

Going North: African-American Journeys

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

JACOB LAWRENCE AND THE GREAT MIGRATION

Teacher Resources

Jacob Lawrence and the Great Migration Teaching Kit. Washington, DC: Phillips Collection, 2008.

http://www.phillipscollection.org/migration_series/index.cfm

The Phillips Collection, which holds 30 panels of Lawrence's *The Migration Series*, has produced an award-winning resource for Grades K–12, including a CD-ROM with over 70 digital images, facsimiles of primary sources, posters, blues and jazz music, videos, and PowerPoint presentations. The kit can be purchased for \$40.00; an online version is available. (E, M, S)

MFA Educators Online. Museum of Fine Arts, 2012.

<http://educators.mfa.org/home>

This learning tool from the MFA lets you quickly and easily create custom art galleries to share with students online or in the classroom.

Picturing America. National Endowment of the Humanities.

<http://picturingamerica.neh.gov/index.php?sec=home>

Picturing America uses art as a catalyst for the study of America. The website includes an image gallery, an illustrated Teacher Resource Book for elementary, middle, and high school, and lesson plans. (E, M, S)

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Howard Dodson and Sylviane A. Diouf. *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience*. Washington, DC: National Geographic, 2005.

<http://www.inmotionaame.org/migrations/landing.cfm?migration=8>

This lavishly illustrated history of five hundred years of African-American migration has a companion website that includes an image gallery, maps, and educational resources on the Great Migration. (M, S)

Wilkerson, Isabel. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*. New York: Random House, 2010.

In this beautifully written and thoroughly researched account, Wilkerson chronicles the story of the Great Migration through the personal journeys of three individuals who made new lives in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles. (S, Adult)

Note: This bibliography was created for a Grade 4 interdisciplinary social studies unit on the Great Migration. For information on the curriculum, contact rberkower@conservatorylab.org.

Key: E=Elementary/M=Middle School/S=Secondary School

Picture Books

Greenfield, Eloise. *The Great Migration: Journey to the North*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011.

Greenfield's poems and Jan Spivey Gilchrist's mixed-media collages depict the experience of families like their own who left their homes in the South to make new lives in the North. (E, M)

Harrington, Janice N. *Going North*. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 2004. In a lyrical voice that captures the rhythms of the road, a young girl tells about her family's journey from Alabama to Lincoln, Nebraska, in search of a better life. (E, M)

Lawrence, Jacob. *The Great Migration: An American Story*. New York: HarperCollins in association with the Museum of Modern Art and The Phillips Collection, 1993. This picture-book version of Lawrence's 60-panel series narrates the African-American journey of hope during the Great Migration. It includes an excellent introduction by Lawrence, as well as a poem by Walter Dean Myers. (all ages)

Rubin, Susan Goldman. *Jacob Lawrence in the City*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 2009. Rhythmic text and eleven paintings by Lawrence celebrate city life and introduce young children to this influential artist. (E)

Historical Fiction Chapter Books

McKissack, Patricia C. *Color Me Dark: The Diary of Nellie Lee Love—The Great Migration North, Chicago, Illinois, 1919*. (Dear America series). New York: Scholastic, 2000.

Twelve-year old Nellie and her family move to Chicago to escape the racial violence of their rural Tennessee home. Nellie's diary entries bring to life the hopes and suffering of African Americans during the epic migration north. (E, M)

Nonfiction

Candaele, Kerry. *Bound for Glory: From the Great Migration to the Harlem Renaissance, 1910–1930*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publications, 1996.

This resource offers a comprehensive overview of the first wave of the Great Migration, from World War I to the start of the Great Depression. (M, S)

Cooper, Michael L. *Bound for the Promised Land*. New York: Dutton, 1995. First-person accounts and archival photographs help chronicle the first wave of the Great Migration from 1915–1930. (M, S)

Duggleby, John. *Story Painter: The Life of Jacob Lawrence*. San Francisco: Chronicle, 1998. With 50 full-page color reproductions, this biography recounts Lawrence's family's migration north, his childhood during the Harlem Renaissance, and his successful career as a painter of African-American life and history. (E, M)

Halpern, Monica. *Moving North: African Americans and the Great Migration: 1915–1930*. Des Moines, IA: National Geographic, 2005. This cursory overview of the Great Migration, from the post-Reconstruction South to the beginning of the Great Depression, fills a gap for upper elementary titles on the period. (E, M)

Haskins, James, and Kathleen Benson. *Out of the Darkness: The Story of Blacks Moving North, 1890–1940*. New York: Benchmark Books, 2000.

This powerful account is interwoven with the life stories of two migrants—one who journeyed from West Virginia to Chicago, and the other who left North Carolina for New York City. (M, S)

Hoobler, Dorothy, and Thomas Hoobler. *The African American Family Album*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

This social and cultural history includes personal testimonies, letters, and archival photographs documenting the African-American experience, including sections on Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and the Great Migration. (E, M, S)

Nelson, Kadir. *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*. New York: HarperCollins, 2011.

Illustrated with dramatic oil paintings and told in the intimate voice of a grandmother looking back on her life, this powerful work makes African-American history accessible to young readers. (E, M)

Wright, Suzanne. *The Choice Is Yours: An Art Activity Handbook for Young Artists, Highlighting the Art and Life of Jacob Lawrence*. Washington, DC: The Phillips Collection, 2003.

This handbook offers young artists a window into Jacob Lawrence’s creative process, introduces artistic language, and sparks children’s imagination to make their own artistic choices. (E, M)

Internet Resources

“Don’t Have to Mister Every Little White Boy”: Black Migrants Write Home. History Matters: The U.S. Survey Course on the Web.

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5339/>

This site reproduces four letters from southern migrants who settled in the North during the Great Migration. The letters appeared in *The Journal of Negro History* in 1919. Related sites include migrant interviews and testimonies. (all ages)

The Great Migration. Amistad Digital Resource for Teaching African American History.

http://www.amistadresource.org/plantation_to_ghetto/the_great_migration.html

This excellent resource features a summary, primary-source documents, images, and a short video on the Great Migration. (M, S)

The Great Migration: Letters of Negro Migrants of 1916–1918. eCUIP: The Digital Library Project.

http://ecuip.lib.uchicago.edu/diglib/social/greatmigration/letters/negro_letters.html

The site includes a collection of letters from African Americans in the South who eventually migrated north. The letters originally appeared in the *The Journal of Negro History* in 1919. (all ages)

The History of Jim Crow. 2003.

<http://www.jimcrowshistory.org/>

Produced in conjunction with the PBS series *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow*, this educator’s site offers a wealth of historical resources and lesson plans for middle and high school on this era of racial segregation and violence. (M, S)

The Jacob and Gwen Knight Lawrence Virtual Resource Center. Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation, 2001.

<http://www.jacobandgwenlawrence.org/artandlife00.html>

Supported by the Jacob and Gwendolyn Lawrence Foundation, this comprehensive website includes biographical information, a detailed timeline, and a searchable image archive containing nearly 1,000 images of Lawrence's work. (all ages)

Jacob Lawrence—Exploring Stories. Whitney Museum of American Art, 2001.

<http://whitney.org/www/jacoblawrence/about.html>

This resource introduces families, teachers, and students to the artist, his work, and his visual approach to storytelling and includes instructions for creating visual narrative and egg tempera paintings. (E, M, S)

MoMA Audio: Kids: Jacob Lawrence. *The Migration Series*, 1940–41. MoMA Multimedia.

<http://uat.moma.org/explore/multimedia/audios/1/15>

This short audio file introduces young children to Jacob Lawrence's *The Migration Series* and touches on Lawrence's methods. (1:48 sec.) (E)

"Sir, I Will Thank You with All My Heart": Seven Letters from the Great Migration. History Matters: The U.S. Survey Course on the Web.

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5332>,

This site reproduces seven letters by African Americans published in the Chicago *Defender* newspaper during the Great Migration. (all ages)

Up South: African-American Migration in the Era of the Great War. American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning. American Social History Productions, Inc. 2012.

<http://ashp.cuny.edu/ashp-documentaries/up-south/>

The site features a viewing guide and teaching activities for the film "Up South: African-American Migration in the Era of the Great War" that chronicles African-American migration to Chicago. Video clips from the film can be accessed at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=--8N42vDDTM> (E, M, S)

HARLEM AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE

Picture Books

Collier, Bryan. *Uptown*. New York: Henry Holt, 2001.

A young boy gives a tour of his Harlem neighborhood with vivid watercolor and collage illustrations that paint visual metaphors of the home he loves. (E)

Michelson, Richard. *Happy Feet: The Savoy Ballroom Lindy Hoppers and Me*. New York: Harcourt, 2005.

In a shoeshine shop in 1930s Harlem, a boy listens to his father recount the story of the night he was born—March 26, 1926—the opening night at the Savoy Ballroom across the street. (E)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Harlem*. New York: Scholastic, 1997.

Illustrated in vibrant ink, gouache, and collage images by the author's son, this songlike poem celebrates the music-based culture of Harlem. (M, S)

Ringgold, Faith. *Tar Beach*. New York: Crown, 1991.

Cassie remembers the rooftop of her family's apartment building, where the stars lift her up to fly freely over her Harlem neighborhood. The illustrations are based on Ringgold's quilt painting of the same name. (E)

Rochelle, Belinda. *When Jo Louis Won the Title*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1994.

A grandfather tells his granddaughter, named Jo Louis, about the joyous day he moved to Harlem from the South in search of a better life—the same day Joe Louis won the world boxing championship. (E)

Smalls, Irene. *Irene and the Big, Fine Nickel*. New York: Little Brown, 2003.

Young Irene is “seven and in heaven” on a summer day in 1950s Harlem with the smell of drop biscuits and the sounds of Billie Holiday and Mahalia Jackson in the air. (E)

Taylor, Debbie A. *Sweet Music in Harlem*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2004.

C.J., who aspires to be a great jazz musician like his uncle, inadvertently gathers some of the greatest musicians of 1950s Harlem to pose for a photograph. Inspired by a famous photograph. (E)

Poetry

Giovanni, Nikki. *Shimmy Shimmy Shimmy Like My Sister Kate: Looking at the Harlem Renaissance Through Poems*. New York: Henry Holt, 1996.

This annotated collection of poems from the Harlem Renaissance and beyond discusses the lives of writers such as Dunbar, Hughes, Cullen, Brooks, and Baraka within the context of African-American history. (E, M, S)

Hughes, Langston. *The Book of Rhythms*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Hughes finds the seeds of rhythm in the slow flowing of the Mississippi River, the even slap-slap-slap of a jump rope, and the swoop of a swing. (all ages)

Hughes, Langston. *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*. New York: Knopf, 2007.

This 75th-anniversary edition of Hughes' classic poetry collection for young people includes seven additional poems and elegant scratchboard illustrations by Brian Pinkney. (E, M, S)

Hughes, Langston. *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*. New York: Hyperion, 2009.

Radiant watercolors by E. B. Lewis illustrate Hughes' famous poem. (all ages)

Hughes, Langston, and Romare Bearden. *The Block*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Viking, 1995.

Thirteen poems by Hughes are matched with Bearden's six-panel collage of a city block in Harlem depicting the vitality of urban life. (E, M)

Hughes, Langston, and Charles R. Smith, Jr. *My People*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2009.

Hughes's poem is set against Smith's striking black and white photographic portraits of African Americans. (all ages)

Muse, Daphne. *Entrance Place of Wonders: Poems of the Harlem Renaissance*. New York: Abrams, 2005.

This picture-book anthology includes 20 poems for children by famous and lesser-known Harlem Renaissance poets. (E)

Perdomo, Willie. *Visiting Langston*. New York: Henry Holt, 2005.

In rhythmic verse, an aspiring poet tells about her visit to the Harlem house where Langston Hughes lived. (E)

Roessel, David, and Arnold Rampersad. *Poetry for Young People: Langston Hughes*. New York, Sterling, 2006.

This beautifully illustrated collection of 26 poems includes brief notes by Hughes scholars, a detailed introduction, and quotes from the poet. (E, M)

Biographies: Harlem Renaissance Painters, Poets, and Musicians

Burleigh, Robert. *Langston's Train Ride*. New York: Scholastic, 2004.

The train ride during which an eighteen-year-old Hughes writes his acclaimed poem, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," is the focus of this biographical picture book. (E)

Cooper, Floyd. *Coming Home: From the Life of Langston Hughes*. New York: Putnam, 1998.

This lyrical biography focuses on the lonely years of Hughes's childhood and his search for home. (E)

Everett, Gwen. *Li'l Sis and Uncle Willie: A Story Based on the Life and Paintings of William H. Johnson*. New York: Hyperion, 1994.

This fictionalized account of the life and work of artist William H. Johnson is narrated by his niece and illustrated with Johnson's paintings. (E)

Hardy, P. Stephen, and Sheila Jackson Hardy. *Extraordinary People of the Harlem Renaissance*. New York: Children's Press, 2000.

Ideal for research reports, this volume portrays 44 artists, photographers, choreographers, musicians, composers, poets, writers, and other creative people who made Harlem such an extraordinary place in the 1920s and 1930s. (E, M)

Haskins, Jim, ed. *Black Stars of the Harlem Renaissance: African Americans Who Lived Their Dreams*. New York: Wiley, 2002.

This inspiring biography collection features the lives of 19 musicians, artists, and poets of the Harlem Renaissance. (E, M)

McKissack, Lisa Beringer. *Women of the Harlem Renaissance*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books, 2007.

This history of women's contributions to the Harlem Renaissance features biographical sketches of Larsen, Fauset, Hurston, Savage, and Bessie Smith. (E, M)

Medina, Tony. *Love to Langston*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2006.

A contemporary Harlem poet pays homage to Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes in this biography in verse. (E, M)

Schroeder, Alan. *In Her Hands: The Story of Sculptor Augusta Savage*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2009.

This fictionalized picture-book biography recounts how Savage overcame obstacles as a young woman to become a premier sculptor of the Harlem Renaissance. Savage was a mentor to Jacob Lawrence and Romare Bearden. (E)

Walker, Alice. *Langston Hughes: American Poet*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

Walker's detailed portrait of Hughes focuses on the poet's adolescence and early adulthood. (E, M)

Nonfiction

Hill, Laban Carrick. *Harlem Stomp! A Cultural History of the Harlem Renaissance*. New York: Little Brown, 2004.

This illustrated history of the Harlem Renaissance, beginning with its roots in the Great Migration, includes poems, essays, speeches, photographs and reproductions of paintings, period posters, magazine covers, and more. (M, S)

Price, Sean. *Rebirth of a People: Harlem Renaissance*. Chicago: Heinemann-Raintree, 2006.

A brief textbook account explores the talented writers, painters, and other artists of Harlem's "Golden Age." (E, M)

Rau, Dana Meachen. *The Harlem Renaissance*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books, 2005.

This brief but rich history of the Harlem Renaissance includes sections on DuBois, Garvey, Hughes, Hurston, and Ellington. (E/M)

Historical Fiction Chapter Books

Bond, Victoria, and T. R. Simon. *Zora and Me*. Boston: Candlewick Press, 2010.

Set in Eatonville, Florida, this magical novel tells about the childhood of famed Harlem Renaissance writer Zora Neale Hurston. (E, M)

Coleman, Evelyn. *Mystery of the Dark Tower: A Bessie Mystery*. (American Girl History Mysteries.) Middleton, WI: American Girl Publishing, 2000.

Without explanation, twelve-year old Bessie's father whisks her from their North Carolina farm to Harlem, New York, where she encounters famous figures of the Harlem Renaissance. (E)

Dell, Pamela. *Shaky Bones: A Story of the Harlem Renaissance*. Chanhassen, MN: Tradition Books, 2003.

In 1926, a twelve-year-old aspiring poet nicknamed Shaky Bones enters the first annual Harlem All-School Young Poets Competition. (E, M)

Levine, Gail Carson. *Dave at Night*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.

When his father dies, Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys in Harlem. He sneaks out of the grim orphanage at night and is welcomed into the exciting, music-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance. (E, M)

McKissack, Patricia C. *A Song for Harlem: Scraps of Time, 1928*. New York: Viking Juvenile, 2007.

Twelve-year-old Lilly Belle from rural Tennessee attends a summer program for gifted young writers in a Harlem mansion where Zora Neale Hurston is her teacher. (E)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Harlem Summer*. New York: Scholastic, 2007.

Sixteen-year-old Mark Purvis gets embroiled in a scheme with jazzman Fats Waller and meets W. E. B. DuBois and writers Jessie Fauset, Langston Hughes, and Countee Cullen when he gets a summer job at the *Crisis* magazine. (E, M)

Tate, Eleanora E. *Celeste's Harlem Renaissance*. New York: Little Brown, 2007.

When her father falls ill, thirteen-year-old Celeste takes the train from her home in Raleigh, North Carolina, to live with her aunt, a singer and dancer, in Harlem. (E, M)

Internet Resources

The Harlem Renaissance. History.com

<http://www.history.com/videos/the-harlem-renaissance-an-artistic-explosion#the-harlem-renaissance-an-artistic-explosion>

This short documentary is a good introduction to the Harlem Renaissance. (E, M, S)

Langston Hughes. Poets.org: From the Academy of American Poets, 1997–2012.

<http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/83>

This site offers a short biography of Hughes, as well as a selected bibliography, the full text of selected poems, and further reading links. (all ages)

Langston Hughes. PoemHunter.com

<http://www.poemhunter.com/langston-hughes/>

This website provides easy online access to a large selection of poems by Langston Hughes and other poets. (all ages)

ROMARE BEARDEN

Teacher Resources

The Art of Romare Bearden: A Resource for Teachers. National Gallery of Art, 2003.

<http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/bearden/#>

This excellent, comprehensive resource features a biography of the artist, detailed analysis of his work, including the relationship between Bearden's art and music (jazz and blues). A teaching kit—including a video, slides of images, and a music CD—is available on loan to educators. (E, M, S)

Romare Bearden Foundation, 2009.

<http://www.beardenfoundation.org/about.shtml>

This resource includes a biography of Bearden, information about his life and connection to the Harlem Renaissance, as well as educational resources and information on events and exhibits of Bearden's work. (E, M, S)

Picture Books

Hartfield, Claire. *Me and Uncle Romie*. New York: Dial, 2002.

A North Carolina boy visits his uncle Romare Bearden in Harlem and falls in love with the neighborhood and Bearden's paintings that capture its "beat and bounce." Includes instructions on making a story collage. (E)

Harvey, Jeanne Walker. *My Hands Sing the Blues: Romare Bearden's Childhood Journey*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2011.

Told in the rhyming poetry of the blues, this picture book biography recounts Bearden's journey from North Carolina to Harlem, New York. (E)

Hughes, Langston, and Romare Bearden. *The Block*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Viking, 1995.

Thirteen poems by Hughes are matched with Bearden's six-panel collage of a city block in Harlem depicting the vitality of urban life. (E, M)

Shange, Ntozake. *i live in music*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1994.

Twenty-one vibrant collages by Bearden accompany Shange's poetic tribute to music. (all ages)

Biographies

Greenberg, Jan. *Romare Bearden: Collage of Memories*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2003.

This accessible biography shows how Bearden drew on his childhood memories growing up in North Carolina and his years in Harlem to create paintings that celebrate African-American life. Includes a bibliography, a chronology, and a glossary. (E, M)

Internet Resources

Hinish, Heidi. *The Art of Romare Bearden — Children's Guide*. National Gallery of Art, 2003.

<http://www.nga.gov/kids/zone/beardencg.pdf>

This interactive visual guide to Bearden and his work inspires children eight and up to create their own photo collages about the people and places in their lives. (E, M)

Russo, Teresa M. *Romare Bearden: Let's Walk the Block*. Metropolitan Museum of Art

http://metmuseum.org/content/interactives/the_block/index_noflash.html

Designed for elementary school children, this engaging, interactive tour of Bearden's six-panel collage of his Harlem neighborhood includes musical excerpts from Branford Marsalis's *Romare Bearden Revealed*, insights into Bearden's artistic techniques and inspiration, and collage activity suggestions. (E, M)

THE BLUES

Teacher Resources

Binns, Stephen. "The Music in Poetry." *Smithsonian in Your Classroom*. Spring 2006.

Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.

http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/publications/siycwinter_06.pdf

This teaching resource contains excellent information on the development of the blues, the relationship of Langston Hughes's poetry to the blues, and a map showing the development of the blues with audio tracks. (E, M)

The Blues: Blues Classroom. PBS. Vulcan Productions, Inc., 2003.

<http://www.pbs.org/theblues/classroom.html>

Based on the PBS series *The Blues*, this educational website includes background essays, lesson plans, a blues glossary, and resources. (M, S)

International House of Blues Foundation. Blues SchoolHouse Musical Presentation and Learning Center

<http://www.ihobf.org/programming/blues-schoolhouse/>

The foundation offers an interactive presentation for students in grades 5-12 and their teachers that traces the evolution of the blues musical form from its roots in African musical traditions to today. An art tour/presentation features works by self-taught African American artists from the South. The website includes a classroom guide that supports integrating music and art into classroom curriculum. (E, M, S)

Picture Books

Frame, Jeron Ashford. *Yesterday I Had the Blues*. Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 2008.

In energetic, rhythmic prose, a young African-American boy uses color metaphors to describe a rainbow of moods in his urban neighborhood. (E)

Lester, Julius. *The Blues Singers: Ten Who Rocked the World*. New York: Hyperion, 2001.

A grandfather passes on to his granddaughter stories about ten blues singers from Bessie Smith to Aretha Franklin. Includes an excellent introduction about the origins of the blues. (E, M)

Poetry

Adoff, Arnold. *Roots and Blues: A Celebration*. New York: Clarion, 2011.

Poems, lyrical prose, and acrylic paintings celebrate the history and culture of this uniquely American music. (all ages)

Greenfield, Eloise. *Nathaniel Talking*. New York: Writers & Readers, 1989.

A confident nine-year-old tells about his life, neighborhood, and family in this collection of poems inspired by musical forms, including the blues. (E)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Blues Journey*. New York: Holiday House, 2003.

Blues verses and blue-tinted paintings tell of slavery, poverty, lynching, and loss. An author's note describes the elements and history of the blues. (E, M)

Internet Resources

The Blues: Blues Road Trip. PBS. Vulcan Productions, Inc., 2003.

<http://www.pbs.org/theblues/roadtrip.html>

This website traces the migration of the blues in the United States from its birthplace in the Mississippi Delta northward, with an interactive map featuring blues history, styles, musicians, and songs. (M, S)

"William Grant Still, *The Afro-American Symphony*." *Classics for Kids*. Cincinnati Public Radio, 2012.

<http://www.classicsforkids.com/shows/showdesc.asp?id=64>

Naomi Lewin leads young listeners through the bluesy themes in each movement of *The Afro-American Symphony*, the first symphony by a black composer to be performed by a major orchestra.

Frame, Jeron Ashford. *Yesterday I Had the Blues*. PBS Kids. *Between the Lions*. WBGH/Sirius Thinking, 2012.

<http://pbskids.org/lions/stories/feelings.html>

This short video brings the picture book to life with a bluesy soundtrack. (E)

“Music in Poetry: Ballad and Blues Stanzas.” *Soundscapes*. Smithsonian Folkways. Smithsonian Institution, 2011.

http://www.folkways.si.edu/explore_folkways/poetry.aspx

An introduction to ballads and blues poetry, this site features an extended audio section of blues songs, as well as Langston Hughes reciting the “The Weary Blues” and “The Story of the Blues,” a short narrative about the origins of the blues. (E, M, S)

Musical Recordings

Branford Marsalis Quintet, “Autumn Lamp,” “The Carolina Shout,” and “Seabreeze,” *Romare Bearden Revealed*, 2009

Broonzy, Big Bill. “Key to the Highway,” *The Bill Broonzy Story*, 1960

Charles, Ray. “Hit the Road, Jack,” *Singular Genius: The Complete ABC Singles*, 2011

Clapton, Eric. “Love in Vain,” *Me and Mr. Johnson*, 2004

Davenport, Cow Cow. “Jim Crow Blues,” *Cow Cow Davenport Vol. 1 (1925–1929)*, 1992

Domino, Fats. “Blueberry Hill,” *The Fats Domino Jukebox: 20 Greatest Hits*, 2002

Franklin, Aretha. “Think,” *Aretha Franklin: 30 Greatest Hits*, 1985

James, Elmore. “Dust My Broom,” *Dust My Broom*, 1990

Jimi Hendrix Experience. “Red House,” *Are You Experienced*, 1967

Johnson, Robert. “Cross Road Blues,” *Robert Johnson: The Complete Recordings*, 1990

Johnson, Robert. “Love in Vain,” *Robert Johnson: The Complete Recordings*, 1990

Jones, Maggie. “North Bound Blues,” *Maggie Jones Vol. 1 (1923–1925)*, 1995

King, B. B. “Everyday I Have the Blues,” *B. B. King: The Vintage Years*, 2002

King, B. B. “The Thrill Is Gone,” *B. B. King: The Ultimate Collection*, 2005

Leadbelly. “The Boll Weevil,” *Leadbelly Vol. 1, 1939–1940*, 1994

Leadbelly. “Jim Crow Blues,” *Leadbelly Vol. 4, 1939–1947*, 1994

Leadbelly. “Rock Island Line,” *Leadbelly Vol. 1, 1939–1940*, 1994

Odetta. "Jim Crow Blues," *Lookin' for a Home (Thanks to Leadbelly)*, 2001

Patton, Charlie. "High Water Everywhere Part 1," *The Best of Charlie Patton*, 2003

Redding, Otis. "(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay," *The Very Best of Otis Redding*, 2002

Robinson, Smokey. "The Tracks of My Tears," *The Ultimate Collection: Smokey Robinson and the Miracles*, 1998

The Rolling Stones. "Love in Vain," *Let It Bleed*, 1969

Smith, Bessie. "Backwater Blues," *Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues: Bessie Smith*, 2003 (originally recorded 1925)

Smith, Bessie. "Down Hearted Blues," *Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues: Bessie Smith*, 2003 (originally recorded 1925)

Smith, Bessie. "St. Louis Blues," *Martin Scorsese Presents the Blues: Bessie Smith*, 2003 (originally recorded 1925)

Smith, Trixie. "Freight Train Blues," *Trixie Smith Vol. 2, 1925–1929*, 1995.

Walker, T-Bone. "Call It Stormy Monday," *The Very Best of T-Bone Walker*, 2008

Waters, Muddy. "Mannish Boy," *Muddy Waters—His Best, 1947 to 1955. The Chess 50th Anniversary Collection*, 1997

W. C. Handy Preservation Band, "The Memphis Blues," *The Instrumental Memphis Music Sampler Vol. 2*, 2009

White, Josh. "Bad Housing Blues," *Josh White Vol. 4 (1940–1941)*, 1995

White, Josh. "Jim Crow Train," *Josh White Vol. 4 (1940–1941)*, 1995

White, Josh. "Southern Exposure," *Josh White Vol. 4 (1940–1941)*, 1995