



F O R E S T P A R K
P U B L I C L I B R A R Y

Juneteenth Reading and Watching List

Juneteenth honors the legal end of slavery rather than a political strategy like that which inspired the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. The [original intent of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation](#) was to preserve the Union and weaken the South—rather than take a moral position on slavery. It took until the [Thirteenth Amendment's passing in April 1865](#) to seal a complete, legal, and constitutional abolishment of slave ownership, then several weeks more for word of abolishment to spread throughout the country.

Also, celebrating Juneteenth means giving time and attention to a moment in history that continues to define American identity. It is as celebratory as it is reflective, with the potential to galvanize further social change. Memorializing Juneteenth doesn't just occur in parades and barbecues. Understanding racism throughout all American history is an imperative way to mark the occasion.

For more information or assistance, please contact Library staff at 708-366-7171 or email askus@fppl.org.

NON-FICTION

- **Emancipation Proclamation 1863 / Thirteen Amendment 1865**

Who freed the slaves? : the fight over the Thirteenth Amendment

Leonard Richards, 2015

Book - 342.7308 RIC

In the popular imagination, slavery in the United States ended with Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. The Proclamation may have been limited--freeing only slaves within Confederate states who were able to make their way to Union lines--but it is nonetheless generally seen as the key moment, with Lincoln's leadership setting into

motion a train of inevitable events that culminated in the passage of an outright ban: the Thirteenth Amendment.

Charleston syllabus : readings on race, racism, and racial violence

Chad Louis Williams, Kidada Williams, Keisha Blain, 2016

Book - 323 WIL

A collection of new essays and columns published in the wake of the 2015 Charleston, SC, massacre, along with excerpts from key scholarly books. It draws from a variety of disciplines--history, sociology, urban studies, law, critical race theory--and includes discussion questions and a selected and annotated bibliography for further reading

Forced Into Glory: Abraham's Lincoln's White Dream

Lerone Bennet, Jr. 2000

Book - 973.7 BEN

Beginning with the argument that the Emancipation Proclamation did not actually free African American slaves, this dissenting view of Lincoln's greatness surveys the president's policies, speeches, and private utterances and concludes that he had little real interest in abolition.

Lincoln and the abolitionists : John Quincy Adams, slavery, and the Civil War

Fred Kaplan, 2017

Book - 973.7092 KAP (Available as eBook on Hoopla)

Explores how the differing experiences and viewpoints of two Presidents shaped slavery and race relations in America for more than a century.

- **American Reconstruction**

Capitol Men: The Epic Story of Reconstruction Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen

Philip Dray, 2010

eBook - Hoopla

Reconstruction was a time of idealism and sweeping change, as the victorious Union created citizenship rights for the freed slaves and granted the vote to black men. Sixteen black Southerners, elected to the U.S. Congress, arrived in Washington to advocate reforms such as public education, equal rights, land distribution, and the suppression of the Ku Klux Klan. But these men faced astounding odds.

- **Jim Crow**

A long dark night : race in America from Jim Crow to World War II

Michael Martinez, 2016

Book - 305.8009 MAR

For a brief time following the end of the US Civil War, American political leaders had an opportunity--slim, to be sure, but not beyond the realm of possibility--to remake society

so that black Americans and other persons of color could enjoy equal opportunity in civil and political life. It was not to be.

- **The Great Migration**

The Warmth of Other Suns

Isabel Wilkerson,

eBook - Libby

Pulitzer Prize–winning author Isabel Wilkerson chronicles one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life.

Isabel Wilkerson

Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent

Print release date: August 11, 2020

The Pulitzer Prize–winning, bestselling author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions.

Chicago's new Negroes : modernity, the great migration, & Black urban life

Davarian L. Baldwin, 2007

Book - LOCAL HIST 305.8 BAL

As early-twentieth-century Chicago swelled with an influx of at least 250,000 new black urban migrants, the city became a center of consumer capitalism, flourishing with professional sports, beauty shops, film production companies, recording studios, and other black cultural and communal institutions.

- **Civil Rights Movement / Black Lives Matter**

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

Michelle Alexander, 2010

With dazzling candor, legal scholar Michelle Alexander argues that "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it." By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control—relegating millions to a permanent second-class status—even as it formally adheres to the principle of colorblindness. In the words of Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, this book is a "call to action."

Black against empire : the history and politics of the Black Panther Party

Joshua Bloom, 2016

Book - 322.4 BLO

In Oakland, California, in 1966, community college students Bobby Seale and Huey Newton armed themselves, began patrolling the police, and promised to prevent police brutality. Unlike the Civil Rights Movement that called for full citizenship rights for blacks within the U.S., the Black Panther Party rejected the legitimacy of the U.S. government and positioned itself as part of a global struggle against American imperialism.

Ballots and bullets : Black Power politics and urban guerrilla warfare in 1968 Cleveland
James D. Robenalt. 2018
Book - 305.8009 ROB

The torture machine : racism and police violence in Chicago
Flint Taylor, 2019
Book - 363.2 TAY

The Torture Machine takes the reader from the 1969 murders of Black Panther Party chairman Fred Hampton and Panther Mark Clark through the dogged pursuit of commander Jon Burge, the leader of a torture ring within the CPD that used barbaric methods, including electric shock, to elicit false confessions from suspects.

On the Other Side of Freedom
DeRay Mckesson, 2018
Book - 323.092

“On the Other Side of Freedom reveals the mind and motivations of a young man who has risen to the fore of millennial activism through study, discipline, and conviction. His belief in a world that can be made better, one act at a time, powers his narratives and opens up a view on the costs, consequences, and rewards of leading a movement.” - Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation
Keeanga-Yamahtta, 2016
eBook and eAudiobook - On Hoopla and Libby

Activist and scholar Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor surveys the historical and contemporary ravages of racism and persistence of structural inequality such as mass incarceration and Black unemployment. In this context, she argues that this new struggle against police violence holds the potential to reignite a broader push for Black liberation.

The color of law : a forgotten history of how our government segregated America
Richard Rothstein, 2017
Book 305.8009 ROT (eBook available on Libby)

In this groundbreaking history of the modern American metropolis, Richard Rothstein, a leading authority on housing policy, explodes the myth that America's cities came to be racially divided through de facto segregation--that is, through individual prejudices, income differences, or the actions of private institutions like banks and real estate agencies.

The color of compromise : the truth about the American church's complicity in racism

Jemar Tisby, 2019

Book - 200.89 TIS

Churches remain racially segregated and are largely ineffective in addressing complex racial challenges. In The Color of Compromise, Jemar Tisby takes us back to the root of this injustice in the American church, highlighting the cultural and institutional tables we have to flip in order to bring about progress between black and white people.

Tears we cannot stop : a sermon to white America

Michael Eric Dyson, 2017

Book - 305.8009 DYS (Available in CD - CD 305.8009 DYS)

If society is to make real racial progress, people must face difficult truths, including being honest about how Black grievance has been ignored, dismissed, or discounted.

Between the World and Me

Ta-Nehisi Coates, 2015

Book - BIO COATES (Available in CD, Large Print, eBook and eAudiobook on Libby and Hoopla)

At every stage of his life, he's sought in his explorations of history answers to the mysteries that surrounded him -- most urgently, why he, and other black people he knew, seemed to live in fear.

How to Be an Antiracist

Ibram X Kendi, 2019

Book - 305.8009 KEN (Available in eBook and aAudiobook on Libby)

This work explains an array of antiracist ideas to his readers in order to help them understand the depth of discrimination in our society and how they can stand against it.

Stamped from the beginning : the definitive history of racist ideas in America

Ibram

Ibram X Kendi, 2016

Book - 305.8009 KEN

Americans like to insist that we are living in a postracial, color-blind society. In fact, racist thought is alive and well; it has simply become more sophisticated and more insidious.

They can't kill us all : Ferguson, Baltimore, and a new era in America's racial justice movement

Welsey Lowery, 2016

Book - 305.896 LOW

A behind-the-scenes account of the #blacklivesmatter movement shares insights into the young men and women behind it, citing the racially charged controversies that have

motivated members and the economic, political, and personal histories that inform its purpose.

- **Impactful African Americans ([results list](#))**

Black Men Built the Capitol: Discovering African-American History In and Around Washington, D.C.

Jesse Holland, 2014

eBook - Libby

The book shines a light on the African Americans who have not traditionally been properly credited for actually building important landmarks in the city. It includes sections devoted to specific monuments such as the African American Civil War Memorial, the real "Uncle Tom's cabin," the Benjamin Banneker Overlook and Frederick Douglass Museum, the Hall of Fame for Caring Americans, and other existing statues, memorials and monuments.

Oprah : a biography

Kitty Kelley, 2010

Book - BIO WINFREY (Available in aAudiobook on Libby and Large Print)

Dreams from my father : a story of race and inheritance

Barack Obama, 1995

Book - BIO OBAMA (Available in CD, eBook and eAudiobook on Libby)

On the Line

Serena Williams, 2009

Book - BIO WILLIAMS

The Black West

William Loren Katz, 2019

eBook - Hoopla

A Documentary and Pictorial History of the African American Role in the Westward Expansion of the United States that deepens our understanding of the vital role played by African American men and women on America's early frontiers. This revised volume includes a new chapter on the Civil War and the experiences of African Americans on the western frontier.

Disintegration : the splintering of Black America

by Robinson, Eugene, 1954-

Publication Date 2010

Book - 305.896 ROB

Explains how years of desegregation and affirmative action have led to the revelation of four distinct African American groups who reflect unique political views and circumstances, in a report that also illuminates crucial modern debates on race and class.

We were eight years in power : an American tragedy

by Coates, Ta-Nehisi,
author.

Edition First edition.

Publication Date 2017

Book - 973.932 COA (Available in Large Print, CD, eBook, and audiobook)

Award-winning author Ta-Nehisi Coates presents an annotated collection of new and previously published essays on the Obama era, including an interview with the president himself.

Democracy in black : how race still enslaves the American soul

by Glaude, Eddie S., Jr., 1968-
author.

Edition First edition.

Publication Date 2016

Book - 305.896 GLA

A polemic on the state of black America that argues that we don't yet live in a post-racial society.

The fire this time : a new generation speaks about race

by Ward, Jesmyn, editor.
editor.

Edition First Scribner hardcover edition.

Publication Date 2016

Book - 305.896 FIR (Available in CD)

National Book Award-winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America, *The Fire Next Time*, as a jumping off point for this groundbreaking collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time.

- **Music / Arts**

I'll take you there : Mavis Staples, the Staple Singers, and the march up freedom's highway
Greg Kot, 2014

Book - BIO STAPLES

Recounts the life and achievements of the lead singer of the Staple Singers, revealing how her family fused diverse musical genres to transcend racism and oppression

through song, and discussing her collaborations with fellow artists and her impact on civil rights culture.

The Portable Harlem Renaissance

David Levering Lewis, 1995

From its beginnings in 1919, with soldiers returning from the Great War, to its sputtering end in 1934, with the Great Depression, the New Negro Movement in arts and letters proclaimed the experience of African American men and women.

One last word : wisdom from the Harlem Renaissance

Nikki Grimes, 2017

Book - J 811.54 GRI

In this collection of poetry, Nikki Grimes looks afresh at the poets of the Harlem Renaissance -- including voices like Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, and many more writers of importance and resonance from this era -- by combining their work with her own original poetry.

Keep on pushing : Black power music from blues to hip-hop

Denise Sullivan, 2011

Book - 781.64 SUL

The marriage of music and social change didn't originate with the movements for civil rights and Black Power in the 1950s and 1960s, but never before and never again was the relationship between the two so dynamic.

Party music : the inside story of the Black Panthers' band and how black power transformed soul music

Rickey Vincent, 2013

Book - 781.644 VIN

Interviews reveal the never-before-heard story of the Black Panthers' R&B band the Lumpen and how five rank-and-file members performed popular music for revolutionaries. Beyond the mainstream civil rights movement that is typically discussed are the stories of the Black Panthers, the Black Arts Movement, the antiwar activism, and other radical movements that were central to the impulse that transformed black popular music--and created soul music.

Harlem Renaissance : five novels of the 1920s

2011

Book - FIC HARLEM

In little more than a decade during the 1920s and 30s, a new generation of African American writers, artists, musicians, and intellectuals based mostly in upper Manhattan burst through aesthetic conventions with unprecedented openness and daring.

The defender : how the legendary Black newspaper changed America : from the age of the Pullman porters to the age of Obama

Ethan Michaeli, 2016

Book - 071.3 MIC

Giving voice to the voiceless, the Chicago Defender condemned Jim Crow, catalyzed the Great Migration, and focused the electoral power of black America.

FICTION

Juneteenth

Ralph Ellison

Publication Date 1999

Book - FIC ELLISON (Available in CD - CD FIC ELLISON)

In Washington, D.C., in the 1950s, Adam Sunraider, a race-baiting senator from a New England state, is mortally wounded by an assassin's bullet while making a speech on the Senate floor.

Queenie : a novel

Candice Carty-Williams, 2019

Book - FIC CARTY-WILLIAMS (Available in CD FIC CARTY-WILLIAMS)

Queenie Jenkins is a 25-year-old Jamaican British woman living in London, straddling two cultures and slotting neatly into neither.

Not Without Laughter

Langston Hughes, 1995

Book - FIC HUGHES

This is a moving portrait of African-American family life in 1930s Kansas, following young Sandy Rogers as he comes of age. Sandy's mother, Annjee, works as a housekeeper for a rich white family, while his father traverses the country in search of work.

The Darker Face of the Earth

Rita Dove, 2017

eBook - Hoopla

Set on a plantation in pre-Civil War South Carolina, it has been performed to great critical acclaim.

Rachel

Angelina Weld Grimké

eBook - Hoopla

Written exactly midway between the American Civil War and the end of slavery, and the explosion of Civil Rights in the 1960's, this hauntingly beautiful and profoundly shocking play still asks urgent questions for today.

Black Leopard, Red Wolf

Marlon James, 2019

Book - SF JAMES (Available in CD - CD SF JAMES, and eBook on Libby)

The epic novel from the Man Booker Prize-winning author of A Brief History of Seven Killings. In the stunning first novel in Marlon James's Dark Star trilogy, myth, fantasy, and history come together to explore what happens when a mercenary is hired to find a missing child.

Salvage the Bones

Jesmyn Ward, 2011

Book - FIC WARD (Available eBook on Libby)

Enduring a hardscrabble existence as the children of alcoholic and absent parents, four siblings from a coastal Mississippi town prepare their meager stores for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina while struggling with such challenges as a teen pregnancy and a dying litter of prize pups.

Freshwater

Akwaeke Emezi, 2018

Book - (Available eAudiobook and eBook on Hoopla)

Ada, a young Nigerian woman was born with multiple personalities (or spirits). As the story goes on, we hear from each, as they drive Ada towards reckless behavior as she grows up. But once she moves to America and endures a traumatic event, the spirits threaten to takeover.

Such a Fun Age

Kiley Reid, 2019

Book - FIC REID (Available in eAudiobook and eBook on Libby)

A striking and surprising debut novel from an exhilarating new voice, Such a Fun Age is a page-turning and big-hearted story about race and privilege, set around a young black babysitter, her well-intentioned employer, and a surprising connection that threatens to undo them both.

Indigo

Beverly Jenkins, 1996

eBook - Libby, eAudiobook - Hoopla

As a child Hester Wyatt escaped slavery, but now the dark skinned beauty is a dedicated member of Michigan's Underground railroad, offering other runaways a chance at the freedom she has learned to love.

Gingerbread

Helen Oyeyemi, 2019

Book - FIC OYEYEMI

The prize-winning, bestselling author of *Boy, Snow, Bird* and *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours* returns with a bewitching and inventive novel. Influenced by the mysterious place gingerbread holds in classic children's stories, beloved novelist Helen Oyeyemi invites readers into a delightful tale of a surprising family legacy, in which the inheritance is a recipe.

Patsy

Nicole Dennis-Benn, 2019

Book - FIC DENNIS-BENN (Available eAudiobook on Hoopla and eBook on Libby)

In an effort to fight for love and put herself first, Patsy leaves her daughter in Jamaica to follow her oldest friend to New York. But as she's living in America as an undocumented immigrant, Patsy must adjust to her brand new life.

Everything Inside

Edwidge Danticat, 2019

Book - FIC DANTICAT

In this book of short stories, Haitian American writer Edwidge Danticat explores themes of unexpected romance, divorce, and more, in eight intimate tales of life and love.

Homecoming

Yaa Gyasi, 2016

Book - FIC GYASI (Available eAudiobook on Libby and CD)

Half-sisters Effia and Esi are born in two different villages in 18th century Ghana. One marries a British slaver, while another is sold into slavery and shipped to America. Gyasi's prose follows the generations and descendants that follow.

- **Poetry**

The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou

eBook - Libby

The Collected Poems of Lucille Clifton 1965 - 2010

Lucille Clifton

eBook - Hoopla

The Essential Gwendolyn Brooks

Gwendolyn Brooks, 2005

Book - 811 BRO

Great African American Literary Voices

Langston Hughes,
eAudiobook - Hoopla

Hear rare recordings from five of the most-respected African American poets reading their own works: Langston Hughes, *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*; Arna Bontemps, *Nocturne At Bethesda*; Countee Cullen, *Heritage*; Gwendolyn Brooks, *The Vacant Lot*; and Sonia Sanchez, *Black Magic*.

Sister Outsider
Audre Lorde, 2016
eAudiobook - Hoopla

Presenting the essential writings of black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* celebrates an influential voice in twentieth-century literature.

Citizen : an American lyric
Claudia Rankine, 2017
Book - 814.6 RAN (Available in eAudiobook on Hoopla)

In essay, image, and poetry, *Citizen* is a powerful testament to the individual and collective effects of racism in our contemporary, often named 'post-race' society.

We're on : a June Jordan Reader
June Jordan
Book 818.5409

With poetry, prose, letters, and more, this reader is a key resource for understanding the scope, complexity, and novelty of this pioneering Black American writer.

Tradition
Jericho Brown, 2019

Beauty abounds in Jericho Brown's Pulitzer Prize-winning poetry collection, despite and inside of the evil that pollutes the everyday. A National Book Award finalist, *The Tradition* questions why and how we've become accustomed to terror: in the bedroom, the classroom, the workplace, and the movie theater. From mass shootings to rape to the murder of unarmed people by police, Brown interrupts complacency by locating each emergency in the garden of the body, where living things grow and wither—or survive.

● TO WATCH

Kanopy

[Whispers of Angels: A Story of the Underground Railroad](#)

Janson Media

Defiant, brave and free, the great abolitionists Thomas Garrett, William Still and Harriet Tubman, along with hundreds of lesser known and nameless opponents of slavery, formed a Corridor of Courage stretching from Maryland's eastern shore through the length of Delaware to Philadelphia and beyond -- making the Underground Railroad a real route to freedom for enslaved Americans before the Civil War.

[Abolition from the North Grows](#)

(Part of the Series: Up From Slavery)

This segment of the series speaks about the efforts by Northern Abolitionists to eliminate slavery prior to the Civil War.

[The Civil War - Emancipation Proclamation](#)

(Part of the Series: Up From Slavery)

This portion of the series talks about the causes of and start of the Civil War; the evolution of the drive to win on each side of the conflict and of President Lincoln's bold step towards freedom for all slaves in the United States.

[Aftermath of the Civil War and New "Freedom"](#)

(Part of the Series: Up From Slavery)

This section of the series looks at the conclusion of the War Between the States and the effects of the outcome for slaves, slave owners and the entire country.

[Ralph Ellison: An American Journey](#)

California Newsreel

It establishes Ellison as a central figure in contemporary debates over art, politics, race and nationhood. Narrated by Andre Braugher, the film brilliantly presents the first scenes ever filmed from Ellison's landmark novel, Invisible Man.

[I Am Not Your Negro - James Baldwin and Race in America](#)

Kino Lorber

An Oscar-nominated documentary narrated by Samuel L. Jackson, I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO explores the continued peril America faces from institutionalized racism.

[Race - The Power of an Illusion](#)

California Newsreel

The division of the world's peoples into distinct groups - "red," "black," "white" or "yellow" peoples - has become so deeply embedded in our psyches, so widely accepted, many would promptly dismiss as crazy any suggestion of its falsity.

[White Like Me - Race, Racism & White Privilege in America](#)

Media Education Foundation

White Like Me, based on the work of acclaimed anti-racist educator and author Tim Wise, explores race and racism in the US through the lens of whiteness and white privilege.

[Zora Neale Hurston: Jump at the Sun](#)

California Newsreel

Zora Neale Hurston, path-breaking novelist, pioneering anthropologist and one of the first black women to enter the American literary canon (Their Eyes Were Watching God), established the African American vernacular as one of the most vital, inventive voices in American literature.

[Richard Wright: Native Son, Author And Activist](#)

Author and activist, Richard Wright was an African-American author of novels, short stories and non-fiction that dealt with powerful themes and controversial topics. Much of his works concerned racial themes that helped redefine discussions of race relations in America in the mid-20th century.

What we want, what we believe : Black Panther Party library.

DVD - YA DVD 305.8961 WHA

Examines the history of the Black Panthers through newsreel footage and interviews.

Maya Angelou

Film - Hoopla

This film celebrates Dr. Maya Angelou by weaving her words with rare and intimate archival photographs and videos, which paint hidden moments of her exuberant life during some of America's most defining moments.

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