

A little respect

There is no one standard by which to judge schools, but willingness to hear parents' concerns is a key issue

Some parents facing Friday's deadline are still struggling over which school to choose for their child. It can be a tough – as well as momentous – decision.

They've visited the schools they have to choose from. They've talked to teachers, perhaps even principals. No doubt they've looked at test scores, extra-curriculars – and travel times.

CMS's new assignment plan, scheduled to go into effect in August, allows every parent some choice of assignment. The paperwork is due back Friday, and those not making a choice by then may be assigned by the school system.

One of the factors that will have the most fundamental impact on

their experience, however, is one of the hardest issues to pin down:

Is this a school where I and my child will have a say? Will we be respected?

Results of a survey last year may get at a part of that issue. Parents were asked to "indicate that they ... feel free to express concerns and make suggestions."

Supt. Eric Smith set usefully high goals, hoping that 85% of respondents would say yes. And a score of elementaries met that goal. But the average for elementaries was 80.8%; middle schools, 69.2%; high schools, 59.2%.

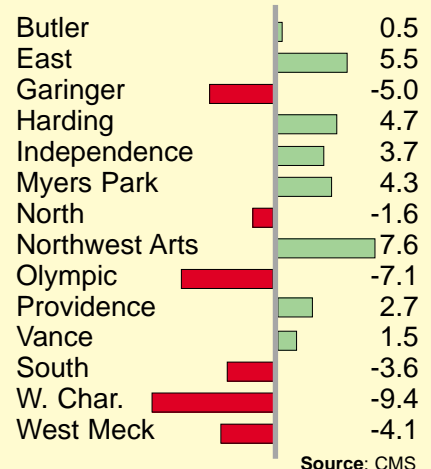
Clearly, there is work to be done.

Where do parents feel more respected? A partial answer lies in

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Family responses

A family survey in 2001 asked whether respondents "feel free to express concerns or make suggestions." High school responses averaged 59.2%, suggesting that not many more than half of parents felt free to talk to high school officials. Here's how individual high schools varied, in percentage points, from the 59.2% average.



Dropout rate data shows gains at CMS, also statewide

CMS Dropout Rates

Grades 9-12

1999
7.72%

2000
6.82%

2001
5.77%

N.C. DPI

Charlotte-Mecklenburg saw 13.7% fewer teens drop out of school last school year compared with the previous year. That's a tremendous gain, not for the schools so much as for the teens who remain on track to get the education they need for life.

School dropout counselors, teachers, principals, parents – and most of all the teens themselves – should take a bow.

As should Guilford County, another of the state's biggest school systems where, according to

state data released last week, there was a 33.8% reduction. Durham had a 23.3% reduction, Wake County a 10.8% reduction. Economically struggling Robeson County southeast of Charlotte saw a 5.4% increase, and 776 teens were lost.

Percentages can be deceptive, of course. Take Chapel Hill-Carrboro, one of the state's richest, academically excellent systems with among the lowest dropout rates at 1.25%. The 57 students who dropped out rep-

resented a 66% increase from the previous year. In CMS, 1,909 students dropped out.

Charts on page 3 detail information about the state's school systems. Readers with information to share about what other school systems are doing to keep teens in school are encouraged to write *Educate!* At a time when all school budgets are under stress (Briefs, page 11), parents and educators need to know what works, what pro-

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To new readers of *Educate!*

a community journal on
public education in
Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Welcome to this week's edition. Our aim is to supply information useful to you in your role as student, parent or citizen interested in the welfare of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

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Educate! is published by The Swann Fellowship, 1510 E. 7th St., Charlotte, NC 28204. Voice: 704-342-4330 Fax: 704-342-4550. E-mail: SwannFello@aol.com Lucy Bush, president; B.B. DeLaine, vice president. Published since September 2000. Six-week average circulation through last issue: 2,369.

The name: The Swann Fellowship was named for Darius and Vera Swann, who on behalf of their son James became the lead plaintiffs in *Swann vs. Mecklenburg* in the 1960s. Darius Swann was the first African American Presbyterian missionary ever assigned outside of Africa. His experiences in India led him to appreciate the value of an integrated society for human development.

The vision: As people of faith, our vision is that all children in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system will have excellent educational opportunities which are both equitable and integrated.

The background: Formed in 1997 out of several Charlotte religious congregations, the Fellowship focuses on being a witness to the value of diversity, and educating the public on public school issues as they relate to this and allied subjects. The Swann Fellowship is a nonprofit organization exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code 56-2106776. Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. The license is not an endorsement by the state.

From Readers

Community events to honor Dr. King

Charlotte-Mecklenburg will recognize the American "dream" as we celebrate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., one of history's greatest champions of peace, pluralism and diversity. All events are free and open to the public.

Memorial and Wreath Laying Service, Tuesday noon, Marshall Park. Words from diverse faith representatives, music, song and prayer.

Cultural Diversity Showcase and awards presentation, Saturday, 6 p.m., Grady Cole Center. Diverse entertainment including: the Filipino American Dance Ensemble, Ballet Folklorico y Populares, Phoenix Performing Group Chinese American music and fan dancing, Rince NaH'eireann Celtic Folk Dancers, Kambankafo West African drummers and dancers, poetry reading, vocal performances, tea-room style modeling, a free "Taste of Diversity" food sampling from local ethnic restaurants and a cultural vendor marketplace.

March/Parade, Monday, Jan. 21. Line-up, 8:30 a.m., step-off, 10 a.m. The parade begins at the corner of Trade and Graham Streets, and will proceed down Trade/Elizabeth and end at the Grady Cole Center. The Rev. Casey Kimbrough, senior pastor of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, will serve as Grand Marshall. Please call Joe Turner at 704.786-6659 to register your group for parade participation.

Annual Community Holiday Celebration, Monday, Jan. 21, 12:30 p.m., Covenant Presbyterian Church. Activities include the city-county King Holiday proclamation, presentation of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools' MLK Art and Writing Contest winners, a performance by singer

Marsaisa Byrd, choir and dance performances and a keynote address from the Rev. Harold S. Diggs.

A Day On! Not a Day Off!, Monday, Jan. 21, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Sites include the Alexander Children's Center, the Belmont Boys and Girls Club, the Johnston YMCA, Milton Road Boys and Girls Club, the Neighborhood Family Resource Center, Parker Heights Community Center, Trinity Episcopal School, and the West Trade Street Boys and Girls Club. Hands-on-Charlotte sponsors this annual daylong project that consists of hundreds of volunteers providing educational opportunities for children.

Daybreak of Freedom, Monday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m., Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. This year's performance with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra, Oratorio Chamber Singers of Charlotte and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church Choirs in cooperation with the Afro-American Cultural Center marks the fifth annual community concert.

The events are planned by the The Martin Luther King Memorial Planning Committee. For more information, call 704-336-5271.

Terry Bradley

Paralegal sought

The writer is Hispanic outreach coordinator for Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, 704-376-1600.

LSSP seeks a paralegal for its Charlotte office. Position involves Hispanic outreach with clients who do not speak English in Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly and Union counties.

Tania N. Archer

Schools report fewer dropouts

Continued from Page 1

grams are worth investing limited dollars in, and which efforts that cost very little have a proven track record.

State officials were at pains to say they weren't satisfied with the numbers, which showed an overall 9% improvement in dropout rates statewide.

State Supt. Mike Ward said in a statement, "We have to reach students early to determine why they're not being successful in school before they choose to drop out."

State Board Chairman Phil Kirk was a bit more

blunt: "We need parents, business leaders, and educators emphasizing to students that they simply must get their high school diploma first and then continue their learning for many of the jobs of today and tomorrow."

Statewide, 22,365 students dropped out last year, 3.86% of the grades 7-12 student body. But most students leave during high school; the rate for grades 9-12 statewide was 5.71% (Mecklenburg's was 5.77%).

Those percentages look good, but they only cover a year's worth of schooling; in four years, a graduating class loses far more: The CMS Class of 2001 lost 29% of its members, 33.3% of its males, 39.7% of its African-Americans.

How dropout rate improved (or got worse) from previous year, systems with most dropouts in 2001:

System	'01 dropouts	'00	'01
Mecklenburg	1,909	13.5%	13.7%
Wake	1,038	12.4%	10.8%
Robeson	776	(3.2%)	(5.4%)
Guilford	747	7.2%	33.8%
Forsyth	739	11.7%	14.9%
Cumberland	737	20.1%	9.8%
Gaston	635	13.7%	12.0%
Buncombe	457	(5.6%)	19.1%
Pitt	434	(1.2%)	5.2%
Durham	425	22.4%	23.3%
Davidson	411	1.8%	(22.4%)
Nash-Rocky Mount	406	5.7%	8.2%
Alamance-Burlington	388	(1.5%)	16.6%
New Hanover	377	9.4%	6.1%
Johnston	366	9.3%	6.8%
Onslow	362	(5.2%)	16.2%
Harnett	361	(7.3%)	4.5%
Rowan-Salisbury	356	0.7%	14.2%
Iredell-Statesville	319	26.2%	7.5%
Randolph	314	8.9%	26.0%
Craven	310	(1.6%)	(3.3%)
Wayne	305	19.4%	(6.8%)

Source: N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction

'01 Decrease 30%-60%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Hyde	7	2.34
Caswell	40	2.46
Alleghany	15	2.38
Avery	32	3.09
Hertford	67	3.57
Pender	93	3.17
Ashe	53	3.46
Guilford	747	2.64
Currituck	60	3.89
Gates	33	3.41

'01 Decrease 20%-29%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Montgomery	75	3.8
Franklin	147	4.31
Lincoln	181	3.58
Clay	25	3.93
Anson	95	4.71
Burke	223	3.45
Camden	28	4.31
Randolph	314	4.07
Durham	425	3.26
Scotland	131	4.28
Warren	89	5.82
Stokes	115	3.43
Pamlico	27	2.91
Watauga	76	3.14
Kannapolis City	65	3.4
Granville	152	4.29
Brunswick	214	4.62

'01 Decrease 10%-19%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Thomasville City	28	3.02
Vance	164	4.89

'01 Decrease 0.1%-9%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Union	296	2.93
Martin	85	3.93
Buncombe	457	3.94
Clinton City	48	4.04
Alexander	90	3.71
Edenton/Chowan	35	2.9
Perquimans	44	4.9
Halifax	113	4.16
Weldon City	13	2.79
Alamance/Burl.	388	4.02
Onslow	362	3.73
Cabarrus	272	3.08
Hickory City	124	5.92
Lenoir	214	4.59
Forsyth	739	3.72
Rutherford	229	5.2
Columbus	158	4.61
Hoke	141	5.44
Rowan-Salis.	356	3.75
Mecklenburg	1,909	4.11
Northampton	70	4.27
Carteret	154	3.71
Gaston	635	4.49
Whiteville City	49	3.8
Asheville City	67	3.53
N.C.	22,365	3.86
Wake	1,038	2.4
Edgecombe	184	5.25

'01 Decrease 0.1%-9%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Cumberland	737	3.12
Catawba	268	3.6
Mitchell	23	2.03
Surry	153	4.1

'01 Increase 0.1%-9%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Stanly	140	3
Yancy	44	3.8
Davie	85	3.36
Nash/Rocky Mt.	406	5.06
Beaufort	159	4.66
Macon	85	4.34
Iredell-Statesville	319	4.19
Wilson	287	5.28
Caldwell	218	3.92
McDowell	145	5.03
Moore	168	3.24
Johnston	366	4.09
New Hanover	377	3.71
Jackson	64	3.75
Henderson	202	3.66
Richmond	156	4.35
Pitt	434	4.76
Harnett	361	4.92
Wilkes	204	4.32
Shelby City	57	4.25
Chatham	161	5
Asheboro City	85	4.57
Jones	23	3.67
Bertie	69	4
Pasquotank	136	4.73

'01 Increase 0.1%-9%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Transylvania	85	4.47
Greene	68	4.98
Person	114	4.31
Haywood	151	4.22
Kings Mt. City	104	5.23
Cherokee	65	3.87
Craven	310	4.68

'01 Increase 10%-19%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Cleveland	147	3.61
Bladen	81	3.25
Robeson	776	7.23
Wayne	305	3.46
Rockingham	269	4.08
Orange	94	3.37
Swain	38	4.51
Lexington City	73	5.6
Lee	224	5.61
Dare	103	4.6

'01 Increase 20%-29%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Roanoke Rapids	66	4.64
Yadkin	115	4.33
Davidson	411	4.64
Duplin	176	4.58
Madison	47	4.09
Washington	41	3.88
Sampson	112	3.34
Graham	27	4.92

'01 Increase 30%-98%

System	Dropouts	Rate
Mooreville City	83	4.35
Polk	27	2.57
Newton-Con. City	32	2.61
Chapel Hill-Carr.	57	1.25
Tyrrell	14	3.77
Elkin City	13	2.74
Mount Airy City	29	3.32

Source: Dept. of Public Instruction

It's a matter of trust

Continued from Page 1

comparing schools' results. In the charts on this and the next page, bars of red or green illustrate the amount by which the school's results were below or above average for schools teaching children in the same grades. Magnet schools have an advantage here: Parents who choose their school have always felt better about their children's experience.

So is the lesson that broadening choice will make more parents happy in future years? Possibly. But the culture of respect is also affected by schoolhouse leadership – the tone set by principals and teachers. This is the only way to explain why a school can be turned around with the reassignment of a principal, why reassignment of principals is fundamental to the state's intervention program for low-performing schools, why principals coming into a low-performing school sometimes are allowed to recruit an entirely new teaching staff.

The data on which these charts are based are a year old. School situations can change quickly. And of course the data is based only on surveys voluntarily returned:

Parents really angry at their school probably didn't return the surveys; if anything, the overall percentages on this question of "free to express concerns and make suggestions" may overstate positive attitudes at the schools.

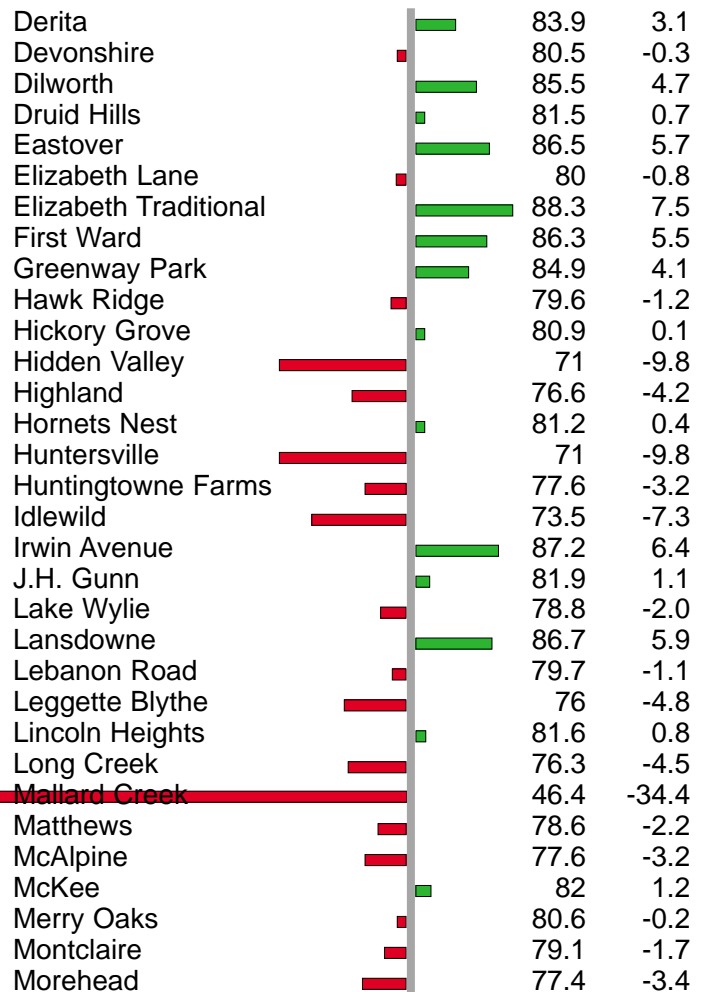
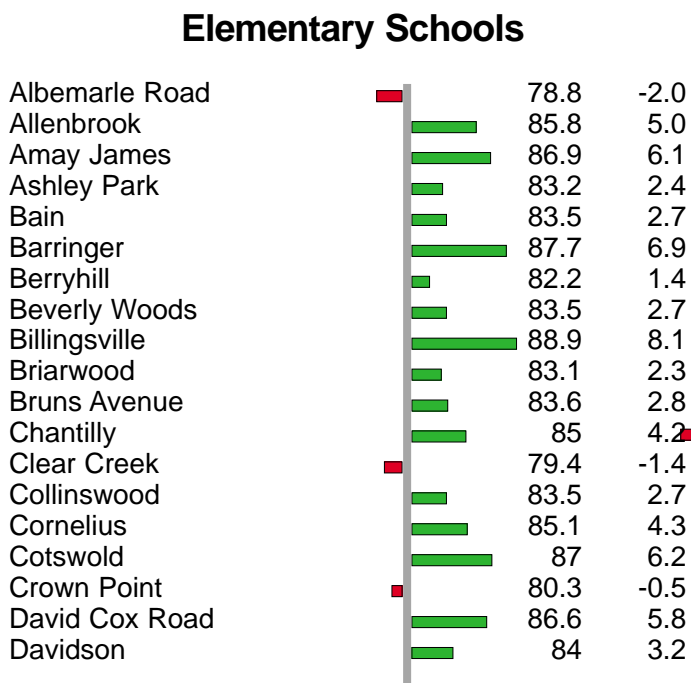
For parents still pondering their choices – or considering revising their choices, as they may at any time before Friday's deadline – the data may put in context some of what they experienced in their visits, and in their private discussions with parents already at the schools.

It also points to a truth about any democratic institution:

The public shapes – and can reshape – middling institutions into excellent ones. Come August, or even before, parents choosing a school can do a great deal to make it a better place for themselves, their children, and the community.

Parent response to survey question

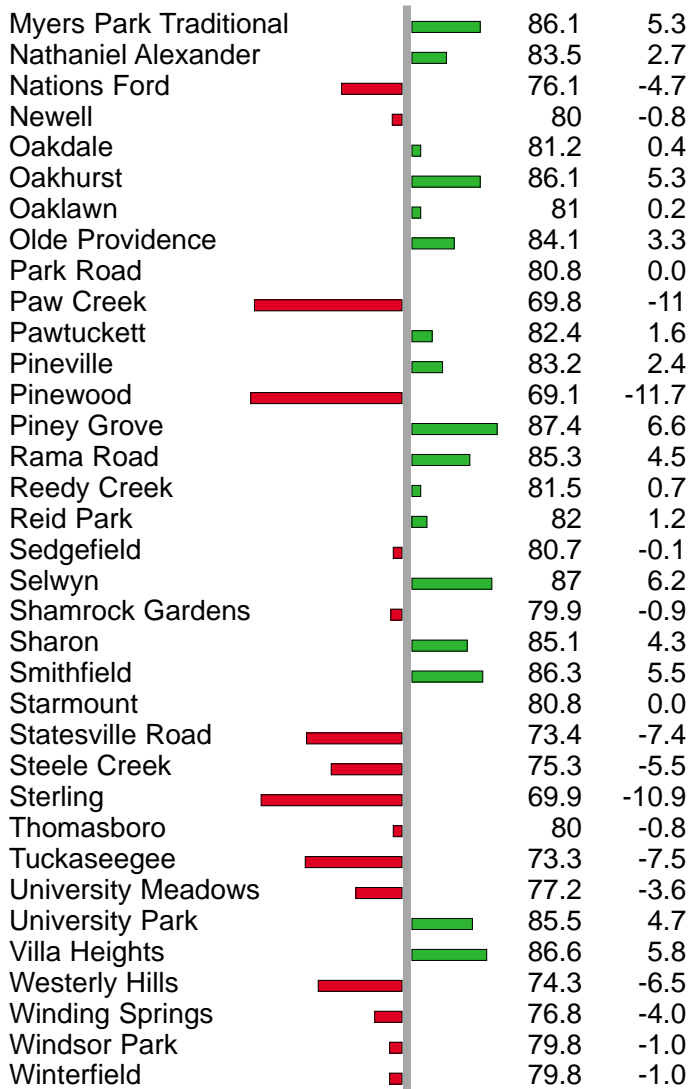
In the 2001 survey of parent opinion, one question asked whether respondents "feel free to express concerns or make suggestions." The CMS goal was for 85% of respondents to say they do. In the following lines, a school's percentage favorable response is listed to the right of the bars. At the far right is how that response varied, in percentage points, from the average response from schools with the same grades. The average for elementaries was 80.8%, for middle schools, 69.2%, for high schools, 59.2%.



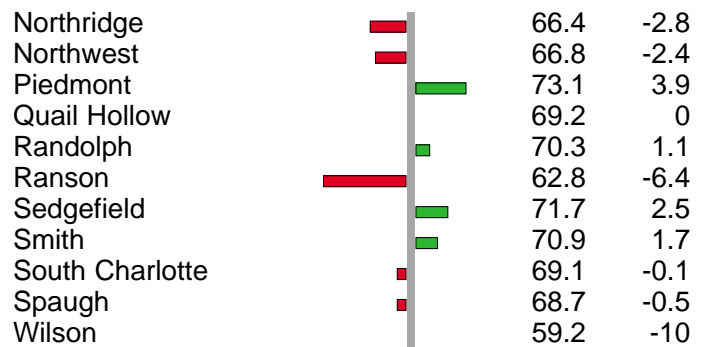
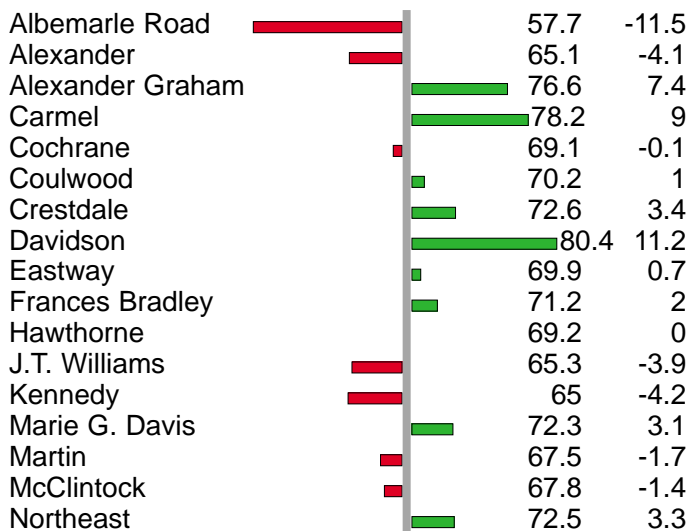
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It's a matter of trust

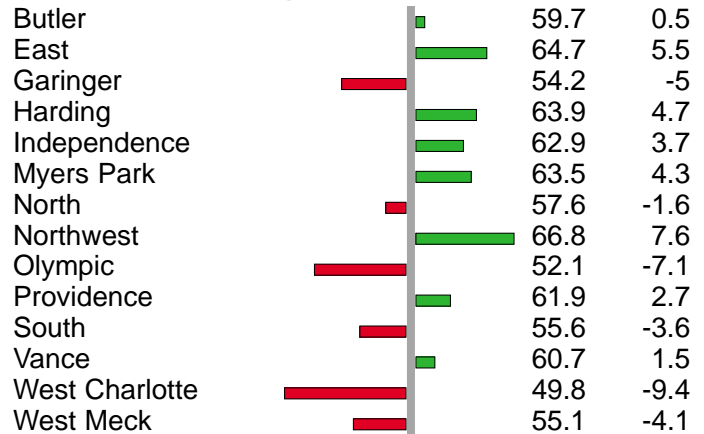
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Middle Schools



High Schools



Note: Lengths of bars in range from -0.8 to +0.8 are marginally overstated.

Source: CMS

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A reading list for adults of books by African-American authors

In connection with the 13th African-American Read-In Feb. 3-4, the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English created this list of "must-read" books for adults by African-American authors, from caucus members' recommendations. The list was compiled by Sandra E. Gibbs. It can be downloaded at: www.ncte.org/special/Booklist1-2002.pdf

- Alexander, Adele Logan. **Homelands and Waterways: The American Journey of the Bond Family, 1846-1926**, Pantheon Books, 1999, history.
- Angelou, Maya. **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1983, autobiography (plus any of her other work).
- Ansa, Tina McElroy. **The Hand I Fan With**, Doubleday & Co., 1996, fiction; **Ugly Ways**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993, Fiction; **Baby of the Family**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1989, fiction.
- Ashe, Arthur. **Days of Grace: A Memoir**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1993, autobiography.
- Baldwin, James. **Go Tell It on the Mountain**, Dell Publishing, 1985, non-fiction (Plus any of his other works).
- Bambara, Toni Cade. **Those Bones Are Not My Child**, Pantheon Books, 1999, fiction (plus any of her other works); **Deep Sightings and Rescue Missions**, Random House, 1996, fiction, essays, conversations; **Gorilla, My Love**, Random House, 1981, short story collection.
- Barboza, Steven (Ed.). **The African American Book of Values**, Doubleday, 1998, collection/short stories.
- Barksdale, Richard. **Praisesong of Survival**, University of Illinois Press, 1992, lectures and essays 1957-89.
- Bates, Karen and Karen Elyse Hudson. **Grigsby & Basic Black: Home Training for Modern Times**, Doubleday, 1996, essays.
- Beals, Melba Pattilo. **Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle to Integrate Little Rock's Central High**, Pocket Books, 1994, biography.
- Bell, Derrick. **Gospel Choirs: Psalms of Survival in an Alien Land Called Home**, Basic Books, 1996, short stories; **Confronting Authority: Reflections of an Ardent Protester**, Beacon Press, 1994, essays (plus any of his other works).
- Bell-Scott, Patricia, et.al. **Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers and Daughters**, Beacon Press, 1991, poems, stories, essays.
- Bennett, Lerone. **The Shaping of Black America: The Struggles and Triumphs of African-Americans, 1619 to the 1990s**, Viking Penguin, 1993, history; **Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America**, Viking Penguin, 1984, history.
- Bogle, Donald. **Dorothy Dandridge**, Amistad Press, 1997, biography.
- Bontemps, Arna. **American Negro Poetry**, 1982, poetry (plus any of his other works.) out of print – see library.
- Bontemps, Arna W. and Langston Hughes. **Popo & Fifina**, Oxford University Press, 1932, reissued 1993, fiction.
- Briscoe, Connie. **A Long Way From Home**, HarperCollins, 1999, fiction.
- Brooks, Gwendolyn. **Children Coming Home**, The David Company, 1991, poetry; **Selected Poems**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1982 (plus any of her other works.)
- Brown, Elaine. **A Taste of Power**, Pantheon Books, 1992, autobiography.
- Brown, Sterling A. **The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown**, Broadside Press, 1990, (compiled by Michael S. Harper), poetry.
- Busby, Margaret (Ed.) **Daughters of Africa**, Pantheon Books, 1992, international anthology of words and writings by women of African descent.
- Butler, Octavia. **Parable of the Talents**, Seven Stories Press, 1998, fiction; **Parable of the Sower**, Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993, futuristic; **Kindred**, Beacon Press, 1988, science fiction.
- Campbell, Bebe. **Moore Singing in the Comeback Choir**, Putnam Publishing Group, 1998, fiction; **Brothers and Sisters**, Putnam Publisher, 1994, fiction; **Your Blues Ain't Like Mine**, Putnam Publishing Group, 1992, fiction.
- Carroll, Rebecca. **Swing Low: Black Men Writing**, Carol Southern Press, 1995, interviews; **I Know What the Red Clay Looks Like: The Voice and Vision of Black Women Writers**, Carol Southern Press, 1995, interviews.
- Chambers, Veronica. **Mama's Girl**, Riverhead Books, 1996, memoir.
- Chase-Riboud, Barbara. **The President's Daughter**, Crown Publishers, 1994, historical novel.
- Childress, Alice. **Rainbow Jordan**, Avon Books, 1982, fiction (young adult and older; plus any of her other works).
- Clarke, Breena. **River, Cross My Heart**, Little, Brown & Co., 1999, fiction.
- Cleage, Pearl. **What Looks Like Crazy on An Ordinary Day . . .**, Avon Books, 1997, fiction; **The Brass Bed and Other Stories**, Third World Press, 1991, poetry and fiction.
- Clifton, Lucille. **Blessing the Boats: New and Selected Poems 1988-2000**, BOA Editions, Ltd., 2000, poetry; **Three Wishes**, Doubleday, 1992, fiction (children's author; plus any of her other works which include poetry for secondary and adult.)
- Cole, Johnetta. **Conversations**, Doubleday, 1993, essays.
- Coleman, Chrisena. **Just Between Girlfriends: African-American Women Celebrate Friendship**, Simon & Schuster, 1998, essays.
- Coleman, Evelyn. **What a Woman's Gotta Do**, Simon & Schuster, 1998, fiction.
- Collier-Thomas, Bettye. **A Treasury of African-American Christmas Stories, Volume II**, Henry Holt & Co., 1999, short stories; **Daughters of Thunder: Black Women Preachers and Their Sermons, 1850-1979**, Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1998, history.
- Comer, James P. **Maggie's American Dream: The Life and Times of a Black Family**, Dutton/New American Library, 1989, autobiography; **Waiting for A Miracle: Why Schools Can't Solve Our Problems – and How We Can**, Dutton Publishing, 1997, essays.
- Cook, William W. **Spiritual**, Reed & Cannon Co., 1999, poetry.
- Cooper, J. California. **Some Love, Some Pain, Sometime**, Doubleday, 1995, short stories; **Family**, Doubleday, 1992, fiction (plus any of her other works).
- Cortez, Jayne. **Coagulations: New and Selected Poems**, Thunders Mouth Press, 1984, poetry.
- Cose, Ellis. **Color-Blind: Seeing Beyond Rage in A Race Obsessed World**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1997,

NCTE reading list for adults

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- essays; **The Rage of a Privileged Class**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1993, essays.
- Dance, Daryl Cumber (Ed.). **Honey, Hush!: An Anthology of African American Women's Humor**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1988, anthology.
- Danticat, Edwidge. **The Farming of the Bones**, SoHo Press, 1998, fiction; **Krik? Krak!**, Vintage Books, 1996, short stories; **Breath, Eyes, Memory**, Vintage Books, 1994, fiction.
- Davis, Angela. **Women, Race and Class**, Random House, 1983, nonfiction.
- Davis, Ossie. **Langston: A Play**, Delacorte Press, 1982.
- Davis, Ossie and Ruby Dee. **With Ossie and Ruby: In This Life Together**, William Morrow & Co., 1998, autobiography.
- DeBerry, Virginia. **Tryin' to Sleep in the Bed You Made**, St. Martin's Press, 1997, fiction.
- Delaney, Sarah Louise and Annie Elizabeth Delaney. **Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters First 100 Years**, Dell Publishing, 1994, biography.
- Dellums, Ronald V. and H. Lee Halterman. **Lying Down with the Lions: A Public Life from the Streets of Oakland to the Halls of Power**, Beacon Press, 2000, memoir.
- Delpit, Lisa. **Other People's Children: Cultural Conflict in the Classroom**, New Press, 1995, essays.
- Derricotte, Toi. **Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1997, memoir.
- Dickerson, Debra J. **An American Story**, Pantheon Books, 2000, memoir.
- Douglass, Frederick. **Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave**, Reprint Services Corp., 1992, autobiography.
- Dove, Rita. **Mother Love**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1995, poetry; **Through the Ivory Gate: A Novel**, Random House, 1992, fiction (plus any of her poetry).
- Draper, Sharon. **Romiette and Julio**, Simon & Schuster, 1999; **Tears of a Tiger**, Aladdin Paperbacks, 1996, fiction.
- Due, Tananarive. **The Black Rose**, Ballantine Publishing, 2000, biography.
- Dunbar, Paul Laurence. **The Complete Poems of Paul Laurence Dunbar**, Reprint Services Corp., 1992.
- Dyson, Michael Eric. **I May Not Get There with You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.**, Simon & Schuster, 2000, nonfiction; **Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line**, Addison-Wesley Publishing, 1996, essays.
- Edelman, Marian Wright. **Lanterns: A Memoir of Mentors**, Beacon Press, 1999; **Guide My Feet: Prayers & Meditations on Loving & Working for Children**, Beacon Press, 1995, essays; **The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours**, Beacon Press, 1992.
- Elders, Joycelyn. **Joycelyn Elders, M.D.: From Sharecropper's Daughter to Surgeon General of the United States of America**, William Morrow & Co., 1996, autobiography.
- Ellison, Ralph (Ed.). **Juneteenth**, Random House, 1999, fiction; **Flying Home & Other Stories**, Random House, 1996, short stories; **The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison**, Random House, 1995, essays.
- Evans, Mari. **A Dark & Splendid Mass**, Harlem River Press, 1992, poetry; **I Am a Black Woman**, Writers & Readers Publishing, 1992, poetry.
- Evers-Williams, Myrlie. **Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming The Woman I Was Meant to Be**, Little, Brown & Co., 1999, autobiography.
- Fleming, Robert. **The Wisdom of the Elders**, Ballantine Books, 1996.
- Forman, Ruth. **Renaissance**, Beacon Press, 1997, poetry.
- Foster, Michele. **Black Teachers on Teaching**, New Press, 1997, essays.
- Franklin, Aretha. **Aretha: From These Roots**, Villard Books, 1999, biography.
- Freeman, Roland L. **A Communion of the Spirits: African-American Quilters, Preservers and Their Stories**, Rutledge Hill Press, 1996, history/photodocumentary.
- Fulwood III, Sam. **Waking From the Dream: My Life in the Black Middle Class**, Anchor Books, 1996, memoir.
- Gaines, Ernest. **A Lesson Before Dying**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1993, fiction; **A Gathering of Old Men**, Random House, 1992, fiction (plus any of his other works).
- Gates, Jr., Henry Louis. **Wonders of the African World**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1999, history; **The Norton Anthology of African American Literature**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1997; **Colored People: A Memoir**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1994, autobiography.
- Gates, Jr., Henry Louis and Cornel West. **The Future of the Race**, Alfred A. Knopf, 1996, essays.
- Giddings, Paula. **When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1985, nonfiction.
- Gilyard, Keith. **Let's Flip the Script: An African American Discourse on Language, Literature and Identity**, Wayne State University Press, 1996; **American Forty**, Eclipse III Press, 1993, poems; **Voices of the Self: A Study of Language Competence**, Wayne State University Press, 1991, memoir.
- Giovanni, Nikki. **Love Poems**, William Morrow & Co., 1997, poetry; **Shimmy, Shimmy, Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance through Poems**, Henry Holt & Co., 1996, poetry; **Grand Mothers: Poems, Reminiscences, and Short Stories about the Keepers of Our Traditions**, Henry Holt & Co., 1994; **Racism 101**, William Morrow & Co., 1994, essays.
- Golden, Marita. **Saving Our Sons: Raising Black Children in a Turbulent World**, Doubleday, 1995, essays; **Wild Women Don't Wear No Blues**, Doubleday, 1993, essays.
- Gordon-Reed, Annette. **Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemmings: An American Controversy**, University Press of Virginia, 1997, nonfiction.
- Goss, Linda and Marian E. Barnes. **Talk That Talk: An Anthology of African-American Storytelling**, Simon & Schuster, 1989, short stories.
- Greenfield, Eloise. **Talk About A Family**, HarperCollins Children's Books, 1991, children's author (plus any of her other works).
- Guinier, Lani. **Lift Every Voice: Turning a Civil Rights Setback into a New Vision of Social Justice**, Simon & Schuster, 1998, memoir.
- Guy, Rosa. **The Friends**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1983, young adult fiction (plus any of her other works).
- Guy-Sheftall, Beverly (Ed.). **Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought**, New Press, 1995, anthology.
- Gwaltney, John Langston. **Drylongso: A Self-Portrait of Black America**, 1981, nonfiction (out of print; see library).
- Haley, Alex and Malcolm X. **The Autobiography of Malcolm X**,

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NCTE reading list for adults

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- Ballantine Books, 1992, autobiography
Hamilton, Virginia. **Many Thousand Gone**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1993, children/history; **The People Could Fly**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1988, folktales for young adults (plus any of her other works).
- Harley, Sharon and Rosalyn Terborg-Penn (Eds.). **The Afro-American Woman: Struggles & Images**, Black Classic Press, 1997, history.
- Harper, Michael S. and Anthony Walton (Eds.) **The Vintage Book of African American Poetry: 200 Years of Vision, Struggle, Power, Beauty, and Triumph from 50 Outstanding Poets**, Vintage Books, 2000.
- Hayden, Robert. **Collected Poems**, Liveright, 1985, poetry.
- Hewett, Lorri. **Soulfire**, Dutton Children's Books, 1996, young adult fiction.
- Higgins, Chester. **Feeling the Spirit: Searching the World for the People of Africa**, Bantam Books, 1994, history.
- Hill, Anita. **Speaking Truth to Power**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1997, memoir.
- Hill, Patricia Liggins (general ed.). **Call & Response: The Riverside Anthology of the African American Literary Tradition**, Houghton Mifflin, 1998.
- Hine, Darlene Clark and Kathleen Thompson. **A Shining Thread of Hope: The History of Black Women in America**, Broadway Books, 1998, history.
- Holloway, Karla F.C. **Codes of Conduct: Race, Ethics, and the Color of Our Character**, Rutgers University Press, 1995, essays.
- hooks, bell. **Killing Rage: Ending Racism**, Henry Holt & Co., 1995, essays; **Black Looks: Race and Representation**, South End Press, 1992, essays.
- Hudson, Cheryl and Wade (Eds.) **In Praise of Our Fathers & Our Mothers: A Black Family Treasury by Outstanding Authors and Artists**, Just Us Books, 1997, collection.
- Huggins, Nathan Irvin **Black Odyssey: The Afro-American Ordeal in Slavery**, Random House, 1990, history.
- Hughes, Langston. **Selected Poems**, Random House, 1990, poetry (plus any of his other works).
- Hull, Gloria T. (Ed.) **Give Us Each Day: The Diary of Alice Dunbar-Nelson**, 1984, nonfiction, out of print; see library.
- Hunter, Kristin **God Bless the Child**, Howard University Press, 1987, fiction (plus any of her other works).
- Hunter-Gault, Charlayne. **In My Place**, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992, memoir.
- Hurston, Zora Neale. **Their Eyes Were Watching God**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1990, fiction (plus any of her other works).
- Jackson-Opoku, Sandra, **The River Where Blood Is Born**, Ballantine Books, 1997, fiction.
- Jamison, Judith. **Dancing Spirit**, Doubleday, 1993, autobiography.
- Jarrett, Hobart. **The History of Sigma Phi Phi: First of the African-American Greek-Letter Fraternities, Volume II**, Quantum Leap Publishers, 1995.
- Johnson, Angela. **Toning the Sweep**, Scholastic, 1994, novel (plus any of her other works).
- Johnson, Charles. **Dreamer: A Novel**, Scribner, 1998, fiction; **Middle Passage**, Dutton/New American Library, 1991, fiction.
- Johnson, Charles and Patricia Smith. **Africans in America: America's Journey through Slavery**, Harcourt Brace & Co., 1998, history.
- Johnson, James Weldon. **God's Trombones: Seven Negro Sermons in Verse**, Viking Penguin, 1990, poetry (plus any of his other works.)
- Johnson-Feelings, Dianne (Ed.) **The Best of the Brownies Book**, Oxford University Press, 1996, original stories from *The Brownies* Books, a 1920s magazine for African-American children.
- Jones, Gayl. **The Healing**, Beacon Press, 1998, fiction.
- Jordan, June. **Affirmative Acts**, Doubleday, 1998, essays; **Naming Our Destiny**, Thunder Mouth Press, 1989 (plus any of her other works).
- Kelly, William Melvin. **A Different Drummer**, 1962, fiction, out of print; see library; out of print; see library (plus any of his other works).
- Kenan, Randall. **Let the Dead Bury Their Dead**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, 1992, short stories.
- Kendrick, Dolores. **The Women of Plums: Poems in the Voices of Slave Women**, Phillips Exeter, 1990.
- Kincaid, Jamaica. **The Autobiography of My Mother**, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1996, novel (plus any of her other works).
- Knight, Gladys. **Between Each Line of Pain and Glory: My Life Story**, Hyperion Publishing, 1997, autobiography.
- LaBelle, Patti and Laura B. Randolph. **Don't Block the Blessings: Revelations of a Lifetime**, 1996, Putnam Publishing Group, 1996, autobiography.
- Ladson-Billings, Gloria. **Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African-American Children**, Jossey-Bass, Inc., 1997, essays.
- Lane, Pinkie Gordon. **Elegy for Etheridge**, Louisiana State University Press, 2000; **Girl at the Window**, Louisiana State University Press, 1991, poetry (plus any of her other works).
- Lattany, Kristin Hunter. **Kinfolks**, Ballantine Books, 1997, fiction (plus any of her other works).
- Lawrence, Beverly Hall. **Reviving the Spirit: A Generation of African Americans Goes Home to Church**, Grove/Atlantic, Inc., 1996, nonfiction.
- Lawrence-Lightfoot, Sara. **I've Known Rivers: Lives of Loss and Liberation**, Addison Wesley Publishing, 1994, personal essays; **Balm in Gilead: Journey of a Healer**, Addison-Wesley Publishing, 1988, biography.
- Lester, Julius. **To Be A Slave**, Scholastic, Inc., 1986, nonfiction.
- Liddell, Janice. **Imani & the Flying Africans**, Africa World, 1994, children's fiction.
- Madgett, Naomi Long. **Octavia and Other Poems**, Third World Press, 1992, poetry.
- Madhubuti, Haki. **Heartlove: Wedding and Love Poems**, Third World Press, 1998, poetry; **Groundwork: New & Selected Poems, 1966-1996**, Third World Press, 1996, poetry; **Black Men: Obsolete, Single, Dangerous**, Third World Press, 1990, essays (plus any of his other works).
- Magona, Sindiwe. **Mother to Mother**, Beacon Press, 1998, fiction.
- Mandela, Nelson. **Long Walk to Freedom**, Little, Brown, 1994, autobiography.
- Marshall, Paule. **The Fisher King**, Scribner Publishing, 2000, fiction; **Daughters**, Dutton/New American Library, 1992, fiction; **Praisesong for**

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- the **Widow**, Dutton/New American Library, 1984, fiction.
- Massaquoi, Hans J. **Destined to Witness: Growing Up Black in Nazi Germany**, William Morrow & Co., 1999, memoir.
- Mathabane, Miriam. **Miriam's Song**, Simon & Schuster, 2000, memoir.
- Mathis, Sharon Bell. **Teacup Full of Roses**, Puffin Books, 1987, young adult fiction, out of print; see library.
- McBride, James. **The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother**, Riverhead Books, 1996, memoir.
- McCall, Nathan. **Makes Me Wanna Holler: A Young Black Man in America**, Random House, 1994, autobiography.
- McKay, Claude. **Selected Poems**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1969, poetry.
- McKinney-Whetstone, Diane. **Tumbling: A Novel**, William Morrow & Co., 1996, fiction.
- McKissack, Patricia. **Christmas in the Big House; Christmas in the Quarters**, Scholastic, Inc., 1994, non-fiction/young adult; **Mirandy and Brother Wind**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1988, fiction, children's author (plus any of her other works).
- McKissack, Patricia and Frederick L. **Black Hands, White Sails: The Story of African-American Whalers**, Scholastic Press, 1999; **Rebels Against Slavery: American Slave Revolts**, Scholastic, Inc., 1996, history.
- McMillan, Terry. **How Stella Got Her Groove Back**, Viking Penguin, 1996; **Waiting to Exhale**, Viking Penguin, 1992, fiction; **Disappearing Acts**, Viking Penguin, 1989, fiction.
- McPherson, James Alan. **A Region Not Home: Reflections from Exile**, Simon & Schuster, 2000, essays.
- Medearis, Angela Shelf. **Come This Far to Freedom: A History of African Americans**, Atheneum Books, 1993, history.
- Miller, E. Ethelbert. **Whispers, Secrets, and Promises**, Black Classic Press, 1998, poetry.
- Moody, Anne. **Coming of Age in Mississippi: An Autobiography**, Dell Publishing, 1991.
- Morrison, Toni. **The Bluest Eye**, Dutton/Plume, 2000, reprint; **The Big Box**, Hyperion Books, 1999, fiction (first book for children); **Paradise**, Alfred A. Knopf, 1997, fiction; **Jazz**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1992, fiction; **Playing in the Dark: Whiteness & the Literary Imagination**, Harvard University Press, 1992, criticism; **Beloved**, Dutton/New American Library, 1991, fiction (plus any of her other works).
- Mosley, Walter. **Workin' on the Chain Gang: Shaking Off the Dead Hand of History**, Ballantine Publishing, 2000, essay; **Walkin' the Dog**, Little, Brown & Co., 1999, fiction; **Gone Fishin'**, Black Classic Press, 1997, fiction; **Always Outnumbered, Always Outgunned**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1998, fiction; **A Little Yellow Dog: A Novel**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1996; **Black Betty**, W.W. Norton Publishing, 1994, mystery.
- Mullane, Deirdre. **Words to Make My Dream Children Live: A Book of African American Quotations**, Anchor Books, 1995.
- Myers, Walter Dean. **The Glory Field**, Scholastic, Inc., 1994, fiction/young adult; **Fallen Angels**, Scholastic, Inc., 1989, adult.
- Naylor, Gloria. **The Men of Brewster Place**, Hyperion Books, 1998, fiction; **Children of the Night: The Best Short Stories by Black Writers, 1967 to the Present**, Little, Brown & Co., 1996; **Bailey's Cafe**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992, fiction; **Mama Day**, Random House, 1989, fiction.
- Neely, Barbara. **Blanche Cleans Up**, Viking Penguin, 1998, fiction.
- Nelson, Jill. **Straight, No Chaser: How I Became a Grown-Up Black Woman**, Putnam Publishing Group, 1997, essay; **Volunteer Slavery**, Noble Press, 1993, memoir (plus any of her other works).
- Nikuradse, Tamara (Ed.). **My Mother Had a Dream: African American Women Share Their Mothers' Words of Wisdom**, Dutton Books, 1996, collection.
- Oseye, Ebele (a.k.a. Ellease Southerland). **Feast of Fools**, Africana Legacy Press, 1998, fiction.
- Page, Clarence. **Showing My Color: Impolite Essays on Race and Identity**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1996, essays.
- Painter, Nell I. **Sojourner Truth: A Life, A Symbol**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1996, biography.
- Parks, Gordon. **The Learning Tree**, Fawcett, 1987, fiction; **A Choice of Weapons**, Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1986.
- Pemberton, Gayle. **The Hottest Water in Chicago**, Faber & Faber Inc., 1992, autobiography.
- Perry, Theresa and Lisa Delpit. **The Real Ebonics Debate: Power, Language, and the Education of African American Children**, Beacon Press, 1988, essay.
- Petry, Ann. **The Street**, Hugh Mann Publishers, 1992, fiction.
- Pinkney, Gloria Jean & Jerry. **Back Home**, Dial Books, 1992, fiction/children.
- Proctor, Samuel Dewitt. **The Substance of Things Hoped For: A Memoir of African-American Faith**, Putnam Publishing, 1996, memoir.
- Rampersad, Arnold. **The Life of Langston Hughes, Volume I-1986, Volume II-1988**, Oxford University Press, biography.
- Randall, Dudley. **The Black Poets**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1985, poetry.
- Reagon, Bernice Johnson. **We'll Understand It Better By and By: Pioneering African American Gospel Composers**, Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992, history.
- Redmond, Eugene B. **Griefs of Joy**, 1977, anthology, out of print; see library (plus any of his other works).
- Reed, Ishmael. **The Reed Reader**, Basic Books, 2000, collection; **Flight to Canada**, Macmillan Publishing, 1989, fiction (plus any of his other works).
- Reese, Della. **Angels Along the Way: My Life with Help from Above**, G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1997, autobiography.
- Reid-Merritt, Patricia. **Sister Power: How Phenomenal Black Women Are Rising to the Top**, John Wiley & Sons, 1996, essays.
- Rhodes, Jewell Parker. **Magic City**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1997, fiction.
- Riley, Dorothy Winbush (Ed.). **Black Men in the Image of God**, Pilgrim Press, 1999; **Black Women in the Image of God**, Pilgrim Press, 1999; **My Soul Looks Back, 'Less I Forget**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1993, reference: a collection of quotations by people of color.
- Robeson, Paul. **Here I Stand**, Beacon Press, 1988.
- Robinson, Randall. **Defending the Spirit: A Black Life in America**, Dutton

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NCTE reading list for adults

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- Books, 1998, autobiography.
- Rowan, Carl T. **Dream Makers, Dream Breakers: The World of Justice Thurgood Marshall**, Little, Brown & Co., 1993, biography.
- Saint James, Synthia. **The Gifts of Kwanzaa**, Albert Whitman & Co., 1997.
- Sanchez, Sonia. **Like the Singing Coming of the Drums**, Beacon Press, 1999, poetry; **Does Your House Have Lions**, Beacon Press, 1997, poetry (plus any of her other works).
- Shange, Ntozake. **If I Can Cook/You Know God Can**, Beacon Press, 1999, memoir; **Sassafras, Cypress, and Indigo**, St. Martin's Press, 1983, novel.
- Simone, Nina. **I Put A Spell On You**, Pantheon, 1991, autobiography.
- Slade Jr., Leonard A. **Neglecting the Flowers: Book of Poems**, McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1997; **Pure Light: Book of Poems**, McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1996.
- Smith, Jessie Carney. **Notable Black American Women**, Gale Research, Inc., 1991.
- Smitherman, Geneva. **Black Talk**, Houghton Mifflin Co., 2000, dictionary (new revised edition); **Talkin' That Talk: Language, Culture, and Education in African America**, Routledge, 1999, nonfiction; **African American Women Speak Out on Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas**, Wayne State University Press, 1995, essays; **Black Talk: Words and Phrases from the Hood to the Amen Corner**, Houghton Mifflin Co., 1994, dictionary.
- Southerland, Ellease. **Let the Lion Eat Straw**, 1980, fiction.
- Southgate, Martha. **Another Way to Dance**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1996, young adult fiction.
- Step toe, John. **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters**, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1987, folktale (children's author).
- Stewart, Jeffrey C. **1001 Things Everyone Should Know About African American History**, Doubleday, 1996, history.
- Strickland, Dorothy and Michael Strickland. **Families: Poems Celebrating the African American Experience**, Boyds Mills Press, 1994, poetry.
- Strickland, Michael R. **African-American Poets: Collective Biographies**, Enslow Publishers, 1996.
- Tarpley, Natasha. **Girl in the Mirror: Three Generations of Black Women in Motion**, Beacon Press, 1999, memoir.
- Tate, Eleanora. **Front Porch Stories at the One-Room School**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1992, children's author (plus any of her other works).
- Taylor, Mildred. **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1984, young adult fiction.
- Terry, Wallace. **Bloods**, Ballantine, 1992, history of Vietnam War.
- Thomas, Joyce Carol. **Bright Shadow**, Avon Books 1983, young adult fiction (plus any of her other work).
- Thornton, Yvonne. **The Ditchdigger's Daughter: A Black Family's Astonishing Success Story**, Dutton, 1996, autobiography.
- Toomer, Jean. **Cane**, W.W. Norton & Co., 1987, poetry.
- Trice, Dawn Turner. **An Eighth of August**, Crown Publishing, 2000, fiction.
- Turner, Glennette Tilley. **Follow in Their Footsteps: Biographies of Ten Outstanding African Americans**, Cobblehill Books, 1997, biography and dramatic skits.
- Tutu, Desmond. **The Rainbow People of God: The Making of a Peaceful Revolution**, Doubleday, 1994, essays.
- Wade-Gayles, Gloria. **My Soul is a Witness: African American Women's Spirituality**, Beacon Press, 1995, collection of poetry, essays, song; **Pushed Back to Strength**, Beacon Press, 1993, autobiography.
- Walker, Alice. **The Way Forward Is With A Broken Heart**, Random House, 2000; **By The Light of My Father's Smile**, Random House, 1998, fiction (plus any of her other works); **Finding the Green Stone**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1991, fiction (children and adults); **The Color Purple**, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982, fiction.
- Walker, Margaret. **This Is My Century**, University of Georgia Press, 1989, poetry; **Jubilee**, Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1984, fiction.
- Washington, James Melvin. **Conversations with God: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1994.
- Washington, Mary Helen. **Memory of Kin**, Doubleday, 1991. collection of short stories (plus any of her other works).
- West, Cornel. **Restoring Hope: Conversations on the Future of Black America**, Beacon Press, 1997; **Race Matters**, Beacon Press, 1993, essays.
- West, Dorothy. **The Richer, the Poorer: Stories, Sketches and Reminiscences**, Doubleday, 1995, short stories; **The Wedding**, Doubleday, 1995, fiction.
- Wickham, DeWayne (Ed.) **Thinking Black: Some of the Nation's Most Thoughtful and Provocative Black Columnists Speak Their Mind**, Crown Publishing Group, 1996, essays; **Woodholme: A Black Man's Story of Growing Up Alone**, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1995, autobiography.
- Wideman, John Edgar. **Sent For You Yesterday**, Random House, 1988, fiction.
- Williams, John A. **The Man Who Cried I Am**, Thunders Mouth Press, 1985, fiction.
- Williams, Patricia J. **The Alchemy of Race and Rights: Diary of a Law Professor**, Harvard University Press, 1991.
- Williams, Sherley A. **Dessa Rose**, Berkley Publishing Group, 1987. fiction.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. **Like Sisters on the Homefront**, Puffin Books, 1995, young adult (plus any of her other works).
- Willis, Deborah (Ed.). **Picturing Us: African American Identity in Photography**, New Press, 1994, essays.
- Worley, Demetrice A. and Jesse Perry, Jr. **African American Literature**, National Textbook Co., 1993, anthology.
- Wright, Richard. **Black Boy**, HarperCollins Publishers, 1969, autobiography.
- Yarbrough, Camille. **The Shimmershine Queens**, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1990, young adult fiction.
- Yette, Samuel F. **The Choice: The Issue of Black Survival in America**, Cottage Books, 1988, nonfiction.
- Young, Kevin (Ed.). **Giant Steps: The New Generation of African American Writers**, HarperCollins Publishers, 2000, collection.

Briefs

Help teaching reading: The Maryland Department of Education has on its Web site at www.msde.state.md.us/family_literacy/fam_reading_info.htm a series of activities parents can use with their K-3 children who are learning to read. While many parents don't have computers, the state put the materials online last September because "the Internet is the wave of the future," state Supt. Nancy Grasmick told the Baltimore Sun.

www.sunspot.net

Election year: It's not just in Arizona that it's an election year, but Arizona Supt. Jaime Molera may have summed up the situation: "It's an election year, so the rhetoric will be very friendly (toward education)," Molera told the Arizona Republic. "We'll see if their actions match the rhetoric."

www.arizonarepublic.com

Five-year high schools: Chicago Mayor Richard Daley is looking at allowing students a fifth year to complete high schools, the Tribune reported. Officials are also looking at running split shifts to allow students who work by necessity to attend school during only half the day.

www.chicagotribune.com

No 4-day week: Minnesota's fifth-largest school system in Osseo, which has 22,000 students, won't pursue plans to move to a 4-day week to save \$759,000, the Star-Tribune reported. In addition to parent opposition, school board members learned that the district had failed to use proper procedures to seek state approval for the change.

www.startribune.com

Whoa, teachers!: In 1998, Florida offered annual \$4,000 bonuses to schoolteachers achieving rigorous National Board

Certification. Teachers responded, and by 2001, 2,400 had qualified, the St. Petersburg Times reported. Last year, 992 teachers qualified. Now, to trim the state's costs, Gov. Jeb Bush has suggested capping the bonus program at 500 new teachers annually.

www.sptimes.com

Full laps: The state of Maine has signed a contract to buy Apple laptop computers for all 7th- and 8th-grade students and teachers, according to wired.com. (In fall 2000, the state had 33,800 7th- and 8th-graders, only about twice as many as in CMS.)

www.wired.com

Budget bind: The Christian Science Monitor, assessing \$11 billion in cutbacks in the nation's school budgets for the current year, said the hardest-hit states are California, New York, Florida,

Illinois, Minnesota and Oregon. The Monitor said techniques being used to save money include teacher layoffs, delaying textbook and other purchases, increasing class enrollments, postponing repairs and reducing teacher training.

www.csmonitor.com

Fewer questions: To save some of the money they spend scoring Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests, officials are reducing the number of multiple-choice test questions, and severely cutting the number of essay questions, the Detroit Free Press reported. This year's 4th- and 7th-grade reading tests have been cut from 68 to 40 questions. The 8th-grade social studies test, which has had seven "open-ended" questions, will have only one this year.

www.freepress.com

Calendar

- 14** Final meeting of Student Advisory Oversight Committee, 7:30 a.m., Board Room. The citizen oversight and auditing aspects of this committee will be handed off to a newly constituted Equity Committee.
- 15** Bond Oversight Committee, 7:30 a.m., Building Services. Personnel and Policy Committee, 3 p.m., Board Conference Room. School Board, 6 p.m., Board Room.
- 18** Schools in session for snow make-up day.
- 22** School Board, 6 p.m., Board Room.
- 31** School Board Retreat begins, 4 p.m.-9 p.m., Leadership Academy, continuing Feb. 1 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

February

- 14** Charlotte-Mecklenburg Education Foundation annual meeting, 7:30 a.m., Adams Mark. Speaking: Kati Haycock, director of the Education Trust. Details and reservations: CMEF at 704-335-0100 or ldufour@cmeff.org.
- 19** Schools in session for snow make-up day.