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# Short Black History Month Poems

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The Blacker the Berry

Poems in the Attic

Hughes: Poems

Lenore

Please Come Off-Book

Poems of Gratitude

Hey Black Child

And Still I Rise

M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A

Life Doesn't Frighten Me (25th Anniversary Edition)

The Iliad

Teach Living Poets

Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie

The Gospel of Barbecue

28 Days of Black History

28 Days of Black History for Little Ones

The Negro

The Gospel of Barbecue  
The Bells  
Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea  
The Book of American Negro Poetry  
Dear Ancestors  
Honey, I Love  
Mother  
I Am a Black Woman  
Primer for Blacks  
Have You Thanked an Inventor Today?  
Piecing Me Together  
The Tradition  
I, Too, Am America  
Bars Fight  
Cane  
The Black Poets  
The Poems of Phillis Wheatley  
Blaque  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
Magical Negro

Ako Na Uche  
RHYMING POETRY-LOGY

*Short Black History  
Month Poems*

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## **CRAWFORD THORNTON**

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The Blacker the Berry Everyman's  
Library

Brooks talks to her Black sisters and  
writes a short statement about the need  
for Black self-awareness.

*Poems in the Attic* Lee & Low Books  
These short poems tell the stories of  
little known Black American Heroes in a  
simple way. Read one poem per day  
through the month of February to  
celebrate Black History! This book is  
especially for little ones ages 1 - 6.  
*Hughes: Poems* Philadelphia : Porter &

Coates

Winner of the Coretta Scott King  
illustrator award, *I, Too, Am America*  
blends the poetic wisdom of Langston  
Hughes with visionary illustrations from  
Bryan Collier in this inspirational picture  
book that carries the promise of  
equality. *I, too, sing America. I am the  
darker brother. They send me to eat in  
the kitchen When company comes, But I  
laugh, And eat well, And grow strong.*  
Langston Hughes was a courageous  
voice of his time, and his authentic call  
for equality still rings true today.  
Beautiful paintings from Barack Obama  
illustrator Bryan Collier accompany and  
reinvent the celebrated lines of the

poem "I, Too," creating a breathtaking reminder to all Americans that we are united despite our differences. This picture book of Langston Hughes's celebrated poem, "I, Too, Am America," is also a Common Core Text Exemplar for Poetry.

Lenore Kent State University Press Maya Angelou's unforgettable collection of poetry lends its name to the documentary film about her life, *And Still I Rise*, as seen on PBS's *American Masters*. Pretty women wonder where my secret lies. I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size But when I start to tell them, They think I'm telling lies. I say, It's in the reach of my arms, The span of my hips, The stride of my step, The curl of my lips. I'm a woman Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman,

That's me. Thus begins "Phenomenal Woman," just one of the beloved poems collected here in Maya Angelou's third book of verse. These poems are powerful, distinctive, and fresh—and, as always, full of the lifting rhythms of love and remembering. *And Still I Rise* is written from the heart, a celebration of life as only Maya Angelou has discovered it. "It is true poetry she is writing," M.F.K. Fisher has observed, "not just rhythm, the beat, rhymes. I find it very moving and at times beautiful. It has an innate purity about it, unquenchable dignity. . . . It is astounding, flabbergasting, to recognize it, in all the words I read every day and night . . . it gives me heart, to hear so clearly the caged bird singing and to understand her notes."

**Please Come Off-Book** Harry N.

Abrams

Poet, writer, performer, teacher, and director Maya Angelou was raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and then moved to San Francisco. In addition to her bestselling autobiographies, beginning with *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, she has also written a cookbook, *Hallelujah! The Welcome Table* five poetry collections, including *I Shall Not Be Moved* and *Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?*; and the celebrated poems "On the Pulse of Morning," which she read at the inauguration of President William Jefferson Clinton, and "Amazing Peace," which she read at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., in December 2005.

*Poems of Gratitude* W. W. Norton & Company

This book is an authentic collection of creative rhyming poems. While this specific genre offers the reader an extensive array of interesting and provocative titles, it also connects the poetry to real-life. In this collection, the seventy-seven poems are organized into seven diverse and distinct categories. They include, African American history, pets, holidays, education, retirement, family reunion as well as thirty extraordinary poems about real-life experience as characterized in the miscellaneous category. Listed below is graphic compendium of the seven major categories: *Life is no Bed of Roses*, *When it rains, it pours*, and *Living from Paycheck to Paycheck*, are not only poems in the miscellaneous category, but describe some of life's challenges

that give true meaning to another old saying, When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. The poem, 365 Days a Year, is a reminder that one day in the calendar year is someone's birthday as noted in B-Day, Your Day. "Live everyday as if it's your last, plan for the future and learn from the past," is a quote and good advice from the Age is nothing but a Number, poem. African American history is another fascinating category. It features eleven very unique and informative poems and short stories. While the month of February is designated as Black History month, the poem, From Africa they came, gives a very descriptive and meaningful picture of how the history actually began. Two other poems, Martin Luther King: the Dreamer, and Obama, the First Black

President, both from two different eras, made important contributions to African American history. However, there were many others who paved the way and made significant sacrifices for a better life in, We Stand on the Shoulders. Jumping the Broom, and Living on the wrong side of the Railroad Tracks, are two interesting short rhyming stories that occurred during and after slavery. Education is paramount to a productive life and features fifteen poems. The important characters in this section are the students and teachers. Poems titled, Advice for Millennials, and What Good Teachers Do, tell about the importance of a good education. The poem, Grandparents Memory Page, describes the important role they played in the family reunion category. A holiday quote

from My Valentine, poem describes how, “Both candy hearts and human hearts are symbols of love.” One pumps money in the economy and the other pumps blood in the heart. Candy money can create a healthy economy and a romantic heart can create a healthy relationship. Dogs are the boys’ best friends. Three poems in this category describe the love he had for his German shepherd, Doberman, and Maltese poodle. Retirement is just a special time in a person’s life and definitely initiated a new chapter for those portrayed in the six retirement poems. There are just a few examples of the seventy-seven fantastic rhyming poems. I sincerely hope that everyone who reads this book will find one or more poems that might ring a bell for them, bring back fond

memories, have an “aha” moment, put smiles on faces and just plain enjoy reading the carefully crafted words in this amazing rhyming poetry-ology book. **Hey Black Child** Copper Canyon Press Books for All Kinds of Readers. ReadHowYouWant offers the widest selection of on-demand, accessible format editions on the market today. Our 7 different sizes of EasyRead are optimized by increasing the font size and spacing between the words and the letters. We partner with leading publishers around the globe. Our goal is to have accessible editions simultaneously released with publishers' new books so that all readers can have access to the books they want to read. *And Still I Rise* Random House For nearly thirty-five years Julian Mason's

The Poems of Phillis Wheatley (1966) has been the standard edition of the poems and letters of this young black poet of eighteenth-century Boston. This new edition has been extensively revised in light of Wheatley scholarship since its publication. It has been expanded to include all of the fifty-six poems and twenty-two letters now known to be by Wheatley, the significant variants of the poems, and the four Proposals for publication of her works, all of them annotated. This edition contains the recently discovered poem "Ocean," new information about Wheatley's library (including a southern connection), a more accurate reading of a letter central to understanding the response to her 1772 Proposals, new variants of two poems, and a new reading of her George

Washington poem. By going back to the original manuscripts (and to first printings when the manuscripts are not extant), Mason has provided the fullest and most accurate edition of Wheatley's poems and letters yet produced. The new index and bibliography assure the volume's usefulness for the scholar, the student, and the general reader.

*M-A-C-N-O-L-I-A* Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers

2018 Newbery Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner

'Important and deeply moving' JOHN

GREEN 'Timely and timeless'

JACQUELINE WOODSON Jade is a girl

striving for success in a world that

seems like it's trying to break her. She

knows she needs to take every

opportunity that comes her way. And she



has: every day Jade rides the bus away from her friends to a private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some opportunities Jade could do without, like the mentor programme for 'at-risk' girls. Just because her mentor is black doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. Why is Jade always seen as someone to fix? But with a college scholarship promised at the end of it, how can Jade say no? Jade feels like her life is made up of hundreds of conflicting pieces. Will it ever fit together? Will she ever find her place in the world? More than anything, Jade just wants the opportunity to be real, to make a difference. NPR's Best Books of 2017 A 2017 New York Public Library Best Teen Book of the Year Chicago

Public Library's Best Books of 2017 A School Library Journal Best Book of 2017 Kirkus Reviews' Best Teen Books of 2017 2018 Josette Frank Award Winner *Life Doesn't Frighten Me (25th Anniversary Edition)* Harper Collins The novel is structured as a series of vignettes revolving around the origins and experiences of African Americans in the United States. The Iliad Hey Black Child MacNolia Cox won the Akron District Spelling Bee, and at the age of 13 she became the first African American to reach the final round of the national competition. The Southern judges, it is thought, kept her from winning by presenting a word not on the official list. The word that tripped MacNolia, ironically, was "nemesiis." When she died

40 years later, the girl who "was almost/ The national spelling champ" had become a cleaning woman, a grandmother, and "the best damn maid in town." Cox's ambition and her later frustration find incisive shape in this remarkably varied meditation on ambition, racism, discouragement and ennui, where successive pages can bring to mind a handbook of poetic forms (a double sestina, Japanese-inspired syllabics, a blues ghazal and prose poems based on definitions of prepositions), Ann Carson's "TV Men" poems, Rita Dove's Thomas and Beulah and the documentary film Spellbound. Jordan (Rise) begins in Cox's later life, giving voice to her husband, John Montiere, at "The Moment Before He Asks MacNolia Out on a Date," then to

MacNolia herself when in 1970 her son dies just after his return from Vietnam. As counterpoints, Jordan intersperses poems about African-Americans who won more lasting public acclaim, among them Richard Pryor, Josephine Baker and the great labor organizer and orator A. Philip Randolph. Jordan's most quotable poems, however, return to the voice of the 13-year-old speller, who "learned the word chiaroscuro/ By rolling it on my tongue// Like cotton candy the color/ Of day and night." (June) Copyright 2004 Reed Business Information. Library Journal.

**Teach Living Poets** UNC Press Books Award-winning poet Nikki Grimes brings us a tender collection of poems about a young girl and her mother, who grew up as a child of an Air Force serviceman.

Told in alternating free verse and tanka (similar to haiku) poems.

*Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diiie* IndyPublish.com

Please Come Off-Book queers the theatrical canon we all grew up with. Kantor critiques the treatment of queer figures and imagines a braver and bolder future that allows queer voices the agency over their own stories. Drawing upon elements of the Aristotelian dramatic structure and the Hero's Journey, *Please Come Off-Book* is both a love letter to and a scathing critique of American culture and the lenses we choose to see ourselves through.

*The Gospel of Barbecue* Random House  
 Shadows on the wall  
 Noises down the hall  
 Life doesn't frighten me at all  
 Maya Angelou's brave, defiant poem

celebrates the courage within each of us, young and old. From the scary thought of panthers in the park to the unsettling scene of a new classroom, fearsome images are summoned and dispelled by the power of faith in ourselves. Angelou's strong words are matched by the daring vision of artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose childlike style reveals the powerful emotions and fanciful imaginings of childhood. Together, Angelou's words and Basquiat's paintings create a place where every child, indeed every person, may experience his or her own fearlessness. Celebrating its successful 25 years in print, this brilliant introduction to poetry and contemporary art features brief, updated biographies of Angelou and Basquiat, an afterword from

the editor, and a fresh new look. A selected bibliography of Angelou's books and a selected museum listing of Basquiat's works open the door to further inspiration through the fine arts.

**28 Days of Black History** Everyman's Library

Ako na uche is the conscience of an Igbo woman. This book shakes you to your core by invoking the female ancestors of Nigerian American writer, Nnennaya Amuchie. Divided into six parts, this book of prose poetry candidly complicates the full humanity of Black women, taking you on a journey through anger, love, joy, and desire.

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WINNER OF THE 2020 PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY Finalist for the 2019

National Book Award "100 Notable Books of the Year," The New York Times Book Review "By some literary magic—no, it's precision, and honesty—Brown manages to bestow upon even the most public of subjects the most intimate and personal stakes."—Craig Morgan Teicher, "I Reject Walls!: A 2019 Poetry Preview" for NPR "A relentless dismantling of identity, a difficult jewel of a poem."—Rita Dove, in her introduction to Jericho Brown's "Dark" (featured in the New York Times Magazine in January 2019) "Winner of a Whiting Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship, Brown's hard-won lyricism finds fire (and idyll) in the intersection of politics and love for queer Black men."—O, The Oprah Magazine Named a Lit Hub "Most Anticipated Book of 2019" One of BuzzFeed's "66 Books Coming in

2019 You'll Want to Keep Your Eyes On" The Rumpus poetry pick for "What to Read When 2019 is Just Around the Corner" One of BookRiot's "50 Must-Read Poetry Collections of 2019" Jericho Brown's daring new book *The Tradition* details the normalization of evil and its history at the intersection of the past and the personal. Brown's poetic concerns are both broad and intimate, and at their very core a distillation of the incredibly human: What is safety? Who is this nation? Where does freedom truly lie? Brown makes mythical pastorals to question the terrors to which we've become accustomed, and to celebrate how we survive. Poems of fatherhood, legacy, blackness, queerness, worship, and trauma are propelled into stunning clarity by Brown's mastery, and his

invention of the duplex—a combination of the sonnet, the ghazal, and the blues—is testament to his formal skill. *The Tradition* is a cutting and necessary collection, relentless in its quest for survival while reveling in a celebration of contradiction.

**28 Days of Black History for Little Ones** DearstyneBooks

This spirited collection of poems introduces young readers to Danitra Brown, the most splendiferous girl in town, and her best friend, Zuri Jackson. "The poignant text and lovely pictures are an excellent collaboration, resulting in a look at touching moments of universal appeal."--School Library Journal.

**The Negro** DearstyneBooks  
Hey Black ChildLittle, Brown Books for

Young Readers

The Gospel of Barbecue Tin House Books  
Honey, I Love by the Coretta Scott King  
Award-winning team Eloise Greenfield  
and Jan Spivey Gilchrist is now in  
paperback! To one young narrator, it's  
the simple things that mean the most,  
like sharing laughter with a friend, taking  
family rides in the country, and kissing  
her mama's arm. This paperback edition  
of the classic poem by Eloise Greenfield  
with illustrations by Jan Spivey Gilchrist

is sure to delight a new generation of  
readers.

The Bells ReadHowYouWant.com  
A resonant, powerful collection from one  
of America's preeminent poets. In  
Quilting the Black-Eyed Pea, Nikki  
Giovanni turns her pen to nature and the  
environment, the might and grace of  
women, her battle with cancer, the  
relationships between mothers and  
daughters, the state of the nation, and  
more.

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