

# African-American Writing



**W.E.B Du Bois**  
1868-1963



**Jean Toomer**  
1894-1967




**Langston Hughes**  
1902-1967



**James Baldwin**  
1924-1987



"We die.  
That may be  
the meaning of life.  
But we do language.  
That may be the measure  
of our lives."  
 Toni Morrison  
1931-



**Martin Luther King**  
1929-1968 p.583



**Alice Walker**  
1944-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smEqnnklfYs>

# African-American Writing

W.E.B Du Bois  
1868-1963



*The Souls of Black Folk (561...)*

Life and Times (559-561)

Challenge to Booker T. Washington (568)

How Black culture can contribute something unique to America (577)

Short Bio

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGOEED\\_MexI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TGOEED_MexI)

DuBois Speaks

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=44&v=ceONKcsAxxk0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=44&v=ceONKcsAxxk0)

# African-American Writing



**Jean Toomer**  
**1894-1967**

**Life and Times (967-968)**

**Imagistic, modernist writing- blend of genres.  
sensuality of word choice and syntactic texture**

**Use of vernacular**

**Intention of showing white & black brutality?**

**Culture of the Deep South versus the Urban North (968/969)**



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Langston Hughes

1902-1967

“The Bard of Harlem”



*From The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain (816... )*

Life and Times (1036-1037)

“The Negro Speaks of Rivers”- celebrating the ancientness of African culture.

“I, Too” Response to Whitman.

“The Weary Blues”-African Urban Culture

“Mulatto”

“Song for a Dark Girl”

“Visitors to the Black Belt”- what is Harlem like? - and others....

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=44&v=uM7HSOwJw20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=44&v=uM7HSOwJw20)



“The Weary Blues”



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**Life & Times (1330-1331)**

**Powerful, immediate realism of his style-**

**Depictions of white people...**

**Fragmentary narrative (stream of consciousness)...**

**Immersion in the experience.**

**Horrific depiction of human cruelty**

**Attitude to race hatred: "Going to Meet the Man" (1331)**



**james Baldwin**  
**1924-1987**

## **James Baldwin and America's Racial Problem**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=97&v=hnljXmfTSYg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=97&v=hnljXmfTSYg)

## **Who is the Nigger?**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=65&v=L0L5fciA6AU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=65&v=L0L5fciA6AU)

## **The Artist's struggle for Integrity**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-lyamaAbxM>

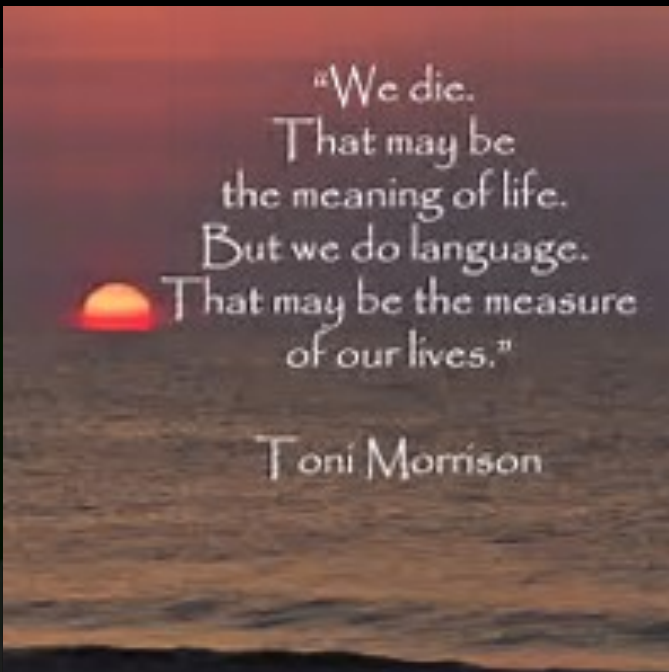


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Toni Morrison Refuses To Privilege White People In Her Novels!

**Impressions of Huck Finn: (300-302)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4vIGvKpT1c>



**Life and Times (1427-1428)**

**Rebuilding history**

**Themes of individual & family, past and present and race and its effacement:  
“Recitatif”, 1983**

**Toni Morrison  
1932-1963**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=10&v=\\_8Zgu2hrs2k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=_8Zgu2hrs2k)

**Toni Morrison Talks About Her Motivation For Writing**

# African-American Writing

Alice Walker: Beauty in Truth | American Masters, Trailer | PBS

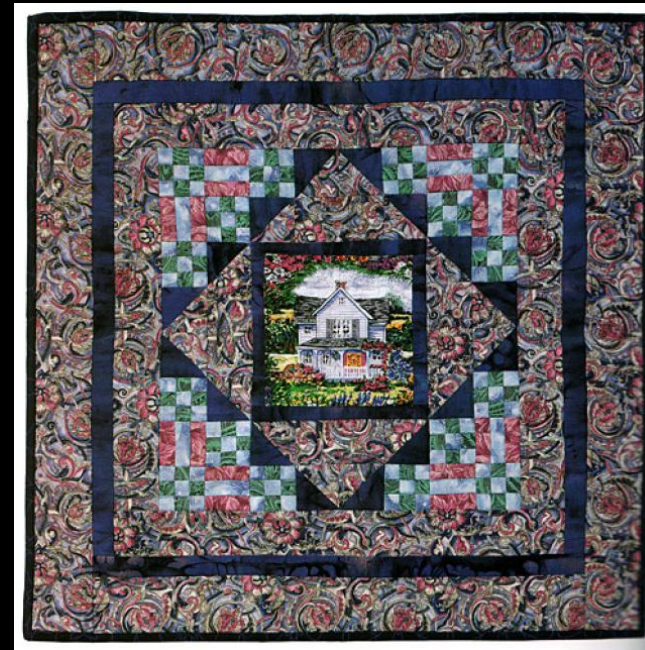
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=51&v=Hj17Wn2AYlg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=51&v=Hj17Wn2AYlg)

Life and Times (1567-1568)

Racial identity and Tradition

Author's and narrator's point of view in "Everyday Use" (1568-1574)

Ted x Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4FW2XvLdp8>



walk around the mountain



lone star

Profile: Alice Walker

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=7&v=JJR86ncuMgE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=JJR86ncuMgE)



Alice Walker  
1944-



# Tupac Shakur 1971-1996

**Lesane Parish Crooks A.K.A. Tupak Shakur 2Pac/ Pac (shining serpent) [1971-1996] packed a lot of living into his short life. A poet, rapper, Lyricist, screenwriter and much much more. He was born in New York City, New York June 16, 1971. As a member of the group, "digital underground", Tupac's career began. Just as the group became award winners, Shakur released his first album, "2pacalypes Now", which was a great success.**

**While maintaining a "thug" composure, Tupac also radiated a cultural consciousness that made him easily adaptable to young and old alike. His talents also landed him in motion pictures where he was an outstanding screen-performer.**

**The Rose That Grew From Concrete**

**Did you hear about the rose that grew  
from a crack in the concrete?**

**Proving nature's law is wrong it  
learned to walk with out having feet.**

**Funny it seems, but by keeping its dreams,  
it learned to breathe fresh air.**

**Long live the rose that grew from concrete  
when no one else ever cared.**





# 2Pac.....

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScMINpnLI3U&list=PLftaNhPUDUSn84o0U\\_jpbaWhzrAniGMCI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScMINpnLI3U&list=PLftaNhPUDUSn84o0U_jpbaWhzrAniGMCI)



## Resurrection: Movie Clip: *This Is My Story*

### I Cry

Sometimes when I'm alone  
I Cry,  
Cause I am on my own.  
The tears I cry are bitter and warm.  
They flow with life but take no form  
I Cry because my heart is torn.  
I find it difficult to carry on.

If I had an ear to confiding,  
I would cry among my treasured friend,  
but who do you know that stops that long,  
to help another carry on.

The world moves fast and it would rather pass by.  
Then to stop and see what makes one cry,  
so painful and sad.  
And sometimes...  
I Cry

and no one cares about why .

### In The Event Of My Demise

In the event of my Demise  
when my heart can beat no more  
I Hope I Die For A Principle  
or A Belief that I had Lived 4  
I will die Before My Time  
Because I feel the shadow's Depth  
so much I wanted 2 accomplish  
before I reached my Death

### Jada

u r the omega of my heart  
the foundation of my conception of love  
when i think of what a black woman should be  
its u that i first think of

u will never fully understand  
how deeply my heart feels 4 u  
i worry that we'll grow apart  
and i'll end up losing u



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