

### Chapter 1 : African American Poetry Analysis - [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)

*African American Poets Here you will find African American poets such as Rita Dove, Claude McKay, Imamu Amiri Baraka, Maya Angelou, Nikki Giovanni, Langston Hughes and other Famous and Contemporary Black Poets.*

Penlighten Staff Last Updated: Jul 31, The African-American culture is interesting and has its own certain distinctive characteristics as well. There is a rich literature that is created in the United States, but is written by writers who primarily belong to the African origins. In the ancient times, the poets focused on certain subjects that were reflected in their poems. The poems generally spoke about issues such as slavery before the American Civil War. Today, they focus more on culture, music, and other such themes. Over time, there have been certain writers and poets who have carved a niche for themselves in the world of literature. Phillis Wheatley Phillis had a tough beginning to her life, when she had to resort to being a slave at the tender age of 7. The family who she was sold to, as a slave, helped her with her education. She was so passionate about reading the Bible, after she was taught to read. The works of these great masters had inspired her to write poems. Many of her poems centered on famous personalities. Unlike the other African poets, most of her poems lacked concern over slavery. Her writing career took off in the year , when she was invited by John F. Kennedy, to read at a poetry festival the same year. Most of her works were based on the struggles of the people of her community. In , she was made the Poet Laureate of Illinois. She was also the recipient of many more prestigious awards. Sonia Sanchez Sonia Sanchez had a strong background in creative writing. She is also one amongst the most famous African-American poets to be found associated with the Black Arts Movement. She was also the recipient of the P. Writing Award in the year This was followed by many other prestigious awards. Maya Angelou This talented poet is renowned for her autobiographies and poems. She was an active writer, and was even involved in conducting lectures at prominent universities. His interest in poetry began from his school days. His very first poem to be published was seen in the Detroit Free Press. This was only at the age of Naomi Long Madgett Madgett had her first brush with creative writing at an early age. Her poems, which centered on the struggles that were faced by the blacks and about racism, soon attracted attention from all over. These poets have contributed a lot to the English literature. Their great works have always had a great influence on the society, and they still do.

**Chapter 2 : African American Poets and Poetry - Famous Black Poets**

*Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, short story writer, and newspaper columnist. He is noted as having been a creator of jazz poetry and as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance, an African American cultural movement that occurred during the 1920s and 1930s.*

Edit Lucy Terry is the author of the oldest known piece of African-American literature: The poet Phillis Wheatley (1768) published her book *Poems on Various Subjects* in 1773, three years before American independence. Born in Senegal, Wheatley was captured and sold into slavery at the age of seven. Brought to America, she was owned by a Boston merchant. By the time she was sixteen, she had mastered her new language of English. Her poetry was praised by many of the leading figures of the American Revolution, including George Washington, who thanked her for a poem written in his honor. Some whites found it hard to believe that a Black woman could write such refined poetry. Wheatley had to defend herself in court to prove that she had written her work. Hammon, considered the first published Black writer in America, published his poem "An Evening Thought: Salvation by Christ with Penitential Cries" as a broadside in 1761. In 1762 he wrote an ode to Phillis Wheatley, in which he discussed their shared humanity and common bonds. Writing at the age of 76 after a lifetime of slavery, Hammon said, "If we should ever get to Heaven, we shall find nobody to reproach us for being black, or for being slaves. His speech was later reprinted by several abolitionist groups. Post-slavery era Edit Paul Laurence Dunbar (1896-1906), who often wrote in the rural, black dialect of the day, was the first African American poet to gain national prominence. Citation needed His first book of poetry, *Oak and Ivy*, was published in 1903. Though Dunbar died young, he was a prolific poet, essayist, novelist among them *The Uncalled*, and *The Fanatics*, and short story writer. Harlem Renaissance Main article: While the Harlem Renaissance, based in the African American community in Harlem in New York City, existed as a larger flowering of social thought and culture—with numerous Black artists, musicians, and others producing classic works in fields from jazz to theater—the renaissance is perhaps best known for the literature that came out of it. His single, most recognized character is Jesse B. Simple *Speaks His Mind* is, perhaps, the best-known collection of Simple stories published in book form. A number of other writers also became well known during this period. They include Jean Toomer (1918-1967), who wrote *Cane*, a famous collection of stories, poems, and sketches about rural and urban Black life. Another popular renaissance writer is Countee Cullen (1896-1962), who described everyday black life in his poems such as a trip he made to Baltimore, which was ruined by a racial insult. The Harlem Renaissance marked a turning point for African American literature. Prior to this time, books by African Americans were primarily read by other Black people. With the renaissance, though, African American literature—as well as black fine art and performance art—began to be absorbed into mainstream American culture. Civil rights era Edit The Civil Rights time period saw the rise of female Black poets, most notably Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-1962), who became the first African American to win the Pulitzer Prize when it was awarded for her book of poetry, *Annie Allen*. During this time, a number of playwrights also came to national attention, notably Lorraine Hansberry (1930-1964), whose play *A Raisin in the Sun* focuses on a poor Black family living in Chicago. Another playwright who gained attention was Amiri Baraka (1931-2014), who wrote controversial off-Broadway plays. In more recent years, Baraka has become known for his poetry and music criticism. In the 1950s novelist and poet Alice Walker wrote a famous essay that brought Zora Neale Hurston and her classic novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* back to the attention of the literary world. An epistolary novel a book written in the form of letters, *The Color Purple* tells the story of Celie, a young woman who is sexually abused by her stepfather and then is forced to marry a man who physically abuses her. The novel was later made into a film by Steven Spielberg. Recent history Edit In recent years include African American poets have also garnered attention. Cassells is a recipient of the William Carlos Williams Award. Lesser-known poets like Thylas Moss also have been praised for their innovative work. Most recently, Edward P.

**Chapter 3 : Famous African-American Poets With a Tremendous Influence**

*To celebrate Black History Month in February and the rich tradition of African American poetry all year long browse essays on literary milestones and movements, find important books on black history and poetics, look for lesson plans for Black History Month, read archival letters from classic African American poets, and search poems about the African American experience by both classic and.*

Seven for Luck, a song cycle for soprano and orchestra with music by John Williams, was premiered by the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Tanglewood in Her latest poetry collection, Sonata Mulattica: She grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her family was not well-off, but they valued education. Fauset attended the esteemed Philadelphia High School for Girls, where she was likely the sole African American in her class. She wanted to go on to Bryn Mawr College. However, the institution was reluctant to accept its first black student, choosing instead to help Fauset get a scholarship to attend Cornell University. Fauset did well at Cornell and was selected to join Phi Beta Kappa some sources have incorrectly identified her as the first African-American woman to become a member of the academic honor society. Instead, she taught in Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, D. In , while still teaching, Fauset began to submit reviews, essays, poems and short stories to The Crisis, a magazine founded and edited by W. Fauset was active during the Harlem Renaissance, an awakening of artistic output within the African-American community. She also continued to write her own pieces for the magazine. Fauset was inspired to write a novel after reading an inaccurate portrayal of African Americans in a book penned by a white author. Her first novel, There Is Confusion , featured African-American characters in a middle-class setting. It was an unusual choice for the time, which made it more difficult for Fauset to find a publisher. Fauset left her position at The Crisis in She then returned to teaching. Fauset also wrote three more novels: Some of her contemporaries appreciated her focus on a previously unexamined slice of African-American life, but others scorned her genteel settings. Fauset had married a businessman, Herbert Harris, in The two lived together in New Jersey until Harris died in Fauset then returned to Philadelphia. She died in that city on April 30, , at the age of With her support for up-and-coming writers, Fauset was responsible for the development of many new African-American voices, while her novels, essays, poems and other work meant that she was a prolific author in her own right. Though not as well-known as many of her contemporaries, Fauset was an important part of the Harlem Renaissance. After receiving her bachelor of arts degree in , she organized the Black Arts Festival in Cincinnati before entering graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. Recently, she has published Bicycles: A lung cancer survivor, Giovanni has also contributed an introduction to the anthology Breaking the Silence: She is currently Professor of English and Gloria D. Source June Jordan June Jordan - was a poet, activist, journalist, essayist and teacher. Prolific and passionate, she was an influential voice who lived and wrote on the frontlines of American poetry, international political vision and human moral witness. The author of many award-winning books, she traveled widely to read her poems and to proclaim a vision of liberation for all people. Dynamic, rebellious, and courageous, June Jordan was, and still is, a lyrical catalyst for change. Born in Harlem in , Jordan was the child of West Indian immigrant parents, who raised her in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, where she began writing poetry at the age of seven. In her teens, she attended the Northfield School for Girls in Massachusetts, and in enrolled at Barnard College, where she would earn her B. She was married in , and divorced after having one child. Jordan was active in the civil rights, feminist, antiwar and gay and lesbian rights movements, even as she became known as a writer. In , after running poetry workshops for children in Harlem, Jordan began her teaching career at the City College of New York. In , she was appointed professor of African-American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, where she founded the influential poetry program Poetry For the People. Her journalism was published widely in magazines and newspapers around the world, and she was a regular columnist for The Progressive. An electrifying speaker, Jordan collected many of her most influential speeches and addresses in her books of essays. Jordan earned numerous honors and awards, including a Rockefeller grant for creative writing, a Yaddo residency , a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and the Achievement Award for

International Reporting from the National Association of Black Journalists Her parents were immigrants from Grenada. The youngest of three sisters, she was raised in Manhattan and attended Catholic school. While she was still in high school, her first poem appeared in *Seventeen* magazine. Lorde received her B. She served as a librarian in New York public schools from through In , Lorde married Edward Rollins. They had two children, Elizabeth and Jonathon, before divorcing in Her first volume of poems, *The First Cities*, was published in In she also became the writer-in-residence at Tougaloo College in Mississippi, where she discovered a love of teaching. In Tougaloo she also met her long-term partner, Frances Clayton. Whereas much of her earlier work focused on the transience of love, this book marked her most political work to date. Norton released her collection *Coal* and shortly thereafter published *The Black Unicorn*. Poet Adrienne Rich said of *The Black Unicorn* that "Lorde writes as a Black woman, a mother, a daughter, a Lesbian, a feminist, a visionary; poems of elemental wildness and healing, nightmare and lucidity. In an interview in the journal *Callaloo*, Lorde responded to her critics: It is about revolution and change. Helms knows that my writing is aimed at his destruction, and the destruction of every single thing he stands for. Her other prose volumes include *Zami: Women of Color Press*. She was also a founding member of Sisters in Support of Sisters in South Africa, an organization that worked to raise concerns about women under apartheid. She was the poet laureate of New York from She died of breast cancer in Source Sonia Sanchez Poet. Does Your House Have Lions? Wright Museum of African American History. Her poetry also appeared in the movie *Love Jones*. She is the recipient of the Leeway Foundation Transformational Award. She was chosen from a shortlist of six candidates out of a total entries. In October , Shire was also selected from a shortlist of six young bards as the first Young Poet Laureate for London. Her writing explores multidimensional kinships among women and embraces the redemptive power of social and political revolution. Walker began publishing her fiction and poetry during the latter years of the Black Arts movement in the s. Influenced by Japanese haiku and the philosophy of author Albert Camus, *Once* also contains meditations on love and suicide. Indeed, after Walker visited Africa during the summer of , she had struggled with an unwanted pregnancy upon her return to college. She speaks openly in her writing about the mental and physical anguish she experienced before deciding to have an abortion. The poems in *Once* grew not only from the sorrowful period in which Walker contemplated death but also from her triumphant decision to reclaim her life. Many of the narrative poems of her second volume, *Revolutionary Petunias and Other Poems* , revisit her southern past, while other verses challenge superficial political militancy. *Earthling Poems Complete* In a review of *Absolute Trust in the Goodness of the Earth: At the age of 8, she was kidnapped and brought to Boston on a slave ship. Upon her arrival, John Wheatley purchased the young girl as a servant for his wife, Susanna. While Wheatley suffered from poor health, her quick intelligence was hard to miss, and as a result, Susanna did not train her to be her servant. Instead, Wheatley received lessons in theology, English, Latin and Greek. Ancient history was soon folded into the teachings, as were lessons in mythology and literature. Additionally, Wheatley, while still a slave, enjoyed limited restrictions on her life and became a part of the family. Wheatley wrote her first published poem at age The work, a story about two men who nearly drown at sea, was printed in the *Newport Mercury*. In , Wheatley gained considerable stature when her first and only book of poems, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*, was published. Susanna Wheatley helped finance its publication. As proof of her authorship, the volume included a preface in which 17 Boston men claimed that she had indeed written the poems in it. *Poems on Various Subjects* is a landmark achievement in American history. In publishing it, Wheatley became the first African American and first U. Following the publication of her book, Wheatley traveled to London to promote her poems, and received medical treatment for a health ailment that she had been battling. While ultimately freed from slavery, she was devastated by the deaths of several Wheatley family members, including Susanna d. In , Wheatley married a free African American from Boston, John Peters, with whom she had three children, all of whom died in infancy. Their marriage proved to be a struggle, with the couple battling constant poverty. Ultimately, Wheatley was forced to find work as a maid in a boarding house. Wheatley did continue to write, but the growing tensions with the British and, ultimately, the Revolutionary War, weakened enthusiasm for her poems. While she contacted various publishers, she was unsuccessful in finding support for a second volume of poetry.*

### Chapter 4 : Category:African-American poets - Wikipedia

*In the Academy of American Poets dubbed April National Poetry Month to celebrate the richness of American poetry. In its honor, here are 20 black American poets who have shown brilliance in.*

Does my sassiness upset you? Why are you beset with gloom? Read More by Angelou, Maya I keep on dying again. Veins collapse, opening like the Small fists of sleeping Children. Memory of old tombs, Rotting flesh and worms do Not convince me against The challenge. The years And cold defeat live deep in Lines along my face. They dull my eyes, yet I keep on dying, Because Read More by Shakur, Tupac The power of a gun can kill and the power of fire can burn the power of wind can chill and the power of a mind can learn the power of anger can rage inside until it tears u apart but the power of a smile especially Read More by Shakur, Tupac Life through my bloodshot eyes would scare a square 2 death poverty,murder,violence and never a moment 2 rest Fun and games are few but treasured like gold 2 me cuz I realize that I must return 2 my spot in poverty But mock my words when I say my Read More by Walker, Alice We alone can devalue gold by not caring if it falls or rises in the marketplace. Wherever there is gold there is a chain, you know, and if your chain is gold so much the worse for you. Feathers, shells and sea-shaped stones are all as rare. This could be our revolution: Read More by Shakur, Tupac Did you hear about the rose that grew from a crack in the concrete? Long live the rose that Read More by Angelou, Maya We, unaccustomed to courage exiles from delight live coiled in shells of loneliness until love leaves its high holy temple and comes into our sight to liberate us into life. Love arrives and in its train come ecstasies old memories of pleasure ancient histories of pain. Yet if we are Read More by Hughes, Langston I been scared and battered. My hopes the wind done scattered. Offering me, as to a child, an attic, Gatherings of days too few. Baubles of stolen kisses. Trinkets of borrowed loves. Trunks of secret words, I cry Read More by Hughes, Langston What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up Like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore-- And then run? Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar over-- like a syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags like a heavy load. Read More by Angelou, Maya The free bird leaps on the back of the wind and floats downstream till the current ends and dips his wings in the orange sun rays and dares to claim the sky. But a bird that stalks down his narrow cage can seldom see through his bars of rage his wings

### Chapter 5 : African-American Poets Past and Present: A Historical View

*Famous African American Poems by Famous Black Poets. Top African American Poems. The best and most popular famous African American Poems of All-Time written by African American poets.*

### Chapter 6 : African-American poetry | Penny's poetry pages Wiki | FANDOM powered by Wikia

*10 Poems by African-American Poets Poems by African-American poets, including Gwendolyn Brooks, Kwame Dawes, Rita Dove, Langston Hughes, Tyehimba Jess, Kevin Young, and more. Poets (from left to right) Rita Dove, Gwendolyn Brooks, Kevin Young, Tyehimba Jess, and Langston Hughes.*

### Chapter 7 : African American Poems | Best Poems

*Pages in category "African-American poets" The following pages are in this category, out of approximately total. This list may not reflect recent changes ().*

### Chapter 8 : Famous African American Poetry | Poems

*Alice Walker is an African American novelist, short-story writer, poet, essayist, and activist. Her most famous novel, The Color Purple, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award in Walker's creative vision is rooted in the*

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*economic hardship, racial terror, and folk wisdom of African American life and culture, particularly in the rural South.*

### Chapter 9 : List of African poets - Wikipedia

*African American Poems Browse and read this list of the most beautiful and best poems written by famous African-American Poets from the classical poetry to the latest new modern ones Best African-American Poetry.*