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).
This exhibition immerses visitors into a conversation that examines what fighting in the first global war meant for African Americans. World War represented the next major opportunity to reassert post-Civil War expectations of full citizenship. They assumed that participating in a war to help make the world safe for democracy would in turn help them achieve their own level of democracy. However, they returned to an unchanged America. As a result of the status quo, African Americans gave birth to the “New Negro”, who aggressively pursued new racial attitudes, ideals, and cultural expressions.
TEMPO RARY EXH IBIT

WE RETURN FIGHTING

SOJOURNERS
THIRD TO FIFTH GRADE

Harlem Hellfighters
J. Patrick Lewis
Nonfiction

NAVIGATOR
SIXTH TO EIGHTH GRADE

Harlem Stomp!: A Cultural History Of
The Harlem Renaissance
Laban Carrick Hill
Nonfiction

The Harlem Hellfighters: When Pride
Met Courage
Walter Dean Myers and Bill Miles
Nonfiction

INNOVATORS
NINTH TO TWELVE GRADE

Scott's Official History of the American
Negro in the World War
Emmett J. Scott
Nonfiction

1919
Eve L. Ewing
Poetry

The Harlem Hellfighters
Max Brooks
Fiction

EDUCATORS
THIRD TO TWELVE

All Blood Runs Red: The Legendary Life
of Eugene Bullard—Boxer, Pilot, Soldier, Spy
Phil Keith with Tom Clavin
Nonfiction

We Return Fighting: World War I and
the Shaping of Modern Black Identity
Edited by Kinshasha Holman Conwill
Nonfiction

1919, The Year of Racial Violence: How
African Americans Fought Back
David F. Krugler
Nonfiction

Torchbearers of Democracy: African
American Soldiers in the World War I Era
Chad L. Williams
Nonfiction

Two Colored Women in World War I France
Addie W. Hunton and Kathryn M. Johnson
Nonfiction

A Life in Ragtime: A Biography of James
Reese Europe
Reid Badger
Nonfiction
Over There and At Home

African American life during World War I, whether at home, in the military, or overseas, included a variety of roles. Some had encompassed experiences of missing loved ones, racial and ethnic identity, and the effects of war on communities. These stories included the experiences of over 900 African American soldier veterans, and the story of the Great Migration and the role of women in shaping the era. Hundreds of images in this section illustrate the vast presence of African Americans.