

**NMAAHC SUMMER
READING CHALLENGE 2023**

AFROFUTURISM: A HISTORY OF BLACK FUTURES

Join NMAAHC this summer for "Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures," the 2023 NMAAHC Summer Reading Challenge!

Created for 3rd - 12th-grade students and educators, the selections are curated to provide enjoyment and enrichment about African American history and culture.

The 2023 NMAAHC Summer Reading Challenge runs from Thursday, June 1 through Thursday, August 31.



**NATIONAL
MUSEUM of
AFRICAN
AMERICAN
HISTORY &
CULTURE**

Smithsonian

CHALLENGE 2023 INFORMATION

The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) returns for summer 2023 with the digital experience, the NMAAHC Summer Reading Challenge. This is a self-guided program for 3rd - 12th-grade students and their educators to read suggested selections by NMAAHC educators and complete reading-related challenges. The literature selections consist of fiction and non-fiction and are chosen for enjoyment and enrichment about African American history.

For summer 2023, the reading challenge theme is "Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures." Read your way through our special exhibition inspired lists that include fiction and non-fiction.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

To complete the NMAAHC Summer Reading Challenge, choose one of three themed challenge task lists and complete the number of tasks for your grade-level group by Thursday, August 31.

Reading resources (including a reading log and literacy activities) are included to help deepen your reading experience.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Challenge 2023 Information: 2-4

Theme "Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures": 5

Reading Lists: 6-17

Reading Log and Literacy Activities: 18-20

Reading Challenges: 21-23

Certificate of Completion: 25

GRADE-LEVEL DIVISIONS

Sojourners (Grades 3-5)

Navigators (Grades 6-8)

Innovators (Grades 9-12)

Educators (Grades 3-12)

HOW TO FIND READING SELECTIONS



LOCAL LIBRARY



DIGITAL ALTERNATIVES
(LIKE AUDIOBOOKS)



PURCHASE

You can choose books that are not on our list as long as they fit the theme. You can also read books you already own – the goal is to read books you haven't read before.

WHAT CAN I READ?

There are various types of literature available to you, including:

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Memoirs, Poetry, Screen and Stage Plays, Novels and Novellas, Biographies, Journal Articles, Anthologies, Graphic Novels, and Documentaries (if you prefer a more visual experience.)

DIGITAL OPTIONS

Here are various types of platforms or apps to you, including:

Overdrive
(www.overdrive.com/)

Kanopy
(www.kanopy.com/)

Hoopla
(www.hoopladigital.com/)

Openlibrary
(openlibrary.org/)

Rbdigital
(www.recordedbooks.com)

TumblebookLibrary
(www.tumblebooks.com/)

Internet Archives
(archive.org/)

PURCHASING OPTIONS

Here are links to independent bookstores to help support local businesses in your community the Smithsonian Store. This list is not comprehensive.

Indiebound
(www.indiebound.org/)

Bookshop
(bookshop.org/)

Smithsonian Store - Books
(www.smithsonianstore.com/)

All images credit to the Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, unless noted otherwise. Front Cover: *Mind of my Mind*: A gift from Eric Strait and Robert Jackson. Cover art © John Blanche *Thousand Suns*: A gift from Eric Strait and Robert Jackson.

READING LISTS

These lists are inspired by the narratives and themes found in the exhibition. These lists are not comprehensive.

Sojourners (Grades 3-5) Fiction Reading List
 Navigators (Grades 6-8) Fiction Reading List
 Innovators (Grades 9-12) Fiction Reading List
 Educators (Grades 3-12) Fiction Reading List
 Exhibition Inspired Selections: Zone 1
 Exhibition Inspired Selections: Zone 2
 Exhibition Inspired Selections: Zone 3

LITERACY ACTIVITIES AND READING LOG

These pages include a reading log and activities to deepen your reading experience. These activities can be done individually or with a group, such as friends and/or family.

Individual Literacy Activities
 Group Literacy Activities
 My Reading Log

READING CHALLENGES

To complete the NMAAHC Summer Reading Challenge, choose one of the three themed challenge task lists and complete the number of tasks for your grade-level group by Thursday, August 31. Once you finish, you can fill out a certificate of completion located at the end of this document.

2023 Themed Reading Challenge Lists

- **Challenge One: Considering the Past**

Activities inspired by Zone 1: A History of Black Futures.

- **Challenge Two: In the New Present**

Activities inspired by Zone 2: New Black Futures.

- **Challenge Three: The Infinite Future**

Activities inspired by Zone 3: Infinite Possibilities.

WHAT IS AFROFUTURISM?

Afrofuturism is an evolving concept expressed through a Black cultural lens that reimagines, reinterprets, and reclaims the past and present for a more empowering future for African Americans.

Coined in 1993 by Mark Dery, the ideas of **Afrofuturism** were developed by scholars to explore how Black writers and artists utilize themes of technology, science fiction, fantasy, and heroism to envision stories and futures of Black liberation to convey an authentic, hopeful, and culturally expansive image of the Black experience.

Today, **Afrofuturism** has surpassed the boundaries of scholarship, emerging not just as a trending fascination but as an influential driver of African American culture with historic roots that stretch across time and space, and throughout the Black diaspora. **Afrofuturism** has evolved as a concept, philosophy, multimedia genre, aesthetic, and cultural movement. It explores Black identity, agency, and freedom through art and creative works that envision liberated futures for Black life.

Found in the narrative works of enslaved people who radically imagined their freedom, science fiction stories that inspired real astronauts, and across nearly all genres of popular music, **Afrofuturism** is an outlet for theoretical, innovative, and creative production, granting authors, thinkers, artists, and activists intellectual platforms to understand and interpret the history of race and Black cultural identity.

With its ability to draw from the past and present through a prism of technological themes, fantasy, and futuristic imagery, **Afrofuturism** is a powerful lens by which to view and interpret the Black experience in an increasingly technological world.



GRADE-LEVEL FICTION READING LISTS

The following lists are fiction selections for students to explore Afrofuturism. The lists lean more toward science fiction and speculative selections with hints of fantasy.

The selections cover a variety of topics within Afrofuturism. We encourage students to discuss with their adults what might be the most appropriate reading choices. These lists are not comprehensive. Many other selections are out there waiting to be discovered.

Post-World War II
ins into a
rent from the
technologies,
veloped as an
nd confront
r Black creatives
futures
realities of
n Americans
world in the
le utilizing
outhpieces for

il of outer
ecause
an dreamed



AFROFUTURISM
A collection of futuristic
technologies and
speculative fiction
that explores the
possibilities of the
future for Black
people and the
world.



SOJOURNERS (GRADES 3 TO 5)

GRADE-LEVEL FICTION READING LIST

1. *Sci-Fu* by Yehudi Mercado
2. *African Myths and Folk Tales* by Carter G. Woodson
3. *The Last Last-Day-of-Summer* by Lamar Giles
4. *Maya and the Robot* by Eve L. Ewing
5. *Future Hero: Race to Fire Mountain* by Remi Blackwood
6. *Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun* by Tolá Okogwu
7. *Pax Samson Vol. 1: The Cookout* by Rashad Doucet and Jason Reeves
8. *Ruby Finley vs. The Interstellar Invasion* by K. Tempest Bradford
9. *Sky Watcher #5 (Jada Jones)* by Kelly Starling Lyons
10. *If You Look Up to the Sky* by Angela Dalton
11. *Big Monty and the Cyborg Substitute* by Matt Maxx
12. *The Scientific Life of Azaleah Lane* by Nikki Shannon Smith
13. *Jada Sly, Artist & Spy* by Sherri Winston
14. *Isaiah Dunn Is My Hero* by Kelly J. Baptist
15. *Stuntboy, in the Meantime* by Jason Reynolds
16. *The Magnificent Makers #5: Race Through Space* by Theanne Griffith
17. *Dragons in a Bag* by Zetta Elliott
18. *Sadiq and the Desert Star* by Siman Nuurali
19. *The Space Mission Adventure (Clubhouse Mysteries)* by Sharon M. Draper
20. *My Rainy Day Rocket Ship* by Markette Sheppard
21. *Blast Off Book* by Linda C. Cain and Susan Rosenbaum
22. *Jaden Toussaint, the Greatest Episode 2: The Ladek Invasion* by Marti Dumas

NAVIGATORS (GRADES 6-8)

GRADE-LEVEL FICTION READING LIST

1. *Clock Striker, Volume 1: "I'm Gonna Be a SMITH!"* by Issaka Galadima with Frederick L. Jones
2. *African Folktales (The Pantheon Fairy Tale and Folklore Library)* by Roger Abrahams
3. *The Gatekeeper's Staff (TJ Young & The Orishas)* by Antoine Bandele
4. *Maya and the Rising Dark* by Rena Barron
5. *Last Gate of the Emperor* by Kwame Mbalia and Prince Joel Makonnen
6. *Amari and the Night Brothers* by B. B. Alston
7. *Nothing Interesting Ever Happens to Ethan Fairmont* by Nick Brooks
8. *Sage Carrington, Eighth-Grade Science Sleuth* by Justin Scott Parr
9. *My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* by Ibi Zoboi
10. *Holler of the Fireflies* by David Barclay Moore
11. *It's The End of the World and I'm In My Bathing Suit* by Justin A. Reynolds
12. *Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy* by Angie Thomas
13. *The Probability of Everything* by Sarah Everett
14. *Tight* by Torrey Maldonado
15. *The Magic in Changing Your Stars* by Leah Henderson
16. *Garvey's Choice* by Nikki Grimes
17. *The STEAM Chasers: The Blackness of Space* by Dr. Doresa A. Jennings
18. *Iyanu: Child of Wonder Volume 1* by Roye Okupe
19. *Black Panther: The Young Prince* by Ronald L. Smith
20. *Shuri: A Black Panther Novel* by Nic Stone

INNOVATORS (GRADES 9 TO 12)

GRADE-LEVEL FICTION READING LIST

1. *An Unkindness of Ghosts* by Rivers Solomon
2. *The Gilded Ones* by Namina Forna
3. *Black Star* by Eric A. Glover
4. *Song Below Water* by Bethany C. Morrow
5. *Miles Morales: SpiderMan* by Jason Reynolds
6. *A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope* edited by Patrice Caldwell
7. *Survive the Dome* by Kosoko Jackson
8. *Rust in the Root* by Justina Ireland
9. *47* by Walter Mosley
10. *Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor
11. *Opposite of Always* by Justin A. Reynolds
12. *Skin of the Sea* by Natasha Bowen
13. *A Song of Salvation* by Alechia Dow
14. *The Upper World* by Femi Fadugba
15. *Black Was the Ink* by Michelle Coles
16. *Slay* by Brittney Morris
17. *New Masters* by Shobo and Shof Coker
18. *The Getaway* by Lamar Giles
19. *War Girls* by Tochi Onyebuchi
20. *Cool. Awkward. Black.* edited by Karen Strong
21. *Kindred: A Graphic Novel Adaptation* by Octavia E. Butler adapted by Damian Duff and John Jennings
22. *Black Panther: Protectors of Wakanda: A History and Training Manual of the Dora Milaje* by Karama Horne

EDUCATORS (GRADES 3 TO 12)

GRADE-LEVEL FICTION READING LIST

1. *Mothership: Tales from Afrofuturism and Beyond* edited by Bill Campbell
2. *Black Sci-Fi Short Stories* edited by Tia Ross
3. *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin
4. *The Black God's Drums* by P. Djèlí Clark
5. *Infinitum: An Afrofuturist Tale* by Tim Fielder
6. *Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor
7. *Black From the Future: A Collection of Black Speculative Writing* edited by Stephanie Andrea Allen and Lauren Cherelle
8. *The Memory Librarian: And Other Stories of Dirty Computer* by Janelle Monáe
9. *Black Leopard, Red Wolf* by Marlon James
10. *Black Empire* by George S. Schuyler
11. *New Suns 2: Original Speculative Fiction by People of Color* edited by Nisi Shawl
12. *The Wishing Pool and Other Stories* by Tananarive Due
13. *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler
14. *The Deep* by Rivers Solomon
15. *Aftermath* by LeVar Burton
16. *Midnight Robber* by Nalo Hopkinson
17. *Steamfunk!* edited by Milton J. Davis and Balogun Ojetade
18. *Riot Baby* by Tochi Onyebuchi
19. *Imaro* by Charles Saunders
20. *Africa Risen: A New Era of Speculative Fiction* edited by Sheree Renée Thomas, Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki, and Zelda Knight

READING LISTS INSPIRED BY THE EXHIBITION

The following lists are non-fiction selections for advanced readers to deepen their understanding of Afrofuturism. The lists are organized by the exhibition layout.



INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

With its ability to draw from the past and present through the lens of futuristic imagery and technological themes, Afrofuturism is a powerful tool to tell the story of African Americans in an increasingly complex and technological world. Connecting themes of space and liberation, digital activism, and 21st century popular media, Afrofuturism provides a platform of infinite possibilities in determining Black futures.

*I felt, but did not yet understand
the relation between that other*

And I felt in this a

COSMIC IN.

— Ta

SELECTIONS INSPIRED BY THE EXHIBITION

ZONE 1: THE HISTORY OF BLACK FUTURES

The principles of Afrofuturism have an African past. These connections, binding the corporeal with the ethereal, are central to the grander cultural and institutional structures of past African civilizations and provide a historical and intellectual framework for the concepts that would come to shape Afrofuturism.

1.1 African Legacies

- *African Dominion: A New History of Empire in Early and Medieval West Africa* by Michael A. Gomez
- *Decolonizing African Studies: Knowledge Production, Agency, and Voice* by Toyin Falola
- *Writing African History* edited by John Edward Philips
- *A History of Africa:nCombined Edition* by Toyin Falola and Timothy Stapleton
- *African Cultural Astronomy: Current Archaeoastronomy and Ethnoastronomy research in Africa (Astrophysics and Space Science Proceedings)* edited by Jarita Holbrook, Rodney Medupe, and Johnson O. Urama
- *Afro-Atlantic Flight: Speculative Returns and the Black Fantastic* by Michelle D. Commander
- *Futurism and the African Imagination: Literature and Other Arts* edited by Dike Okoro

1.2 Freedom and Deliverance

- *The Life of Benjamin Banneker: The First African-American Man of Science* by Silvio A. Bedini
- *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley: America's First Black Poet and Her Encounters with the Founding Fathers* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
- *She Came to Slay: The Life and Times of Harriet Tubman* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar
- *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom* by David W. Blight
- *Nat Turner: A Slave Rebellion in History and Memory* edited by Kenneth S. Greenberg
- *Reading Pleasures: Everyday Black Living in Early America* by Tara A. Bynum
- *Afrofuturism Rising: The Literary Prehistory of a Movement* by Isiah Lavender III

SELECTIONS INSPIRED BY THE EXHIBITION

1.3 New Negro

- *Negro Building: Black Americans in the World of Fairs and Museums* by Mabel O. Wilson
- *The New Negro: Voices of Harlem Renaissance* edited by Alain Locke
- *W. E. B. Du Bois and The Souls of Black Folk* by Stephanie J. Shaw
- *African American Literature in Transition, 1900–1910: Volume 7* edited by Shirley Moody-Turner
- *The African American Roots of Modernism: From Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance* by James Smethurst
- *Literary Afrofuturism in the Twenty-First Century* by Isiah Lavender III and Lisa Yaszek

SELECTIONS DISPLAYED OR MENTIONED IN THIS ZONE

- *Banneker's Almanack and Ephemeris for the Year of Our Lord 1793* by Benjamin Banneker
- *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral By Phillis Wheatley, Negro Servant to Mr. John Wheatley of Boston, in New-England* by Phillis Wheatley
- *Golden Legacy Illustrated History Magazine: The Saga of Harriet Tubman, "The Moses of Her People," Vol. 2* by Joan Bacchus, Robert Fitzgerald, Bertram A. Fitzgerald Jr., and Warren Parker
- *Iola Leroy* by Frances E. W. Harper
- *Imperium in Imperio* by Sutton Grigg
- *Nnaga Kôn* by Jean-Louis Njemba Medou
- *Gandoki* by Muhammadu Bello Kagar's
- *Ruwan Bagaja* by Abubakar Imam's
- *Amour de Feticheuse* by Felix Couchoro
- *Blake* by Martin Delany
- *Chaka* by Thomas Mofolo
- "The Comet" from *Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil* by W.E.B. Du Bois
- *The Slave Ship: A Human History* by Marcus Rediker
- *Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora* edited by Sheree Renée Thomas

SELECTIONS INSPIRED BY THE EXHIBITION

ZONE 2: NEW BLACK FUTURES

The new technologies in the post-World War II Atomic Age propelled Americans into a brave new future radically different from the past. With the rise of these new technologies, the concepts of Afrofuturism developed as an intellectual platform to critique and confront racism and provide an identity for Black creatives and intellectuals envisioning new futures for African Americans outside the realities of racism and segregated life. African Americans navigated this new technological world in the fields of science and medicine, while utilizing art, literature, music, and film as mouthpieces for Afrofuturist expression.



2.1 Race as Technology

- *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present* by Harriet A. Washington
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
- *Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment, New and Expanded Edition* by James H. Jones
- *Black Pioneers of Science and Invention* by Louis Haber
- *Reckoning Day: Race, Place, and the Atom Bomb in Postwar America* by Jacqueline Foertsch
- *Cardiology at the Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center: A Personalized History* by L. Julian Haywood MD

2.2 Black Sci-Fi

- *Afrofuturism: The World of Black Sci-Fi and Fantasy Culture* by Ytasha Womack
- *The Dreamer and the Dream: Afrofuturism and Black Religious Thought* by Roger A. Sneed
- *Queer Times, Black Futures* by Kara Keeling
- *Jackie Ormes: The First African American Woman Cartoonist* by Nancy Goldstein
- *The Motion of Light in Water: Sex and Science Fiction Writing in the East Village* by Samuel R. Delany
- *Conversations with Octavia Butler* edited by Conseula Francis
- *Speculative Blackness: The Future of Race in Science Fiction* by André M. Carrington
- *Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures* edited by Kevin M. Strait and Kinshasha Holman Conwill

SELECTIONS INSPIRED BY THE EXHIBITION

2.3 Music and Afrofuturism

- *Sun Ra's Chicago: Afrofuturism and the City* by William Sites
- *Afrofuturism and Black Sound Studies: Culture, Technology, and Things to Come* by Erik Steinskog
- *Janelle Monáe's Queer Afrofuturism: Defying Every Label* by Dan Hassler-Forest
- *Brothas Be, Yo Like George, Ain't That Funkin' Kinda Hard On You?: A Memoir* by George Clinton with Ben Greenman
- *People Funny Boy: The Genius of Lee 'Scratch' Perry* by David Katz
- *I Got Thunder: Black Women Songwriters on Their Craft* edited by LaShonda Barnett
- *Starting At Zero: His Own Story* by Jimi Hendrix
- *An OutKast Reader: Essays on Race, Gender, and the Postmodern South* edited by Regina N. Bradley
- *Right to Rock: The Black Rock Coalition and the Cultural Politics of Race* by Maureen Mahon

2.4 Visualizing Afrofuturism

- *Ben Enwonwu: The Making of an African Modernist* by Sylvester Okwunodu Ogbechie
- *Charting the Afrofuturist Imaginary in African American Art: The Black Female Fantastic* by Elizabeth Carmel Hamilton
- *The Black Speculative Arts Movement: Black Futurity, Art+Design* edited by Reynaldo Anderson and Clinton R. Fluker
- *In the Black Fantastic* by Ekow Eshun
- *The Black Experience in Design: Identity, Expression & Reflection* edited by Anne H. Berry, Kareem Collie, Penina Acayo Laker, Lesley-Ann Noel, Jennifer Rittner, and Kelly Walters

2.5 Afrofuturism on Stage and Screen

- *The Dark Fantastic: Race and the Imagination from Harry Potter to the Hunger Games* by Ebony Elizabeth Thomas
- *Black Space: Imagining Race in Science Fiction Film* by Adilifu Nama
- *Where No Black Woman Has Gone Before: Subversive Portrayals in Speculative Film and TV* by Diana Adesola Mafe
- *After Midnight: Watchmen after Watchmen* edited by Drew Morton
- *The Cambridge Companion to African American Theatre* edited by Harvey Young

SELECTIONS DISPLAYED OR MENTIONED IN THIS ZONE

- *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler
- *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia E. Butler
- *The Jewels of Aptor* by Samuel R. Delany
- "Torchy Brown in Dixie to Harlem" by Jackie Ormes
- *Patty-Jo 'n' Ginger* series by Jackie Ormes
- *Mind of my Mind* by Octavia E. Butler
- *City of A Thousand Suns* by Samuel R. Delany
- *Watchmen* comic book series
- *The Walking Dead* comic book series

EXHIBITION INSPIRED SELECTIONS

ZONE 3: INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

With its ability to draw from the past and present through the lens of futuristic imagery and technological themes, Afrofuturism is a powerful tool to tell the story of African Americans in an increasingly complex and technological world. Connecting themes of space and liberation, digital activism, and 21st century popular media, Afrofuturism provides a platform of infinite possibilities in determining Black futures.

3.1 Space is the Place

- *We Could Not Fail: The First African Americans in the Space Program* by Richard Paul and Steven Moss
- *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space* by Margot Lee Shetterly
- *Beyond Uhura - Star Trek and Other Memories* by Nichelle Nichols
- *A Pure Solar World: Sun Ra and the Birth of Afrofuturism* by Paul Youngquist
- *NASA and the Long Civil Rights Movement* edited by Brian C. Odom and Stephen P. Waring

3.2 ReAnimation and ReInvention

- *The Blacker the Ink: Constructions of Black Identity in Comics and Sequential Art* edited by Frances K. Gateward and John Jennings
- *Black Superheroes, Milestone Comics, and Their Fans* by Jeffery A. Brown
- *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation* by Shenna C. Howard and Ronald L. Jackson II
- *Black Women in Sequence: Re-inking Comics, Graphic Novels, and Anime* by Deborah Elizabeth Whaley
- *Invisible Men: The Trailblazing Black Artists of Comic Books* by Ken Quattro

SELECTIONS INSPIRED BY THE EXHIBITION

3.3 Building Black Worlds

- *Globalization and Sustainable Development in Africa* edited by Bessie House-Soremekun and Toyin Falola
- *Natural Resources and Conflict in Africa: The Tragedy of Endowment* by Abiodun Alao
- *Black Utopia* by Alex Zamalin
- *Urban Planning and the African-American Community: In the Shadows* edited by June Manning Thomas and Marsha Ritzdorf
- *Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America* edited by Sean Anderson and Mabel O. Wilson
- *Why Wakanda Matters: What Black Panther Reveals About Psychology, Identity, and Communication* edited by Sheena C. Howard
- *Critical Black Futures: Speculative Theories and Explorations* edited by Philip Butler

3.4 Black Bodies, Black Lives

- *Some Unsung Black Revolutionary Voices and Visions from Pre-Colony to Post Independence and Beyond* edited by Bill F. Ndi
- *A Terrible Thing to Waste: Environmental Racism and Its Assault on the American Mind* by Harriet A. Washington
- *The Colored Conventions Movement: Black Organizing in the Nineteenth Century* by P. Gabrielle Foreman, Jim Casey, and Sarah Lynn Patterson
- *The Emancipation Circuit: Black Activism Forging a Culture of Freedom* by Thulani Davis
- *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* by Ruha Benjamin
- *Black Disability Politics* by Sami Schalk
- *Black Software The Internet & Racial Justice, from the AfroNet to Black Lives Matter* by Charlton D. McIlwain

3.5 Technofutures

- *Afrofuturism and Digital Humanities: Show Me and I Will Engage Differently* by Bryan W. Carter
- *Recovering Black Storytelling Qualitative Research: Endarkened Storywork* by S.R. Toliver
- *Distributed Blackness: African American Cybercultures* by André Brock, Jr.
- *Digital Black Feminism* by Catherine Knight Steele
- *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want* by Ruha Benjamin

SELECTIONS DISPLAYED OR MENTIONED IN THIS ZONE

- *Brotherman: Dictator of Discipline, Lobo, Black Lighting #2, Megaton #4, The Sage of Original Man #1, The Incredible Iron Man #170, Black Goliath #2, Cloak and Dagger #1, Green Lantern, Miles Morales: Spider Man #23, The Mighty Avengers #255, Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur #3, Concrete Park #1, Cyborg #1, The Falcon #1, Power Man and Iron Fist, 1972, The Uncanny X-Men #198, X-Man: Gold #33, 2017, Classic X-Men #3, Luke Cage, Power Man, Issue #19*
- *The Orixas* comic series by Hugo Canuto
- *Rythm Mastr* comic series by Kerry James Marshall

INDIVIDUAL LITERACY ACTIVITIES

Use these activities to help you dive deeper into your reading selections. You can complete these activities on your own.

Billboard

Create a set of billboard ads for some or all of the selections you read throughout the summer. (Perez, 112)

Collage Creations

Create a collage of words, pictures, and images that capture the main idea or chapter of a text you have read. (Perez, 114)

Create a Comic Strip

Create a comic strip that summarizes key events in the selection you have read. On a blank piece of paper, draw three to five squares. These squares are the comic frames. Add details such as backgrounds, props, and at least two characters with dialogue bubbles. (Perez, 114-115)

Dear Author or Digital Review

After finishing a selection, write a letter to the author on how you felt about the book. You can keep this letter to yourself or research how to contact the author. Have your parent, guardian, or educator help you to find the contact information for the author. Or, write a digital review for the selection like ones that you see online. Typically, online reviews rate books between one to five stars, one being the lowest and five being the highest. Choose and explain your rating. Have your parent, guardian, or educator help you if you want to post this review online. (Perez, 116)

Dramatic Monologue

Create a monologue for a character in a scene from a selection. Consider what the character was thinking at that moment and act it out. (Perez, 117)

Double Entry Journal

Reflect on passages within your reading. You will choose quotes from your selection to reflect and write responses. Divide a blank piece of paper in half. Label the left side "Quotes" and the right side "Reflections." Choose a passage or quote that you found informative or interesting. Write it on the left side. On the right side, reflect on and write down your thoughts about the quote or passage. Try to record a reflection once per section or chapter. (Tompkins)

Picture This!

While you are reading, note or highlight eight new vocabulary words. Fold a blank sheet of paper into eight sections. On one side, write the word and its dictionary definition. On the other side, in each corresponding section, make a quick sketch or symbol representing each the vocabulary word. (Perez, 124)

Questioning the Author

Engage the selection by questioning the choices of the author and their work. Use the four questions below to help you reflect. Decide whether you will answer the questions after reading a section, chapter, or the entire work. Review the questions before you begin. After you complete reading your chosen section, chapter, or the entire work, answer the four questions. 1) What is the author trying to tell us? 2) What is the author talking about here? 3) How does this fit with what the author told us before? 4) Why is the author telling us this? (Tompkins)

GROUP LITERACY ACTIVITIES

Use these activities to help you dive deeper into your reading selections. You can complete these activities with your classmates, family, friends or community members.

30-Second Speech

Have a parent, guardian, or educator ask a question about the student's selection. Have the student reflect on that question by writing and preparing a 30-second speech. The student can present this speech to their family and friends. (Perez, 111)

Board Game

Choose a selection to read with a group. Afterward, create a board game based upon the selection. (Perez, 112)

Choral Reading

Have a student or parent, guardian, or educator choose a passage to read within a selection. Have the student read one or two sentences aloud and then reread the sentences aloud as a group. This activity is designed to help fluency for struggling readers. (Perez, 113)

Concept Map

Have a parent, guardian, or educator get a sheet of paper or poster paper, and place a word or topic at the center relating to their student's current reading selection. Have the student(s) write qualities, characteristics, ideas, images, and feelings related to the word or topic in the center of the concept map. (Perez, 114)

Learned-Affirmed-Challenged

Have a parent, guardian, or educator lead a discussion where they ask the student(s) what they learned from their selection, what affirmed what they already knew, and lastly, something that challenged their thinking. (Perez, 120)

Pantomiming Parts

Have the student(s), parent, guardian, or educator choose a part of a selection. The group is responsible for acting out that part of the selection. One member of the group is the narrator, and the rest have to act out the text using pantomime as the narrator reads the text. (Perez, 124)

Literacy activities were adapted from the following resources:

Perez, Kathy. *200+ Proven Strategies for Teaching Reading, Grades K-8*. Bloomington, Indiana: Solution Tree Press, 2016.
Tompkins, Gail. *50 Literacy Strategies: Step-by-Step*. 4th ed. London, United Kingdom: Pearson, 2012.

MY READING LOG

Use this page to record the books that you read. Print as many reading log pages as you need to record all your reading selections.

#_____ Title:
Author:
Genre:
Fiction or Non Fiction:
Rating (1 to 5):
Recommend to Others: Yes or No

#_____ Title:
Author:
Genre:
Fiction or Non Fiction:
Rating (1 to 5):
Recommend to Others: Yes or No

#_____ Title:
Author:
Genre:
Fiction or Non Fiction:
Rating (1 to 5):
Recommend to Others: Yes or No

#_____ Title:
Author:
Genre:
Fiction or Non Fiction:
Rating (1 to 5):
Recommend to Others: Yes or No

#_____ Title:
Author:
Genre:
Fiction or Non Fiction:
Rating (1 to 5):
Recommend to Others: Yes or No

CONSIDERING THE PAST

This challenge list is inspired by Zone 1: A History of Black Futures in the exhibition. Complete the number of challenges according to your grade or educator level to win.

Sojourners (Grades 3-5): 5 Tasks
Navigators (Grades 6-8): 7 Tasks
Innovators (Grades 9-12): 9 Tasks
Educators (Grades 3-12): 9 Tasks

- ☐ Read a selection that features one of the following proto-Afrofuturists: Benjamin Bannaker, Phillis Wheatley, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, or Nat Turner, or focuses on African Americans before 1800 C.E.
- ☐ Read a selection that is "displayed in Zone 1."
- ☐ Read a selection published between 1885 C.E. and 1945 C.E.
- ☐ Create a piece of art inspired by one of your selections.
- ☐ Read every day for 30 minutes for one week.
- ☐ Read for 30 minutes in the morning.
- ☐ Read for 30 minutes in the afternoon.
- ☐ Read for 30 minutes in the evening.
- ☐ Read for 30 minutes at night.
- ☐ Read a non-fiction selection that focuses on Africa before 1500 C.E.
- ☐ Read a non-fiction selection that focuses on Africa after 1500 C.E.
- ☐ Read a selection that deals with stargazing and persons of African descent.
- ☐ Visit a museum, historical or cultural institution, historical house, or art gallery inspired by one of your selections. Find one object, work of art, or exhibition that you believe connects to your selection.
- ☐ Have a meal inspired by the culture or location of one of your selections.
- ☐ Write a short book review of one of your selections.
- ☐ Read a short story from one of the selections that is an anthology. An anthology is a collection of stories.
- ☐ Read a non-fiction selection and write a short story inspired by that selection.
- ☐ Read a selection set on a space ship.
- ☐ Attend a program or event at your local public, college, or university library inspired by one of your selections.
- ☐ Try one of the individual or group literacy activities on pages 16-17.

IN THE NEW PRESENT

This challenge list is inspired by Zone 2: New Black Futures in the exhibition. Complete the number of challenges according to your grade or educator level to win.

Sojourners (Grades 3-5): 5 Tasks

Navigators (Grades 6-8): 7 Tasks

Innovators (Grades 9-12): 9 Tasks

Educators (Grades 3-12): 9 Tasks

- ☐ Read a selection that features one of the following Sonic Architects: Parliament-Funkadelic, Nona Hendryx, Lee 'Scratch' Perry, Sun Ra, Outkast, Jimi Hendrix, or Janelle Monáe.
- ☐ Read a selection that is "displayed in Zone 2."
- ☐ Create a seven-song playlist based on your selection(s).
- ☐ Read every day for 20 minutes for two weeks.
- ☐ Read a selection focusing on visual art, performance art, fashion, and Afrofuturism.
- ☐ Read for 20 minutes in the morning.
- ☐ Read for 20 minutes in the afternoon.
- ☐ Read for 20 minutes in the evening.
- ☐ Read for 20 minutes at night.
- ☐ Read a selection focusing on theater or read a script.
- ☐ Read a selection focusing on race and technology.
- ☐ Read a non-fiction selection that focuses on a television show or a movie.
- ☐ Visit a museum, historical or cultural institution, historical house, or art gallery inspired by one of your selections. Find one object, work of art, or exhibition that you believe connects to your selection.
- ☐ Read a selection by Samuel Delany, Octavia E. Butler, or Jackie Ormes.
- ☐ Choose one of the selections you read and imagine how you would adapt it to the large or small screen, stage, or another form of media.
- ☐ Have a dessert or snack inspired by the culture or location of one of your selections.
- ☐ Create a piece of art inspired by one of your selections.
- ☐ Try one of the individual or group literacy activities on pages 16-17.
- ☐ Read a selection that has been adapted for the small or large screen. Read the selection, watch the adaptation, and compare and contrast the two versions.
- ☐ Attend a program or event at your local public, college, or university library inspired by one of your selections.

THE INFINITE FUTURE

This challenge list is inspired by Zone 3: Infinite Possibilities in the exhibition. Complete the number of challenges according to your grade or educator level to win.

Sojourners (Grades 3-5): 5 Tasks

Navigators (Grades 6-8): 7 Tasks

Innovators (Grades 9-12): 9 Tasks

Educators (Grades 3-12): 9 Tasks

- ☐ Read a selection focusing on African Americans and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- ☐ Read a comic selection that is "displayed in Zone 3."
- ☐ Read a non-fiction selection and create a comic book adaption or write a short story inspired by that selection.
- ☐ Read every day for 15 minutes for three weeks.
- ☐ Read at least one issue from three different comic series.
- ☐ Read for 20 minutes in the morning.
- ☐ Read for 40 minutes in the afternoon.
- ☐ Read for 20 minutes in the evening.
- ☐ Read for 30 minutes at night.
- ☐ Read a selection that discusses the relationship between urban planning, architecture, African Americans, Africa, or the African diaspora.
- ☐ Read a selection set on another world than Earth.
- ☐ Read a selection set entirely in space.
- ☐ Visit a museum, historical or cultural institution, historical house, or art gallery inspired by one of your selections. Find one object, work of art, or exhibition that you believe connects to your selection.
- ☐ Read a selection set in a utopia or a dystopia.
- ☐ Read a selection focusing on activism and politics (on a broad or specific topic) centered on African Americans, Africa, or the African diaspora.
- ☐ Read a selection that discusses the relationship between environmental sustainability or justice and African Americans, Africa, or the African diaspora.
- ☐ Create a piece of art using technology inspired by one of your selections.
- ☐ Try one of the individual or group literacy activities on pages 16-17.
- ☐ Read a selection that has been adapted for the small or large screen. Read the selection, watch the adaption, and compare and contrast the two versions.
- ☐ Attend a program or event at your local public, college, or university library inspired by one of your selections.




CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

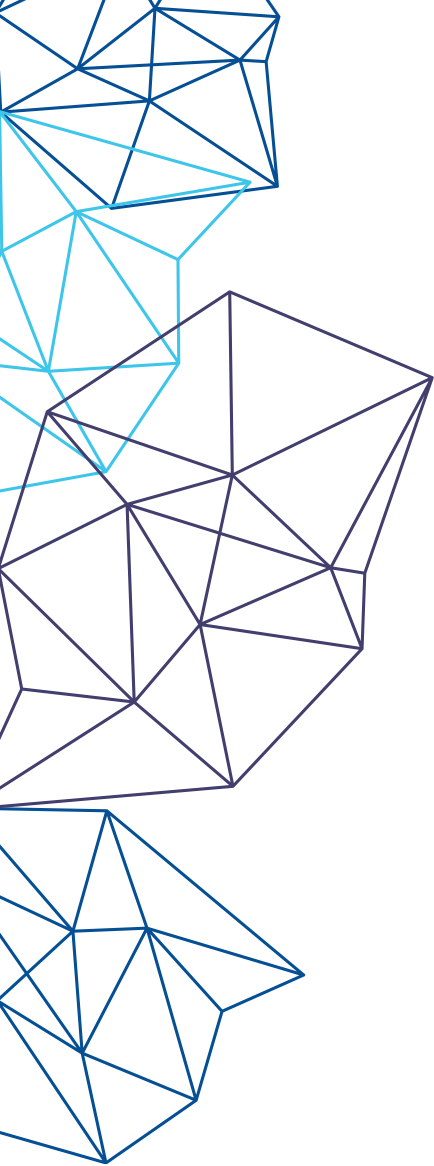
THIS IS AWARDED TO

for completing the
NMAAHC Summer Reading Challenge 2023.

DATE



 Smithsonian



 Smithsonian

nmaahc.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/afrofuturism

