



A Companion to African American Literature

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Through a series of essays that explore the forms, themes, genres, historical contexts, major authors, and latest critical approaches, *A Companion to African American Literature* presents a comprehensive chronological overview of African American literature from the eighteenth century to the modern day

- Examines African American literature from its earliest origins, through the rise of antislavery literature in the decades leading into the Civil War, to the modern development of contemporary African American cultural media, literary aesthetics, and political ideologies
- Addresses the latest critical and scholarly approaches to African American literature
- Features essays by leading established literary scholars as well as newer voices

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Editorial Review

Review

A master archivist and historian of African American literature, Gene Jarrett has assembled a compelling new collection of essays for this necessary addition to the study of African American writing and thought. The volume offers a comprehensive survey of the African American canon, but also goes in new directions, giving fresh emphasis to the earliest writing of African Americans as well as to the exciting field of Latino/-a writing in the African Diaspora. This is a field-defining collection.”—**Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Harvard University

“A Companion to African American Literature is a pathbreaking collection that will revolutionize the study of African American literature and literary culture. Written by leading established and emerging scholars in the field, the essays both provide a comprehensive overview of African American literary trends and preoccupations and challenge our conventional understanding of racial and national identities, literary genres, and intertextual influences. Accessible yet scholarly, this volume will be of enormous value to scholars, students, and general readers.”—**Valerie Smith**, Princeton University

“Presenting a comprehensive overview of the field from the 20th century to the present, *A Companion to African American Literature*, ed. Gene Andrew Jarrett (Wiley-Blackwell), provides readers with a fairly comprehensive overview of one of America’s richest literary traditions.” (*American Literary Scholarship*, 2012)

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From the Back Cover

A Companion to African American Literature presents a comprehensive overview of the field from the eighteenth century to the present day. Embracing the full range of African American literature, essays explore forms, themes, genres, historical contexts, and major authors, and present the latest critical approaches. Featuring contributions from both established and rising scholars, whose in-depth essays cover the Black Atlantic and the New World literatures of the African Diaspora in the late eighteenth and early

nineteenth centuries; the rise of antislavery literature and the African American novel in the decades leading into the Civil War; the evolution of African American literary genres and political thought between the Civil War and World War One; the modern development of African American cultural media, literary aesthetics, and political ideologies between the World Wars; and the literary and methodological complexities of contemporary African American literature, *A Companion to African American Literature* offers invaluable insights for anyone wishing to gain a deeper understanding of one of America's richest and most complex literary traditions.

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