Forty Engaging Texts for African American Adolescent Males

A Letter to African American Males, by Frank W. Hale (nonfiction) (middle school/high school/university)

Appeal to the Coloured Citizens of the World, by David Walker (nonfiction) (middle school/high school/university)

Autobiography of Malcolm X, by Malcolm X and Alex Haley (nonfiction) (middle school/high school)

Bang, by Sharon Flake (novel) (middle school)

Beast of No Nation, by Uzodinma Iweala (novel) (high school)

Black Boy, by Richard Wright (nonfiction) (middle school/high school)

Black Men: Obsolete, Single, or Dangerous, by Haki Madhubuti (nonfiction) (high school/university)

The Call of the Wild, by Jack London (novel) (high school)

Convicted in the Womb: One Man’s Journey from Prisoner to Peacemaker, by Carl Upchurch (nonfiction) (high school/university)

Dark Alliance: The CIA, the Contras, and the Crack Cocaine Explosion, by Gary Webb (nonfiction) (high school/university)

“The Declaration of Independence,” by Thomas Jefferson (manifesto) (middle school/high school/university)

“The Fiftieth Anniversary of Brown vs. Board of Education,” by Bill Cosby (speech) (middle school/high school/university)

The First Part Last, by Angela Johnson (novel) (middle school/high school)
47, by Walter Mosley (novel) (middle school)

*Handbook for Boys*, by Walter Dean Myers (novel) (middle school/high school)

“If We Must Die,” by Claude McKay (poem) (middle school/high school/university)

“Invictus,” by William Henley (poem) (middle school/high school/university)

*The Killing of Edmund Perry*, by Robert Anson (nonfiction) (high school)

*Letters to a Young Brother*, by Hill Harper (nonfiction) (high school)

“The Masque of Red Death,” by Edgar Allan Poe (short story) (high school/university)

*Miracle at Monty Middle School*, by Mary A. Monroe (novel) (middle school)


*My Grandfather’s Son: A Memoir*, by Clarence Thomas (nonfiction) (high school/university)

*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, by Frederick Douglass (nonfiction) (middle school/high school)

*No Turning Back: A Novel of South Africa*, by Beverly Naidoo (novel) (middle school)

*Our America: Life and Death on the South Side of Chicago*, by LeAlan Jones and Lloyd Newman (nonfiction) (high school)

*The Pact*, by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt (nonfiction) (high school/university)

*A Personal Odyssey*, by Thomas Sowell (nonfiction) (high school/university)

*The Piano Lesson*, by August Wilson (play) (high school/university)

*Public Enemy #2*, by Aaron McGruder (comic book) (middle school/high school)

*A Raisin in the Sun*, by Lorraine Hansberry (play) (high school/university)

*Reallionaire*, by Farah Gray (nonfiction) (middle school/high school)
“The Revolt of the Evil Fairies,” by Ted Posten (short story) (middle school)

*A Right to Be Hostile*, by Aaron McGruder (comic book) (middle school/high school)

“Self-Reliance,” by Ralph Waldo Emerson (essay) (high school/university)

“Test of a Man,” by Anonymous (poem) (middle school/high school/university)

*Up from Slavery*, by Booker T. Washington (nonfiction) (middle school/high school)

*We Beat the Street*, by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt (nonfiction) (middle school/high school)

*Yo’ Little Brother*, by Anthony Davis and Jeffrey Jackson (nonfiction) (middle school/high school)

*You Hear Me? Poems and Writing by Teenage Boys*, by Betsy Franco (anthology) (high school)