

# African American Literature

The following are black authors who write about issues facing their community today. The books range from fun mystery novels to books by Nobel Prize winning authors.

**Tina McElroy Ansa** writes about families, focusing on relationships of teenage girls, in Georgia.

**James Baldwin**, who lived most of his life in France, wrote about the complexity of American culture from an outsider's perspective.

**Tananarive Due** writes across nearly all fiction genres, delving into Fantasy, Science Fiction, Mystery, and Horror.

**Erika Ellis**, in *Good Fences*, writes about race relations in upper class Connecticut.

**Ralph Ellison** is the author of the immensely important work of fiction, *The Invisible Man*.

**E. Lynn Harris** is an openly gay African American author best known for his depictions of Black men on the "down low" or in the closet.

**Langston Hughes** is a poet who became famous in the 1930s for his interesting point of view.

**Zora Neale Hurston** is a writer who wrote during the 1920s. In the 1970s Alice Walker helped revive interest in her beautiful writings.

**Benilde Little**, in *The Itch*, writes about social conditions in America.

**Terry McMillan** writes novels about self-actualization and is perhaps most famous for her book, *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*.

**Toni Morrison** has won the Pulitzer and the Nobel Prizes in Literature and is a professor at Princeton University.

**Walter Mosley** likes to write historical mysteries frequently about music and jazz. He has written 11 books in his Easy Rawlins series.

**Walter Dean Myers** writes about conflicts that many young people face today. His books by the young adult section adults still love to read them.

**Barbara Neely** is known for her popular Blanche White mystery novels (about a domestic worker turned sleuth) and her short stories.

**A.J. Verdelle** wrote *The Good Negress*, about a young girl coming of age who is curious about her family legacy and culture.

**Alice Walker** won the Pulitzer Prize and is most noted for her novel *The Color Purple*.

**John Edgar Wideman** writes about modern day problems with the lyrical voice of jazz and Motown.

**Richard Wright** is famous for his controversial *Native Son* and *Black Boy*.

