

Nineteenth-Century African American Literature Recommendations

for participants in the 2022 Dickens Universe, especially new readers of Harper's *Iola Leroy*
Compiled by Dr. Brigitte Fielder

Selected Writing by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper

Poetry

Forest Leaves (Baltimore: James Young Printer, 184?)

[Available to read online via Just Teach One—Early African American Print](#) (with an introduction and notes by Alex W. Black, Brigitte Fielder, and Johanna Ortner)
[Images, information on this volume's recent recovery \(via Common-Place\)](#)

Poems on Miscellaneous Subjects (Boston: J. B. Yerrinton & Son, Printers, 1854)

[Available to read online from Archive.org](#)

“The Massachusetts Fifty-Fourth.” *The Anglo-African* (October 10, 1863)

[Available to read online via Scholarly Editing](#)

Moses: A Story of the Nile. 2d ed. (Philadelphia: Merrihew, 1869)

[Available to read online via HathiTrust](#)

Sketches of Southern Life [1st edition, 1872] (Philadelphia: Ferguson Bros. & Co., 1891)

[Available to read online via HathiTrust](#)

[Text Only version](#)

Fiction

“The Two Offers”

Short story originally serialized in the *Anglo-African Magazine* 1 (1859)

Available to read via HathiTrust in two installments:

[First installment](#)

[Second installment](#)

[Text only, from *A Brighter Coming Day*, edited by Frances Smith Foster](#)

Minnie's Sacrifice

Novel originally serialized in *The Christian Recorder* (March 20, 1869 - September 25, 1869)

[Available to read online via Project Gutenberg](#)

Sowing and Reaping: A Temperance Story

Novel originally serialized in *The Christian Recorder* (August 10, 1876 - February 8, 1877)

[Available to read online via Project Gutenberg](#)

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Speeches

“We Are All Bound Up Together”

Lecture at *the Eleventh National Women's Rights Convention*, New York, May 1866
Proceedings of the Eleventh Women's Rights Convention (New York: Robert J. Johnston, 1866)

[Available to read online via BlackPast.org](#)

[NY Historical Society Video Reenactment featuring Ariana DeBose as Frances Harper](#)

“National Salvation”

Lecture for the Social, Civil, and Statistical Association of the Colored People, National Hall, Philadelphia, January 31, 1867; *Philadelphia Evening Telegraph* (February 1, 1867)

[Available to read online via Chronicling America, the Library of Congress](#)

[Text and contextualizing information by Eric Gardner available from *Common-place*](#)

“Enlightened Motherhood”

Address before the Brooklyn Literary Society, November 15th, 1892

[Available to read online via the Library of Congress](#)

[Text, via Iowa State University's Archives of Women's Political Communication](#)

“Women's Political Future”

Speech before the World's Congress of Representative Women, Chicago, May 20, 1893
The World's Congress of Representative Women, ed. May Wright Sewall (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1894)

[Available to read online via HathiTrust](#)

[Text, via BlackPast.org](#)

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A Selection of African American & Anonymously Authored Fiction featuring Mixed-Race Protagonists from the “Long” 19th Century

Anonymous, *The Woman of Colour* (London, 1808)

[Broadview Press edition available, edited by Lyndon Dominique](#)

Anonymous, “Theresa – A Haytien Tale,” (*Freedom’s Journal*, 1827)

Because this was published in the first known African American newspaper, *Freedom’s Journal*, it is believed to have been written by a Black author.

[Available to read online from Just Teach One—Early African American Print Eric Gardner and Nicole Aljoe’s Introduction to “Theresa”](#)

William Wells Brown, *Clotel; or, the President’s Daughter* (London, 1853)

[Available to read online from Documenting the American South](#)

Brown revised the mixed-race heroine genre three more times in *Miralda; or, the Beautiful Quadroon. A Romance of American Slavery Founded on Fact* (*Weekly Anglo-African*, 1860-1861), *Clotelle: A Tale of the Southern States* (1864), and *Clotelle; or the Colored Heroine* (1867), though not all of these are as readily available as *Clotel*.)

Harriet Wilson, *Our Nig* (1859)

[Penguin edition available edited by P. Gabrielle Foreman and Reginald Pitts](#)

Julia C. Collins, *The Curse of Caste* (the *Christian Recorder*, 1865)

(*Because scholars have not located all issues of the *Christian Recorder*, we do not have all chapters of this novel.)

[2006 edition available from Western Michigan University Press, edited by William L. Andrews and Mitch Kachun](#)

William Wells Brown, *Clotelle; or the Colored Heroine* (1867)

[Available to read online via Project Gutenberg](#)

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Minnie’s Sacrifice* (the *Christian Recorder*, 1869)

(*Because scholars have not located all issues of the *Christian Recorder*, we do not have all chapters of this novel.)

[Available to read online via Project Gutenberg](#)

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, *Iola Leroy* (1892)

[Broadview Press edition available, edited by Koritha Mitchell](#)

Charles Chesnutt, “The Wife of His Youth” (*Atlantic Monthly* 1898)

[Available to read online via The Atlantic](#)

Charles Chesnutt, “Her Virginia Mammy” (1898)

[Available to read online via the Charles Chesnutt Archive](#)

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Charles Chesnutt, *The House Behind the Cedars* (1900)

[Available to read online via the Charles Chesnutt Archive](#)

Pauline Hopkins, "Talma Gordon" (*Colored American*, 1900)

[Available to read online via ColoredAmerican.org](#)

Pauline Hopkins, *Of One Blood; or, the Hidden Self* (*Colored American*, 1902-1903)

[Washington Square Press edition available, edited by Deborah McDowell](#)

Selected Narratives of Women's Escape from Slavery

Narrative of Sojourner Truth, 1850

[Penguin edition available, with an introduction by Nell Irvin Painter](#)

Ellen and William Craft, *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom*, 1860

[University of Georgia Press available, with an introduction by Barbara McCaskill](#)

Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, 1861

[Norton Edition available, edited by Frances Smith Foster and Richard Yarborough](#)

Additional Recommended 19th-Century African American Novels

Frank Webb, *The Garies and their Friends* (1857)

[Broadview Press edition available, edited by Megan Walsh and William Hunting Howell](#)

Hannah Crafts, *The Bondswoman's Narrative* (ca. 1853-1861)

[Warner Books edition available, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.](#)

Martin Delaney, *Blake, or the Huts of America* (1859)

[Harvard University Press edition available, with an introduction by Jerome McGann](#)

Sutton Griggs, *Imperium in Imperio* (1899)

[Modern Library edition, with preface/introduction by A. J. Verdelle and Cornell West](#)

Charles Chesnutt, *The Marrow of Tradition* (1901)

[Available to read online via the Charles Chesnutt Archive](#)

Pauline Hopkins, *Contending Forces* (1900)

[Schomburg edition available, with an introduction by Richard Yarborough](#)

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Nineteenth-Century African American Short Fiction that has Only Recently Been Made Available to Twenty-First Century Readers

Barbara E. Pope (1854-1908)

[Profile of Barbara E. Pope by Jennifer Harris](#)

Three Recently Recovered Short Stories by Pope:

[“Truth versus Hypocrisy”](#) (*New York Freeman*, 1886)

[“The Old and the New Order. A Story of Southern Life, Giving a Glimpse at the Trials of the Educated Colored Man and the Conservatism of Prejudice—in Three Chapters”](#) (*New York Freeman*, 1886)

[“The New Woman”](#) (*Waverly Magazine*, 1896)

[Introduction to “The Old and The New Order” and “Truth versus Hypocrisy” by Eric Gardner](#)

[David A. Taylor's 2021 *Washington Post* article about Barbara Pope](#)

Alice Dunbar-Nelson (1875-1935)

[Euell A. Nielson's brief introduction to Alice Dunbar-Nelson from *BlackPast*](#)

Three Recently Recovered Short Stories by Dunbar-Nelson:

[“His Heart's Desire”](#) (1900)

[“St. John's Eve”](#) (1900)

[Caroline Gebhard, Katherine Adams, Sandra A. Zagarell's Introduction to the above recovered Stories by Alice Dunbar-Nelson](#)