

Canadian Literature and Poetry in English

Black Canadian Literature & Poetry

African-Canadian and Caribbean-Canadian Literatures & Poetry: Anthologies

<p><i>Black Writers Matter</i> <i>French, Whitney, editor</i></p> <p>An anthology of African-Canadian writing, it offers a cross-section of established writers and newcomers to the literary world who tackle contemporary and pressing issues with prose.</p> <p>All contributions are written from the first-person perspective and include writings by Simone Makeba Dalton, Cason Sharpe, Rowan McCandless, Phillip Dwight Morgan, Fatuma Adar, Whitney French, Christina Brobby, and others.</p>	<p>Available Online</p> <p>PR9194.5 .B55 B53 2019 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Revival: An Anthology of Black Canadian Writing</i> <i>Bailey Nurse, Donna, editor</i></p>	<p>PR9194.5 .B55 R48 2006 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Eyeing the North Star: Directions in African-Canadian Literature</i> <i>Clarke, George Elliott, editor</i></p>	<p>PR9194.5 .B55 E93 1997 Stacks</p>
<p><i>In the Black: New African Canadian Literature</i> <i>Prince, Althea, editor</i></p> <p>In a mix of short fiction, poetry, dub poetry and hip hop, some of Black Canada's foremost writers from across generations explore history, community, love, and healing.</p> <p>The collection includes writing from Catherine Bain, George Elliott Clarke, Gayle Gonsalves, Joanne C. Hillhouse, Clifton Joseph, Dwayne Morgan, Motion, Jelani Nias (J-Wyze), Djanet Sears, Mansa Trotman, and the editor, Althea Prince.</p>	<p>PS8235 .B5 I5 2012 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Queer Returns: Essays on Multiculturalism, Diaspora and Black Studies</i> <i>Walcott, Rinaldo</i></p> <p>The essays question what it means to live in a multicultural society, how diaspora impacts identity and culture and how the categories of queer and Black and Black queer complicate the political claims of multiculturalism, diaspora and queer politics.</p>	<p>HQ76.25 .W36 2016 Stacks</p>

<p><i>The Great Black North: Contemporary African-Canadian Poetry</i> <i>Mason-John, Valerie, and Kevan Anthony, editors</i></p> <p>The collection documents the historic heritage of Black Canadian poets: George Elliott Clarke, Ian Keteku, Lillian Allen, Afua Cooper, Olive Senior, Frederick Ward, Lorna Goodison, Tanya Evanson, Pamela Mordecai, Harold Head, and many others.</p> <p>The poems in the anthology are derived from oral and written sources.</p>	<p>PR9194.5 .B55 G74 2013 Stacks</p>
<p><i>The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology</i> <i>Vernon, Karina, editor</i></p> <p>An comprehensive anthology of fiction and nonfiction writings by Black authors from the Prairies, from nineteenthth-century fur traders and pioneers to avant-garde writers of the present day.</p> <p>Includes correspondence, memoirs, excerpts from autobiographies, political treatises and writings, photographs, interviews, short stories, poems and other types of writing from Daniel T. Williams, Mildred Jane Lewis Ware, George Washington Slater, Jr. Lawrence Hill, Esi Edugyan, Miranda Martini, and other contributors.</p>	<p>Available Online PR9194.5 .B55 B527 2020 Stacks</p>
<p><i>The Black Notes: Fresh Writing by Black Women and Girls</i> <i>Prince, Althea, editor</i></p> <p>A collection consising of stories and poems written by twenty Black women and girls.</p>	<p>PR9194.5 .W6 B53 2017 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Nine Black Women: An Anthology of Nineteenth-Century Writers from the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and the Caribbean</i> <i>Ferguson, Moira, editor</i></p>	<p>Available Online</p>
<p>History & Interpretation</p> <p><i>Odysseys Home: Mapping African-Canadian Literature</i> <i>Clarke, George Elliott</i></p> <p>Presents a history of the African-Canadian literature and oral cultures, identifies African-Canadian literature's distinguishing characteristics, argues for its relevance to both African Diasporic Black and Canadian Studies, and critiques several of its key creators and texts.</p>	<p>Available Online PR9188.2 .B57 C56 2002 Stacks</p>

Authors whose work is examined in the book are André Alexis, Dionne Brand, Austin Clarke, Claire Harris, and M. Nourbese Philip.	
<p><i>Directions Home: Approaches to African-Canadian Literature</i> <i>Clarke, George Elliott</i></p> <p>Building on the discoveries of his critically acclaimed <i>Odysseys Home</i>, Clarke showcases the importance of little-known texts, including church histories and slave narratives, and offers studies of autobiography, crime and punishment, jazz poetics, and musical composition.</p>	<p>Available Online</p> <p>PR9188.2 .B57 C55 2012 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Blackening Canada: Diaspora, Race, Multiculturalism</i> <i>Barrett, Paul</i></p> <p>Focusing on the work of Black, diasporic writers in Canada, (including Dionne Brand, Austin Clarke, and Tessa McWatt), the author investigates the manner in which literature can transform conceptions of nation and diaspora through a consideration of literary representation, public discourse, and the language of political protest.</p>	<p>Available Online</p> <p>PR9188.2 .B57 B38 2015 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Black Like Who? Writing Black Canada</i> <i>Walcott, Rinaldo</i></p> <p>By examining hip-hop, film, literature, social unrest, sports, music and the electronic media, Walcott assesses the role of Black Canadians in defining Canada and also argues critically against any notion of an essentialist Canadian Black identity.</p>	<p>Available Online</p> <p>PR9188.2 .B57 W38 2025 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Soundin' Canaan : Black Canadian Poetry, Music, and Citizenship</i> <i>Watkins, Paul DB.</i></p> <p>Part exploration of a key group of Black Canadian poets, part literary, cultural, and musical history, this book demonstrates how music in Black Canadian poetry is not solely aesthetic, but a form of social, ethical, and political expression. The title refers to the code name often used for Canada during the Black migration to Canada. The book analyzes the contributions of key Black Canadian poets, including their poetic styles and their performances.</p>	<p>Available Online</p> <p>PR9188.2 .B57 W38 2025 Stacks</p>
<p><i>The Past Is Present: the African-Canadian Experience in Lawrence Hill's Fiction</i> <i>Krampe, Christian J.</i></p>	<p>PR9199.3 .H5349 Z74 2012 Stacks</p>

<p>A comprehensive analysis of Hill's historical fictions.</p>	
<p><i>Why We Write: Conversations with African Canadian Poets and Novelists: Interviews</i> <i>Thomas, H. Nigel, editor</i></p> <p>African Canadian creative writers discuss the complexities of the writing experience.</p> <p>Includes interviews with: Ayanna Black, Austin Clarke, George Elliot Clarke, Wayde Compton, Afua Cooper, Bernadette Dyer, Cecil Foster, Claire Harris, Lawrence Hill, Nalo Hopkinson, Suzette Mayr, Pamela Mordecai, M. NourbeSe Philip, Althea Prince, and Robert Sandiford.</p>	<p>PR9194.5 .B55 W49 2006 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Luminous Ink: Writers on Writing in Canada</i> <i>McWatt, Tessa, et al., editors</i></p> <p>A collection of original pieces by some of Canada's best known writers. The essays ask, and attempt to answer, what it means to be a writer in Canada, what the literature of today can tell us about Canada's social arrangements, its political and aesthetic shapes, and its preoccupations.</p> <p>Contributors include Margaret Atwood, George Elliott Clarke, Camilla Gibb, Rawi Hage, Lawrence Hill, Greg Hollingshead, Lee Maracle, Lisa Moore, Michael Ondaatje, Marie-Helaine Poitras, Pascale Quiviger, Nino Ricci, Eden Robinson, Madeleine Thien, Judith Thompson, M.G. Vassanji, Rita Wong, and others.</p>	<p>PR9184.6 .L86 2018 Stacks</p>
<p>"Canada in Black Transnational Studies: Austin Clarke, Affective Affiliations, and the Cross-Border Poetics of Caribbean Canadian Writing" <i>Bucknor, Michael A.</i></p> <p>This chapter in <i>Beyond Understanding Canada: Transnational Perspectives on Canadian Literature</i>, examines Caribbean-Canadian writing within the larger context of "black transnational space."</p>	<p>Available Online PR9184.3 .B39 2017 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Beyond the Canebrakes: Caribbean Women Writers in Canada</i> <i>Williams, Emily A.</i></p> <p>Essays and interviews that examine the work of West-Indian women writers living in Canada.</p> <p>The essays examine the work of literary artists</p>	<p>PR9188.2 .C37 B49 2008 Stacks</p>

<p>Claire Harris, Olive Senior, Lillian Allen, Afua Cooper, Dionne Brand, M. Nourbese Philip, Nalo Hopkinson, Pamela Mordecai, and Makeda Silvera as an integral not marginal element of the Canadian and world literature canons.</p>	
<p><i>Settling Down and Settling Up: The Second Generation in Black Canadian and Black British Women's Writing</i> <i>Medovarski, Andrea Katherine</i></p> <p>Comparing second generation children of immigrants in Black Canadian and Black British women's writing, the book extends discourses of diaspora and postcolonialism by expanding recent theory on movement and border crossing.</p> <p>Considering migration and settlement as complex, interrelated processes that inform each other across multiple generations and geographies, Medovarski challenges the gendered constructions of nationhood and diaspora with a particular focus on Canadian and British black women writers, including Dionne Brand, Esi Edugyan, and Zadie Smith.</p>	<p>Available Online</p> <p>PR120 .B55 M43 2019 Stacks</p>

Biographies & Memoirs

<p><i>Disorientation: Being Black in the World</i> <i>Williams, Ian</i></p> <p>Inspired by the essays of James Baldwin, Williams explores such topics as the characteristics of institutional whiteness, the importance of friendship in the struggle against racism, the meaning and uses of a Black person's smile, and blame culture.</p>	<p>PR9199.4 .W5448 D57 2021 Stacks</p>
<p><i>Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada</i> <i>Hill, Lawrence</i></p> <p>Hill reveals his struggle to understand his own personal and racial identity. He describes the ambiguity involved in searching for his identity.</p>	<p>PR9199.3 .H5349 Z47 2001 Stacks</p>

Bibliographies

<p><i>Caribbean and South-Asian Writers in Canada: A Bibliography of Their Works and of English-Language Criticism</i> <i>Kandiuk, Mary</i></p> <p>Brief biographies, chronological list of fiction books, parts of books, periodical articles, book reviews, and dissertations that critique the work of selected writers from the Caribbean or South Asia</p>	<p>Z1376 .C37 K36 2007 Reference</p>
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<p>and have resided in Canada for at least part of their writing careers.</p> <p>The authors included in the bibliography are André Alexis, Austin C. Clarke, M.G. Vassanji and many others.</p>	
<p><i>A Black Canadian Bibliography</i> <i>Francis, Flora Blizzard</i></p> <p>A bibliography of works by and about the diverse peoples of African descent living in Canada. It includes references to creative literary works.</p>	<p>Z1395 .N39 F73 2000 Reference</p>
<p><i>Literary Writings by [Black People] in Canada: A Preliminary Survey</i> <i>Elliot, Lorris and Michael S. Batts, editor</i></p> <p>The profiles in this pamphlet were compiled between 1979- 1986 so it does not reflect the current scholarship. Gives a brief biography of each author followed by a list of publications.</p>	<p>Z1377 .B62 E44 Reference</p>

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