies and Black Feminism: Gertrude “Ma” Rainey, Bessie Smith, and Billie Holiday, Angela Davis

Women, Race, & Class, Angela Y. Davis

Katherine Dunham: Dance and the African Diaspora, Joanna Dee Das

This Is What I Know About Art, Kimberly Drew

Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self, Danielle Evans

Unpayable Debt, Denise Ferreira da Silva

Call Us What We Carry, Amanda Gorman

Spill: Scenes of Black Feminist Fugitivity, Alexis Pauline Gumbs

Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought, Beverly Guy- Sheftall

In Senghor's Shadow: Art, Politics, and the Avant-Garde in Senegal, 1960–1995 (Objects/Histories), Elizabeth Harney

Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval, Saidiya Hartman

Bone Black: Memories of Girlhood, Bell Hooks

Sisters of the Yam: Black Women and Self-Recovery, Bell Hooks

Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica, Zora Neale Hurston

Wicked Flesh: Black Women, Intimacy, and Freedom in the Atlantic World (Early American Studies), Jessica Marie Johnson

Black. Queer. Southern. Women.: An Oral History, E. Patrick Johnson

We're On: A June Jordan Reader, Christoph Keller (Editor), Jan Heller Levi (Editor), Rachel Eliza Griffiths (Introduction)

Hood Feminism: Notes from the Women That a Movement Forgot, Mikki Kendall

Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches, Audre Lorde

The Selected Works of Audre Lorde, Audre Lorde and Roxane Gay

Black Girl Call Home, Jasmine Mains

Redefining Realness, Janet Mock

This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa

When Chickenheads Come Home to Roost: A Hip-Hop Feminist Breaks It Down, Joan Morgan

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools, Monique W. Morris

Afro-Fabulations: The Queer Drama of Black Life, Tavia Nyong'o

Sometimes I Trip on How Happy We Could Be, Nichole Perkins

Bodyminds Reimagined: (Dis)ability, Race, and Gender in Black Women's Speculative Fiction, Sami Schalk

Assata: An Autobiography, Assata Shakur

In the Wake: On Blackness and Being, Christina Sharpe

Black on Both Sides: A Racial History of Trans Identity, C. Riley Snorton

The Unknown Craftsman, Yanagi Sōetsu

The Coldest Winter Ever, Sister Souljah

Digital Black Feminism (Critical Cultural Communication), Catherine Knight Steele

How We Get Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective, Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor

The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks: Adapted for Young People, Theoharis & Colbert

In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose, Alice Walker

The Color Purple, Alice Walker

Scandalize My Name: Black Feminist Practice and the Making of Black Social Life (Commonalities), Terrion L. Williamson

Brown Girl Dreaming, Jacqueline Woodson

Star Child: A Biographical Constellation of Octavia Estelle Butler, Ibi Zoboi

BOOKS FOR KIDS AND YOUNG ADULT READERS IN THE LERNER ROOM INCLUDE:

Mae Among the Stars, Roda Ahmed

I Am Enough, Grace Byers

Equality's Call: The Story of Voting Rights in America, Deborah Diesen

Ida B Wells: Voice of Truth, Michelle Duster

Pet, Akwarke Emezi

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls, Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo

Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie, A Story of Edna Lewis, Robbin Gourley

Ablaze with Color: A Story of Painter Alma Thomas, Jeanne Walker Harvey

Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism, Daisy Hernández (Editor)
Bushra Rehman (Editor)

Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave, Laban Carrick Hill

The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read, Rita Lorraine Hubbard

Brave. Black. First.: 50+ African American Women Who Changed the World, Cheryl Willis Hudson

Julián Is a Mermaid, Jessica Love

Don't Touch My Hair, Sharee Miller

Akata Witch, Nnedi Okafua

Lift as You Climb: The Story of Ella Baker, Patricia Powell

The Moon Within, Aida Salazar

Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills, Renée Watson, Coretta Scott, Ntzoke Shange

Love is a Revolution, Renée Watson

Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom, Carole Boston Weatherford

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

FOR ADULTS:

Carefree Black Girls, Zeba Blay

Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower, Brittney Cooper

We Go High: How 30 Women of Color Achieved Greatness Against All Odds, Nicole Ellis

Bad Feminist: Essays, Roxane Gay

To Be Young, Gifted and Black, Lorraine Hansberry, James Baldwin

Letters to the Future: Black Women/Radical Writing, Erica Hunt (Editor), Dawn Lundy Martin (Editor)

I Love Myself When I Am Laughing. . . And Then Again When I Am Looking Mean and Impressive: A Zora Neale Hurston Reader, Zora Neale Hurston

A Potter's Book, Barnard Leach

Nigerian Pottery, Sylvia Leith-Ross

Transnational Blackness: Navigating the Global Color Line, M. Marable and Vanessa Agard-Jones

Demonic Grounds: Black Women And The Cartographies Of Struggle, Katherine McKittrick

Embodied Avatars: Genealogies of Black Feminist Art and Performance, Uri McMillan

Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination, Toni Morrison

African American Literary Theory: A Reader, Winston Napier

Brief History of Black British Art, Rianna Jade Parker

The Last Place They Thought Of, Amy Sadao, Treva Ellison, Daniella Rose King, Katherine McKittrick

Hear Me Now: The Black Potters of Old Edgefield, South Carolina, Adrienne Spinozzi

Black, White, and in Color: Essays on American Literature and Culture, Hortense J. Spillers

Women and Ceramics: Gendered Vessels, Moira Vincentelli

Negritude Women, Tracy Whiting

FOR KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS:

Counting on Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Saved Apollo 13, Helaine Becker

Fancy Party Gowns: The Story of Fashion Designer Ann Lee Cole, Deborah Blumenthal

Black Girl Magic: A Poem, Mahogany L. Browne

Imani's Moon, Janay Brown-Wood and Hazel Mitchell

Fearless Mary: Mary Fields, American Stage Coach Driver, Tami Charles

Grace for President, Kelly S. DiPucchio

I Am Loved, Nikki Giovanni

Rosa, Nikki Giovanni

Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice, Nikki Grimes

Mamie on the Mound: A Woman in Baseball's Negro Leagues, Leah Henderson
Shaking Things Up: 14 Young Women Who Changed the World, Susan Hood
Homemade Love, Bell Hooks
Young Revolutionary: A Teen's Guide to Activism, Chanice Lee
Flying High: The Story of Gymnastics Champion Simone Biles, Michelle Meadows
Peeny Butter Fudge, Toni Morrison & Slade Morrison
Slay, Brittney Morris
Who Put This Song On?, Morgan Parker
The Little Book of Little Activists, Penguin Young Readers
So Tall Within: Sojourner Truth's Long Walk to Freedom, Gary Schmidt
Coretta Scott, Ntozake Shange
Ellington Was Not a Street, Ntozake Shange
On the Come Up, Angie Thomas
There Is a Flower at the Tip of My Nose Smelling Me, Alice Walker
Oprah: The Little Speaker, Carole Boston Weatherford
Art From Her Heart: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter, Kathy Whitehead