



African American Women Writers (Black Stars)

By Brenda Wilkinson

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Meet the black women writers who Lived Their Dreams—from the early years to modern times

Margaret Walker Alexander
Maya Angelou
Toni Cade Bambara
Gwendolyn Brooks
Octavia Butler
Lucille Clifton
Alice Moore Dunbar-Nelson
Jessie Redmon Fauset
Nikki Giovanni
Lorraine Hansberry
Frances E. W. Harper
Zora Neale Hurston
Harriet Jacobs
Audre Lord
Paule Marshall
Terry McMillan
Toni Morrison
Ann Petry
Ntozake Shange
Sojourner Truth
Alice Walker
Ida B. Wells-Barnett
Dorothy West
Phillis Wheatley

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9-Two accessible collective biographies. *Healers* includes 24 individuals from Colonial times to the present, focusing on nurses, researchers, and doctors. Some are not well known, such as Dr. James Durham, who was born into slavery in 1762, bought his freedom, and became the first African-American doctor in this country. Others, like Charles Richard Drew or Joycelyn Elders, are more familiar. Each of the brief personal histories emphasizes the accomplishments of these pioneers in the field of medicine. Wilkinson's book spans the same time period and features 24 writers, the majority of whom will be familiar to most readers. From Phillis Wheatley to Zora Neale Hurston, Lorraine Hansberry, Octavia Butler, and Terry McMillan, the authors represent a variety of genres. Each sketch includes a handsome black-and-white photo or reproduction and three to five pages of text along with occasional quotes from the woman's writing. Good introductions to their subjects' lives and accomplishments.

Janet Woodward, Garfield High School, Seattle, WA

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From Kirkus Reviews

In this entry in the Black Star series, Wilkinson offers concise mini-biographies of 23 African-American women of letters. The straightforward, user-friendly volume opens on colonial America when Africans were first brought to this country as slaves, and ends with famous contemporary authors. By presenting their profiles chronologically, Wilkinson surprises readers; even as the format of precis after precis starts to wear, the effect of the individual stories begins to culminate, becoming in essence an abbreviated history of black women in America. Although their motivations differed, many of the writers "persevered against tremendous odds" to get their message across. Fortified with sometimes touching but always thought-provoking quotes, this book is the perfect first-step for either scholarly research or personal enrichment. (index not seen, b&w photos, bibliography, chronology) (Biography. 10-14) -- *Copyright ©1999, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

From the Inside Flap

For more than three centuries, African American women have been famous writers. In newspapers and magazines, in speeches and plays, and in novels and poetry, these black stars have spoken out against injustice, told stories about the people and places they loved, and imagined the possibilities of the future.

Brenda Wilkinson, an acclaimed African American writer herself, brings these powerful, intelligent women to life. On these pages, you'll meet twenty-four African American women writers whose stories and ideas helped to make American literature great. From colonial times to modern times, discover the accomplishments of these women of distinction. Learn how:

Sojourner Truth, a former slave, electrified the abolitionist and women's rights movements. Her speech "Ain't I a Woman?" stunned listeners with its honesty.

Frances E. W. Harper, orphaned at the age of three, grew up to write the bestselling novel by an African American in the Civil War and Reconstruction era.

Jessie Redmon Fauset, after studying French in Paris, returned to Harlem in New York City. Working with W. E. B. Du Bois, she edited *The Brownies' Book*, a popular magazine for African American children.

Ann Petry, writing about black family life in the North, became the first African American author to sell a million copies of a book. She started her career as a reporter for a black newspaper.

Maya Angelou, author of the heartfelt memoir *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, wrote a poem for President Bill Clinton's inauguration—a first for an African American and a woman.

This comprehensive collection tells the stories of these and other fascinating and surprising women writers who made their dreams a reality.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Ronald Stallings:

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Carlos Pollard:

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Sharon Garon:

Are you kind of hectic person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your morning to upgrading your mind ability or thinking skill actually analytical thinking? Then you are experiencing problem with the book compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all of this time you only find reserve that need more time to be read. *African American Women Writers (Black Stars)* can be your answer given it can be read by you who have those short spare time problems.

Gabriel Badger:

In this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you need

to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to have a look at some books. Among the books in the top list in your reading list will be African American Women Writers (Black Stars). This book that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning out to be precious person. By looking right up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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