NMAAHC READING RESOURCES

Created for 3rd - 12th grade students and educators, the book selections are curated to provide enrichment about African American history and culture based on the permanent and temporary exhibitions within the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).
Visual Art and the American Experience is the only permanent art exhibition on the Smithsonian Mall dedicated to illustrating the critical role American artists of African descent played in shaping the history of American art. The exhibition contains various modes of fine art production, including painting, sculpture, work(s) on paper, art installations, mixed media, photography, and digital media.
CULTURE GALLERIES

VISUAL ART AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

SOJOURNERS
THIRD TO FIFTH GRADE

Beautiful Shades of Brown: The Art of Laura Wheeler Waring
Charles R. Smith Jr.
Nonfiction

Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment
Parker Curry and Jessica Curry
Nonfiction

Art From Her Heart: Folk Artist Clementine Hunter
Kathy Whitehead
Nonfiction

Infinite Hope: A Black Artist’s Journey from World War II to Peace
Ashley Bryan
Nonfiction

Sewing Stories: Harriet Powers’ Journey from Slave to Artist
Barbara Herkert
Nonfiction

Draw What You See: The Life and Art of Benny Andrews
Barbara Herkert
Nonfiction

Walking The Log
Bessie Nickens
Nonfiction

NAVIGATOR
SIXTH TO EIGHTH GRADE

Alma Woodsey Thomas: Painter and Educator
Charlotte Etinde-Crompton and Samuel Willard Crompton
Nonfiction

I Heard God Talking to Me: William Edmondson and His Stone Carvings
Elizabeth Spires
Poetry

New Kid
Jerry Craft
Fiction

Wake Up Our Souls: A Celebration of African American Artists
Tonya Bolden
Nonfiction

Robert S. Duncanson: Landscape Painter
Charlotte Etinde-Crompton and Samuel Willard Crompton
Nonfiction

Henry Ossawa Tanner: Landscape Painter and Expatriate
Charlotte Etinde-Crompton and Samuel Willard Crompton
Nonfiction

Horace Pippin: Painter and Decorated Soldier
Charlotte Etinde-Crompton and Samuel Willard Crompton
Nonfiction

Augusta Savage: Sculptor of the Harlem Renaissance
Charlotte Etinde-Crompton and Samuel Willard Crompton
Nonfiction
INNOVATORS
NINTH TO TWELVE GRADE

The Obama Portraits
Taina Caragol, Dorothy Moss, Richard Powell, and Kim Sajet
Nonfiction

A History of African-American Artists: From 1792 to the Present
Romare Bearden and Harry Henderson
Nonfiction

Kehinde Wiley: A New Republic
Edited by Eugenie Tsai
Nonfiction

Encyclopedia of Black Comics
Sheena C. Howard
Nonfiction

African Americans in the Visual Arts
Steven Otfinoski
Nonfiction

Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present
Deborah Willis
Nonfiction

The Highwaymen: Florida's African-American Landscape Painters
Gary Monroe
Nonfiction

EDUCATORS
THIRD TO TWELVE

SOS—Calling All Black People: A Black Arts Movement Reader
Edited by John Bracey, Sonia Sanchez, and James Smethurst
Nonfiction

African American Art and Artists
Samella Lewis
Nonfiction

Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters
Patricia A. Turner
Nonfiction

Reflections in Black: A History of Black Photographers 1840 to the Present
Deborah Willis
Nonfiction

Child of the Fire: Mary Edmonia Lewis and the Problem of Art History’s Black and Indian Subject
Kirsten Pai Buick
Nonfiction

Mounting Frustration: The Art Museum in the Age of Black Power
Susan E. Cahan
Nonfiction

Kwame Brathwaite: Black Is Beautiful
Susan E. Cahan
Nonfiction