

Toni Morrison Martin Luther King Jr

Choice Outstanding Academic Title 2014 Toni Morrison and Literary Tradition explores Toni Morrison's construction of alternative and oppositional narratives of history and places her work as central to the imagining and re-imagining of American and diasporic identities. Covering the Nobel Prize-winning author's novels (up to Home), as well as her essays, dramatic works and stories, this book situates Morrison's writings within both African-American and American writing traditions and examines them in terms of her continuous dialogue with the politics, philosophy and literary forms of these traditions. Toni Morrison and Literary Tradition provides a comprehensive analysis of Morrison's entire oeuvre, from her early interrogation of Black Power to her engagement with fin de siècle postcolonial critiques of nationalism and twenty-first-century considerations of ecology. Justine Baillie goes on to argue that Morrison's aesthetic should be understood in relation to the historical, political and cultural contexts in which it, and the African-American and American literary traditions upon which she draws, have been created and developed.

"She was our conscience. Our seer. Our truth-teller. She was a magician with language, who understood the power of words." - Oprah Winfrey A vital non-fiction collection from one of the most celebrated and revered American writers. Spanning four decades, these essays, speeches and meditations interrogate the world around us. They are concerned with race, gender and globalisation. The sweep of American history and the current state of politics. The duty of the press and the role of the artist. Throughout Mouth Full of Blood our search for truth, moral integrity and expertise is met by Toni Morrison with controlled anger, elegance and literary excellence. The collection is structured in three parts and these are heart-stoppingly introduced by a prayer for the dead of 9/11, a meditation on Martin Luther King and a eulogy for James Baldwin. Morrison's Nobel lecture, on the power of language, is accompanied by lectures to Amnesty International and the Newspaper Association of America. She speaks to graduating students and visitors to both the Louvre and America's Black Holocaust Museum. She revisits Bluest Eye, Sula and Beloved; reassessing the novels that have become touchstones for generations of readers. Mouth Full of Blood is a powerful, erudite and essential gathering of ideas that speak to us all. It celebrates Morrison's extraordinary contribution to the literary world.

In 2005 The New Press published Say It Plain' the celebrated companion to the American Race Works American Public Media documentary chronicling the great tradition of African American political speech of the past century. In full-throated public oratory' the kind that can stir the soul (Minneapolis Star Tribune)' Say It Plain collected and transcribed speeches by some of the twentieth century's leading African American cultural, literary and political figures. Many of these speeches were never before available in printed form. Following the success of that path-breaking volume' Say It Loud adds new depth to the oral and audio history of the modern struggle for racial equality and civil rights - focusing directly on the pivotal questions black America grappled with during the past four decades of resistance. With recordings unearthed from libraries and sound archives' and made widely available here for the first time' Say It Loud includes powerful speeches by Malcolm X' Angela Davis' Martin Luther King Jr.' James Cone' Toni Morrison' Colin Powell' and many others. Bringing the rich immediacy of the spoken word to a vital historical and intellectual tradition' Say It Loud illuminates the diversity of ideas and arguments pulsing through the black freedom movement.

This is an illuminating and original introduction to Toni Morrison's fiction, focusing on its engagement with African-American history and the way the traumas of the collective past shape Morrison's work. Jill Matus approaches Morrison's fiction as a form of cultural memory concerned with obscured or erased history. She argues that Morrison sees African-American history--from the times of slavery to the continued racial oppressions of the twentieth century--as a history of traumatic experience, and explores how this powerful storyteller bears witness to

painful yet richly enlivening past. Morrison's novels are known for their great lyric power, but they often dwell on scenes of horror, and Matus emphasizes the uneasy relations of memory, and pleasure in literature. In doing so, she sheds new light on Morrison as a contemporary writer working at a time when literature is being urgently explored for its capacity to memorialize and testify. Direct and accessible, this critical study highlights the political and historical contexts of Morrison's work, offers close readings of each of the novels, and concludes with a critical overview of the field of Morrison studies.

"What Good is Good?"

Say It Loud: Great Speeches on Civil Rights and African American Identity (Large Print 16pt)

Say It Loud!

"Suddenly,...All the Truth Was Coming Out"

Stories

Toni Morrison and Literary Tradition

Looks at how Toni Morrison comments on language and writing through her works of fiction. Simultaneous. Hardcover available.

In this engaging study, H. William Rice illuminates the mystery that is Ralph Ellison: the author of one complex, important novel who failed to complete his second; a black intellectual who remained notably reticent on political issues during the desegregation of his native South. Rice reads both *Invisible Man* and the posthumously published *Juneteenth* as novels that focus on the political uses of language. He explores Ellison's concept of the novel, promulgated in that author's two collections of essays, as an inherently political form of art. And he carefully considers the political context that undoubtedly impacted Ellison's work and thought: a world and a time rocked to its foundation by such revolutionary actors as Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X. Rice guides his reader to a greater understanding of Ralph Ellison, his oeuvre, and the American novel.

A box set of Toni Morrison's principal works, featuring *The Bluest Eye* (her first novel), *Beloved* (Pulitzer Prize winner), and *Song of Solomon* (National Book Critics Award winner). Staring unflinchingly into the abyss of slavery, *Beloved* transforms history into a story as powerful as *Exodus* and as intimate as a lullaby. This spellbinding novel tells the story of Sethe, a former slave who escapes to Ohio, but eighteen years later is still not free. In *The New York Times* bestselling novel, *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty and yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes, that she believes will allow her to finally fit in. Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to

disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. With *Song of Solomon*, Morrison transfigures the coming-of-age story as she follows Milkman Dead from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins, introducing an entire cast of strivers and seeresses, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized black world. This beautifully designed slipcase will make the perfect holiday and perennial gift.

A new edition of the classic New York Times bestseller edited by Toni Morrison, offering an encyclopedic look at the black experience in America from 1619 through the 1940s with the original cover restored. "I am so pleased the book is alive again. I still think there is no other work that tells and visualizes a story of such misery with seriousness, humor, grace and triumph."—Toni Morrison

Seventeenth-century sketches of Africans as they appeared to marauding European traders. Nineteenth-century slave auction notices. Twentieth-century sheet music for work songs and freedom chants. Photographs of war heroes, regal in uniform. Antebellum reward posters for capturing runaway slaves. An 1856 article titled "A Visit to the Slave Mother Who Killed Her Child." In 1974, Middleton A. Harris and Toni Morrison led a team of gifted, passionate collectors in compiling these images and nearly five hundred others into one sensational narrative of the black experience in America—*The Black Book*. Now in a newly restored hardcover edition, *The Black Book* remains a breathtaking testament to the legendary wisdom, strength, and perseverance of black men and women intent on freedom. Prominent collectors Morris Levitt, Roger Furman, and Ernest Smith joined Harris and Morrison (then a Random House editor, ultimately a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning Nobel Laureate) to spend months studying, laughing at, and crying over these materials—transcripts from fugitive slaves' trials and proclamations by Frederick Douglass and celebrated abolitionists, as well as chilling images of cross burnings and lynchings, patents registered by black inventors throughout the early twentieth century, and vibrant posters from "Black Hollywood" films of the 1930s and 1940s. Indeed, it was an article she found while researching this project that provided the inspiration for Morrison's masterpiece, *Beloved*. A labor of love and a vital link to the richness and diversity of African American history and

culture, The Black Book honors the past, reminding us where our nation has been, and gives flight to our hopes for what is yet to come. Beautifully and faithfully presented and featuring a foreword and original poem by Toni Morrison, The Black Book remains a timeless landmark work.

Essays, Speeches, Meditations

Mouth Full of Blood

James Baldwin, William F. Buckley Jr., and the Debate Over Race in America

Reading Race and Gender in Twain, Faulkner, Ellison, and Morrison

Reading Radiantly, Writing Responsibly

A Literary Reference to Her Life and Work

One of the most celebrated and revered writers in the history of American literature gives us a new nonfiction collection - a gathering of her essays, speeches, and meditations on society, culture, and art, spanning four decades. This book is divided into three parts: the first is introduced by a powerful prayer for the dead of 9/11, the second by a searching meditation on Martin Luther King Jr., and the last by a heart-wrenching eulogy for James Baldwin. In the writings and speeches included here, the author takes on contested social issues: the foreigner, female empowerment, the press, money, "Black matter(s)" and human rights. She looks at enduring aspects of culture: the role of the artist in society, the literary imagination, the Afro-American presence in American literature, and, in her Nobel lecture, the power of language itself. And here too is piercing commentary on her own work (including *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Tar Baby*, *Jazz*, *Beloved*, and *Paradise*) and that of others, among them painter and collagist Romare Bearden, author Toni Cade Bambara, and theater director Peter Sellars.--description from dust jacket.

This collection of comparative critical and theoretical essays examines James Baldwin and Toni Morrison's reciprocal literary relationship. By reading these authors side-by-side, this collection forges new avenues of discovery and interpretation related to their representations of African American and American literature and cultural experience.

Following *Say It Plain*, a collection of speeches that provides "a sweeping perspective on evolving issues of black identity in the struggle for equality" (Booklist). In "full-throated public oratory, the kind that can stir the soul", *Say It Plain* collected and transcribed speeches by some of the twentieth century's leading African American cultural, literary, and political figures. Many of the speeches were never before

available in printed form (Minneapolis Star-Tribune). Following the success of that groundbreaking volume, the *Say It Loud!* book adds new depth to the history of the modern struggle for racial equality and civil rights—focusing directly on the pivotal questions black America grappled with during the past four decades of resistance. With recordings unearthed from libraries and sound archives, and made widely available here for the first time, *Say It Loud!* includes powerful speeches by Malcolm X, Angela Davis, Martin Luther King Jr., James H. Cone, Toni Morrison, Colin Powell, and many others. Bringing the rich immediacy of the spoken word to a vital historical and intellectual tradition, *Say It Loud!* illuminates the diversity of ideas and arguments pulsing through the black freedom movement.

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • Here is the Nobel Prize winner in her own words: a rich gathering of her most important essays and speeches, spanning four decades that "speaks to today's social and political moment as directly as this morning's headlines" (NPR). These pages give us her searing prayer for the dead of 9/11, her Nobel lecture on the power of language, her searching meditation on Martin Luther King Jr., her heart-wrenching eulogy for James Baldwin. She looks deeply into the fault lines of culture and freedom: the foreigner, female empowerment, the press, money, "black matter(s)," human rights, the artist in society, the Afro-American presence in American literature. And she turns her incisive critical eye to her own work (*The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Tar Baby*, *Jazz*, *Beloved*, *Paradise*) and that of others. An essential collection from an essential writer, *The Source of Self-Regard* shines with the literary elegance, intellectual prowess, spiritual depth, and moral compass that have made Toni Morrison our most cherished and enduring voice.

Toni Morrison's Fiction

Beloved

An Ethical Poetics

Black Ink

Literary Responses to the Civil Rights Movement

A Book of Quotations and Proverbs

Toni Morrison's visionary explorations of freedom and identity, self and community, against the backdrop of African American history have established her as one of the foremost novelists of her time; an artist whose seriousness of purpose and imaginative power have earned her both widespread critical acclaim and great popular success. This guide to Morrison's work offers: an accessible introduction to Morrison's life and historical contexts a guide to her

key works and the themes and concerns that run through them an overview of critical texts and perspectives on each of Morrison's works cross-references between sections of the guide, in order to suggest links between texts, contexts and criticism a chronology of Morrison's life and works. Part of the Routledge Guides to Literature series, this volume is essential reading for all those beginning detailed study of Toni Morrison and seeking a guide to her work and a way into the wealth of contextual and critical material that surrounds it.

David A. J. Richards's *Resisting Injustice and The Feminist Ethics of Care in The Age of Obama: "Suddenly,...All The Truth Was Coming Out"* builds on his and Carol Gilligan's *The Deepening Darkness* to examine the roots of the resistance movements of the 1960s, the political psychology behind contemporary conservatism, and President Obama's present-day appeal as well as the reasons for the reactionary politics against him. Richards begins by laying out the basics of the ethics of care and proposing an alternative basis for ethics: relationality, which is based in convergent findings in infant research, neuroscience, and evolutionary psychology. He critically analyzes patriarchal politics and states that they are rooted in a reactionary psychology that attacks human relationality and ethics. From there, the book examines the 1960s resistance movements and argues that they were fundamentally oriented around challenging patriarchy. Richards asserts that the reactionary politics in America from the 1960s to the present are in service of an American patriarchy threatened by the resistance movements ranging from the 1960s civil rights movements to the present gay rights movement. Reactionary politics intend to marginalize and even reverse the ethical achievements accomplished by resistance movements—creating, in effect, a system of patriarchy hiding in democracy. Richards consequently argues that Obama's appeal is connected to his challenge to this system of patriarchy and will examine both Obama's appeal and the reactions against him in light of the 2012 presidential election. This book positions recent American political development in a broad analysis of the role of patriarchy in human oppression throughout history, and argues that a feminist-based ethics of care is necessary to form a more humane and inclusive democratic politics.

This book examines novels of Faulkner and Morrison as well as Mark Twain and Ralph Ellison in order to show that their works forcefully undermine the racial and sexual divisions characterizing both the South and contemporary culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Moreover, the book discusses theories of reader-response and reception study and elaborates a theory of reception study based on the historical or "archeological" methods of Michel Foucault. As a consequence, unlike most studies of American literature, which discuss its historical contexts or prescribe its readers' responses, this book explains the reception of these works, including the academic criticism and reviews and, because the internet exerts immense influence in the twenty-first century, the on-line responses of ordinary readers. Unlike most reception studies, this book examines the institutional contexts of the readers' responses.

McDonald organizes and makes available information on music appropriate for concerts performed by a symphony orchestra, school music department, church choir, or solo performer in celebration of Martin Luther King Day or Black History Month. His selections include not only music written specifically in honor of King but also about other Americans associated with the struggle for equality and freedom, such as Abraham Lincoln, Malcolm X, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and John F. Kennedy. He also includes works dealing with African American history and culture, such as William Grant Still's Afro-American Symphony. The third edition includes a considerable number of revisions and updates, with many new works added. Additions include an entirely new section devoted to jazz and blues songs, an overview of Martin Luther King Day concerts with sample programs, and a discography, along with appendixes of works listed by orchestration, subject, and a list of publishers and sources.

Reading Toni Morrison

Why We Can't Wait

African-American Wisdom

The Bluest Eye, Song of Solomon, Beloved

Contemporary Achievements

A Catalog of Music Written in Honor of Martin Luther King, Jr

Toni Morrison's wooded and verdant clearing, a central trope in her novel

Beloved, is the model for this book. The collection is a distinctive review, examination, and (re)discovery of Morrison's work and cultural impacts as defined by emerging and acclaimed artists, scholars, and public figures." Spanning over 250 years of history, Black Ink traces black literature in America from Frederick Douglass to Ta-Nehisi Coates in this "breathtaking anthology celebrating the power of the written word to forge change" (O, The Oprah Magazine). Throughout American history black people are the only group of people to have been forbidden by law to learn to read. This expansive collection seeks to shed light on that injustice, putting some of America's most cherished voices in a conversation in one magnificent volume that presents reading as an act of resistance. Organized into three sections—the Peril, the Power, and the Pleasure—and featuring a vast array of contributors both classic and contemporary, Black Ink presents the brilliant diversity of black thought in America while solidifying the importance of these writers within the greater context of the American literary tradition. "This electric and electrifying collection of voices serves to open a much-needed window onto the freedom struggle of black literature. It's a marvel, and a genuine gift for readers everywhere" (Wil Haygood, author of *The Butler: A Witness to History*). Contributors include: Frederick Douglass, Solomon Northup, Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, James Baldwin, Malcolm X, Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King, Jr., Toni Morrison, Walter Dean Myers, Stokely Carmichael [Kwame Ture], Alice Walker, Jamaica Kincaid, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Terry McMillan, Junot Diaz, Edwidge Danticat, Colson Whitehead, Marlon James, Roxane Gay, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Colson Whitehead. The anthology features a bonus in-depth interview with President Barack Obama.

Examines the life and work of the successful novelist, who became the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993. Author Barbara Kramer explores the life and career of this talented writer. From her childhood in Lorain, Ohio, to her creative expressions of African-American culture, Morrison has always remembered her past. She has taught at several universities, as well as being the author of novels, short stories, essays, and a play. Morrison invites readers to participate in her stories and enables them to enter into the characters' lives.

Literary Legends on the Peril, Power, and Pleasure of Reading and Writing
Remember

Philanthropy in Toni Morrison's Oeuvre

CONFLICT OF CULTURES IN TONI MORRISON'S FICTION

A Biography of a Nobel Prize-Winning Writer

Fifty-Five Positive Steps Black People Can Take to Preserve Themselves Into the 21st Century

Contemporary and traditional proverbs and quotations, with contributions from Maya Angelou, Martin Luther King Jr, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison.

This book examines Toni Morrison's highly influential works through the lens of philanthropy. The point of departure of this endeavor is the keen observation that philanthropy has always played a leading role in US discourses about the nation itself. While doing so, time and again

philanthropy has also been used as a means of social stratification — especially for so-called social minorities such as the African American community, whose historical experience within the United States is at the very heart of Morrison ' s novels. This book pursues the goal of a twofold understanding — on the one hand, through offering a rather innovative access to Morrison ' s works, the project allows for new insights into one of today ' s most influential authors. On the other hand, this book explores the productivity of the concept of philanthropy for literary and cultural studies — a concept hitherto largely neglected by scholars in both academic fields.

Highlights the achievements of such famous African Americans as Martin Luther King Jr., Toni Morrison, and Barack Obama.

This collection of contemporary criticism explores her concern with racial and gender issues and analyzes her in relation to other major modern authors, her philosophical and religious speculations, and her preoccupation with the process of fiction-making. These classics provide a broad look at critical argument about Toni Morrison's meanings and significance during the past 10 years. From the formative effects of learning one's Otherness as a result of majority perception, to the apocalyptic implications of racial memory, to the moral and psychologically constructive act of storytelling, to the structural function served by improvisational jazz music, to the imagery associated with both flight and naming, to the uniquely female experience of community-major issues raised by Morrison's body of work are explicated here.

The Source of Self-Regard

Toni Morrison Box Set

The Journey to School Integration

The Fire Is Upon Us

Playing in the Dark

Whiteness in the American Literary Imagination

This volume offers students and book club members a handy and insight-filled guide to Morrison's works and their relation to current events and popular culture. * Provides questions that can be used to generate book club discussion * Includes sidebars to highlight interesting information about the author and her work * Offers a selected, general bibliography of print and electronic resources to facilitate further study * Film adaptations of the author's works, such as Beloved, are discussed and their impact explored
Sethe, an escaped slave living in post-Civil War Ohio with her daughter and mother-in-law, is haunted persistently by the ghost of the dead baby girl whom she sacrificed, in a new edition of the Nobel Laureate's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. 25,000 first printing.

This gift book is an elegant and valuable volume of collected wisdom, reflections, and folk sayings from African Americans. Contributors include Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Nikki Giovanni, Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Alice Walker, Sojourner Truth, Zora Neale Hurston, Alex Haley, and Bill Cosby.

"This is the autobiography of soul and blues singer Denise LaSalle "as told to" the blues scholar David Whiteis. The book documents Ms. LaSalle's move from rural Mississippi to Chicago as a teenager, where she eventually established herself as a successful songwriter and performer in gospel and blues. She also founded several record labels and demonstrated considerable savvy as a businesswoman. In the early 1980s, realizing that her brand of emotionally resonant soul music had lost ground in the marketplace to newer forms - first disco, and then rap/hip-hop - Ms.

LaSalle began to write songs and perform in the modern-day blues genre usually referred to as "soul-blues" (a term she takes credit for inventing) or "southern soul." Her songs in this genre conveyed a bold, often provocative message of womanly assertiveness and pride, including explicitly drawn demands for both sexual and financial satisfaction, that both invoked and modernized the classic blueswoman's stance of power and independence, a trope that links her directly to such legendary blues singers as Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey, and Ida Cox. Armed with this new material but still capable of pleasing long-time fans with renditions of her earlier hits, Ms. LaSalle became one of the dominant figures on the "southern soul"/"soul-blues" circuit, which was actually a newly revitalized incarnation of the old "chitlin' circuit," the network of predominantly African-American performance venues that crisscrossed the south and also extended into some northern and western urban strongholds (tracing, more or less, the geographic pattern of the early/mid-20th Century Great Migration). She remains one of the most beloved figures on that circuit, admired by listeners and fellow artists alike for her legacy and her ongoing dedication to her music and fans. LaSalle's story thus complements the overall story of blues and soul music as the cultural expression of a diasporan people who reinvented themselves to adjust to Northern life while retaining many of the cultural, religious, and social traditions with which they had grown up in the South"--

Forty Years in the Clearing

African American Wisdom

Toni Morrison

Selected Essays, Speeches, and Meditations

I Want to Show You More

The Theory and Practice of Reception Study

“Passionate, sensuous, savagely intense, and remarkable” stories of the American South, “like some franker, modernized Flannery O’Connor” (The New Yorker). Welcome to Lookout Mountain on the border of Georgia and Tennessee. Mixing white-hot yearning with daring humor, this short-story collection of infidelity, spirituality, sexuality, and family is at once “strange, thrilling, and disarmingly honest . . . the closest thing I’ve seen in years to Donald Barthelme’s insouciance, sweetness and ominousness” (The New York Times Book Review). These fifteen linked tales confront readers with dark theological complexities, fractured marriages, and mercurial temptations: a husband discovers the decaying corpse of his wife’s lover in their bed; an enigmatic deaf man becomes the catalyst in the destruction of his church; a child’s perspective on life is altered after the attempted murder of a loved one; an embarrassed teenager is forced to attend a pool party with her quadriplegic mother; the hole in a young boy’s heart is magically sealed when he falls in love for the first time. “Fasten your seat belt. . . . These amazing stories explore the human boundaries between the physical world and the spiritual—lust, betrayal, and loss in perfect balance with love, redemption, and grace.” —Jill McCorkle, author of *Life After Life* “These are stories that make you stop whatever you’re doing and read. . . . I salute a brilliant new American writer.” —Tom Franklin, Edgar Award–winning author “A brilliant new voice in American fiction has arrived. . . . She has earned a place alongside

Amy Hempel, Lydia Davis, and Alice Munro.” —David Means, author of *Hystopia Presents* a biography of Toni Morrison along with critical views of her work. Martin Luther King's policy of non-violent protest in the struggle for civil rights in the United States during the second half of the twentieth century led to fundamental shifts in American government policy relating to segregation, and a cultural shift in the treatment of African Americans. King's 1964 book *Why We Can't Wait* creates strong, well-structured arguments as to why he and his followers chose to wage a nonviolent struggle in the fight to advance freedom and equality for black people following 'three hundred years of humiliation, abuse, and deprivation.' The author highlights a number of reasons why African Americans must demand their civil rights, including frustration at the lack of political will to tackle racism and inequality. Freedoms gained by African nations after years of colonial rule, as well as the US trumpeting its own values of freedom and equality in an ideological war with the Soviet Union, also played their part. King dealt with the counter-argument that civil rights for blacks would be detrimental to whites in America by explaining that racism is a disease that deeply penetrates both the white and the black psyche. His reasoning dictated that the brave act of nonviolent mass protest would provoke the kind of thinking that would eventually eliminate racism, and give birth to equality for all of 'God's children.'

Toni Morrison's *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* is a seminal piece of literary criticism, and a masterclass in the critical thinking skill of interpretation. Interpretation plays a vital role in critical thinking: it focuses on interrogating accepted meanings and laying down clear definitions on which a strong argument can be built. Both history and literary history in the US have frequently revolved around understanding how Americans define themselves and each other, and Morrison's work seeks to investigate, question, and redefine one of the central concepts in American history and American literary history: color.. Morrison turned to the classics of American literature to ask how authors had chosen to define the terms 'black' and 'white.' Instead of accepting traditional interpretations of these works, Morrison examined the way in which 'whiteness' defines itself through 'blackness,' and vice versa. Black bondage and the myths of black inferiority and savagery, she showed, allowed white America to indulge its own defining myths – viewing itself as free, civilized, and innocent. A classic of subtle and incisive interpretation, *Playing in the Dark* shows just how crucial and how complex simple-looking definitions can be.

The Denise Lasalle Story

Resisting Injustice and the Feminist Ethics of Care in the Age of Obama

Toni Morrison: An Ethical Poetics

Contemporary Criticism

Telling a Tale Untold

Living Legacies

"In February 1965, novelist and 'poet of the Black Freedom Struggle' James Baldwin and

political commentator and father of the modern American conservative movement William F. Buckley met in Cambridge Union to face-off in a televised debate. The topic was 'The American Dream is at the expense of the American Negro.' Buccola uses this momentous encounter as a lens through which to deepen our understanding of two of the most important public intellectuals in twentieth century American thought. The book begins by providing intellectual biographies of each debater. As Buckley reflected on the civil rights movement, he did so from the perspective of someone who thought the dominant norms and institutions in the United States were working quite well for most people and that they would eventually work well for African-Americans. From such a perspective, any ideology, personality, or movement that seems to threaten those dominant norms and institutions must be deemed a threat. Baldwin could not bring himself to adopt such a bird's eye point of view. Instead, he focused on the 'inner lives' of those involved on all sides of the struggle. Imagine what it must be like, he told the audience at Cambridge, to have the sense that your country has not 'pledged its allegiance to you?' Buccola weaves the intellectual biographies of these two larger-than-life personalities and their fabled debate with the dramatic history of the civil rights movement that includes a supporting cast of such figures as Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, Lorraine Hansberry, and George Wallace. Buccola shows that the subject of their debate continues to have resonance in our own time as the social mobility of blacks remains limited and racial inequality persists"--

The American black is a unique individual, with a unique past and history that needs to be preserved. The American black is not a saint; neither is he a ghost. But he is flesh and blood, a human being that needs to be respected and treated fairly. But the treatment must first come through the manner in which the American black presents himself or herself to the world. *Fifty-Five Positive Steps Black People Can Take to Preserve Themselves into the 21st Century* provides psychological, physical and spiritual suggestions on how American blacks can empower themselves and therefore empower the race, through one another. Always with an eye on history and a hope for communal unity of some kind, *Fifty-Five Steps* encourages American black people to do two things: to remember their past, where they come from, always; and to become well rounded people where they are now. And the two concepts are not mutually exclusive. Blacks can be all that they can be, love themselves and their history pridefully and still exist in the climate of modern America. Lastly, *Fifty-Five Steps* was written in reaction to a growing belief that "blackness" is dead or dying, that black Americans have been absorbed or assimilated. On the contrary, *Fifty-Five Steps* asks the black readers to love one another and to come together in a final stand for the integrity of essential blackness.

In this timely and dynamic collection of essays, Laura Dubek brings together a diverse group of scholars to explore the literary response to the most significant social movement of the twentieth century. Covering a wide range of genres and offering provocative readings of both familiar and lesser known texts, *Living Legacies* demonstrates how literature can be used not only to challenge the master narrative of the civil rights movement but also to inform and inspire the next generation of freedom fighters. Toni Morrison, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993, is perhaps the most important living American author. This work examines Morrison's life and writing, featuring critical analyses of her work and themes, as well as entries on related topics and relevant people, places, and influences.

James Baldwin and Toni Morrison: Comparative Critical and Theoretical Essays

Ralph Ellison and the Politics of the Novel

The Source of Self-regard

Critical Companion to Toni Morrison

Social Justice Luminaries: Frank Bidart, Willa Cather, Rita Dove, Martin Luther King Jr., Thomas Merton, Toni Morrison, Zora Neale Hurston, and Walt Whitman

The Invention of an Aesthetic

Archival photographs paired with fictional text depicting thoughts and emotions of students who lived through school desegregation capture the spirit, sadness, and struggle of the time.

Great Speeches on Civil Rights and African American Identity

Always the Queen

The Black Book

A Study Guide for Toni Morrison's "Recitatif"