



Mother Mary Carter Smith and Linda Goss Co-Founders

## National Association of Black Storytellers (NABS) Members' Bibliography of Creative Writers

Compiled by Karen "Queen Nur" Abdul-Malik and Caroliese Frink Reed, Ph.D.

Updated: December 15, 2025

### List of Authors Alphabetical Order

Abdul-Malik Karen "Queen Nur"	Hodge Muse, Naomi
Abernathy, Regina	Holloway, J.M. Linda
Amin, Karima	Holley, Sharon Jordaan
Anderson-Sankofa, David	Jackson-Smith, Tanya
Arnold, Sheila	Jolle, Kelly
Barnes, Marion	King, Oba Willam
Baskin, Andrew	Koram, Baba Jamal
Blake-Alston, Charlotte	L. Renée
Brigham, Willa	Lasana, Oni
Buie, Donna "Mama Koku"	McKissack, Patricia
Cabral, Len	Morgan, Hugh "Brother Blue"
Capel, Mitch	Moss, Onawumi Jean Moss
Carter, Ron	National Association of Black Storytellers
Christian, Ray	Norfolk, Bobby & Norfolk, Sherry
Danielle, Daniel	Ologboni, Teju
Davis, Betty	Olufemi, Christine
Dawson, Carlo L'Chelle	Petties, Michelle
Djeli	Pritchett, Dylan
Draper, Sharon	Ruff, Martha
Ellis, Rex	Sanchez, Soni
Evans, Ilene	Simmons, Toni
Ferlatte, Diane	Smith, Mary Carter
Ford, Lyn	Tate, Eleanora
Frasier-Dasent, Joann	TAHIRA Akua TAHIRA
Frink Reed, Caroliese	Torrence, Jackie
Gilliard-Davis, Saundra	Turley, Alicetyne
Good, Crystal	Washington, Donna
Goss, Clay	White, Jerry G.
Goss, Linda	Williams, Diane
Grant, Mary J	Williams, Ivory D.
Greene, Janice Curtis	Williams Bush, Sandra
Griffin, Brenda & Mason, Carsie	Womack, Roshanda & Womack, Andrew
Griots' Circle of Maryland	Zulu, Nothondo

**Abdul-Malik, Karen “Queen Nur”.** “Adachi: A Dilemma Tale” in Anthology *Supporting Diversity and Inclusion with Story: Authentic Folktales and Discussion Guides*, Lyn Ford & Sherry Norfolk. Libraries Unlimited. 2020. Together with her father, Adachi has 3 aunts who help raise her after the passing of her mother. One is Muslim, one is Christian and one practices the Yoruba Tradition. Embossed with cultural language, aesthetics and song this story explores humanity in the beauty of sameness and differences, while provoking the question, when Adachi grew up what was she?

- “Black Inventor’s Rap” in Anthology *Poems, Stories, ETC: An Eclectic Experience*. Shirley Riley. Spiritual Press. 2022
- Various Blog Posts on *NABS Talking*
- 2014-2015 NABS President Monthly Newsletter
- Also see... entries in National Association of Black Storytellers Members’ Bibliography of Education, Health & Scholarship

**Abernathy, Regina.** *The Quilting Storyteller: Preserving African American Culture and History through Quilting Stories*. Amazon, Independent Publishing. 2023. This book will allow you to travel through the life of the author as she explores the oral history, heritage, faith and the plethora of experiences of her family and friends. There are many ways to pass down history. The author has decided to pass down her stories and the ones she received via the oral tradition through quilting. Thus, the fabric becomes the story. The quilt becomes the legacy. This book allows one to hear the stories, view the quilts and better comprehend the details of African American History and its impact on the lives of ordinary people.

**Amin, Karima.** *The Adventures of Brer Rabbit and Friends*. London: DK Publishing. 2006. Storyteller Karima Amin’s retelling reclaims a strong oral culture of African American tales. Illustrator Eric Copeland’s animal characters are free of stereotypes, and the colors are bold and active.

- “How Brer’ Rabbit Lost His Bushy Tale” in Anthology *Sayin’ Somethin’*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006

**Anderson-Sankofa, David.** *The Origin of Life on Earth: An African Creation Myth*. Better World Books. 1991. Retells the Yoruba creation myth in which the deity Obatala descends from the sky to create the world.

- *The Rebellion of Humans: An African Spiritual Journey* with Petee Traynor. Sights Production. 1994.

**Arnold, Sheila.** *The Weeping Willow, or Why the Leaves Change Colors*. Ms. Sheila Publication. Hampton, VA. 2015. One little weeping willow annoys his friends so much with his complaining that eventually they all move away to the other side of the land. So, who will help him when he’s faced with a serious problem? A story about a tree that just wants to do its best to grow.

- *David’s Mighty Men: Benaiah*. Ms. Sheila Publications. Hampton VA. 2015

**Baskin, Andrew & Baskin Symerdar.** *Dorothy Mitchell-Kincaid: The Conscience of the 13 streets of Alcoa, Tennessee.* Baskin. 2024. Andrew Baskin is a NABS 2023 Black Appalachian Storyteller Fellow. Funds from the fellowship were used to publish a book. This is a biography of Dorothy Mitchell-Kincaid, an African American woman who was born, lived, and died in the 13 Streets of Alcoa, Tennessee. Primarily, based on interviews with Dorothy during the last year of her battle with pancreatic cancer, Dorothy tells "her story."

- Also see...entries in National Association of Black Storytellers Members' Bibliography of Education, Health & Scholarship

**Blake Alston, Charlotte.** "Louis Armstrong Rap" in Anthology *Sayin' Somethin'*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006. A Rhythmic rendering of the life of Louis Armstrong.

- "Grandma" in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995
- "Martin Luther King: A Story Poem" in Anthology *Talk that Talk*. Simon and Schuster. 1989
- "Sukeyna's Journey: A Wolof Tale" in Anthology *Supporting Diversity and Inclusion with Story*. Libraries Unlimited. 2020

**Brigham, Willa.** *Odetta and the Pizza Tree*. Fawcett Publishing. 2025. This entertaining book helps introduce young children to the concept of social consciousness by planting seeds about sharing.

- *Swatting the Fly*. Fawcett Publishing. 2025

**Buie, Donna "Mama Koku".** *Little Black Fairy and Other Very Fairy Stories, Poems, Rhythms & Rhymes*. Mama Koku. 2023. This is just a teeny weeny sample of the poems and tiny stories from this wonderful collection. In this, Mama Koku's second Fairy Book (see Zuri the Fairy), we're introduced to Tahloolah Lahroo from Louisiana, who is Fairy to the 'gators; Dathan the Bee Charmer, who stops the bees from chasing him by playing his Fairy Flute; Omania, who chastises naughty children hurting butterflies; and The Fairy Queen who recites Nikki Giovanni, sings India Arie and has a 'fro like Angela Davis. Most pieces feature a beautiful illustration of a Black Fairy by illustrator Kevin F. Bell, but we also see a diverse Fairy World throughout the book.

- *Zuri the Fairy*. Mama Koku. 2022

**Cabral, Len.** *How the Rabbit Lost Its Tale: A Haitian Tale*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishing. 2020. This is a traditional "how and why" or Pourquoi Tale, a folktale retold by a prominent American storyteller.

- *Anansi's Narrow Waist*. Celebration Press. 1994
- *Len Cabral's Storytelling Book*. American Library Association. 2010
- *Nho Lobo* in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995
- In *The Storyteller's Guide*. Holt & Mooney. August House. 1996

**Capel, Mitch.** *The Jealous Farmer*. MGC Productions. North Carolina. 2002. The story of "The Jealous Farmer" is a timeless tale that has been shared for centuries in the African and African American communities.

**Carter, Ron.** *Voices: A Collection of Poetry and Short Stories*. Xlibris Publishing (Author Solutions).2024. Bloomington, Indiana. 2024. Voices is a literary collection of poetry and short stories involving some of the unique experiences and observations of Ronald's life and lives of those around him. In his writings of this book, he has changed the names of his characters and some locations. It must be understood that the events are based on some of the history of his life. There are good times and some bad times expressed in both his poetry and short stories. There are also morals and lessons to be learned from both the stories and poetry.

- *Progeny, When you Grow Up You Can be Anything That you Want to Be*. Xlibris. 2022

**Christian, Ray.** *What's Ray Saying?* Podcast Series. PRX

Immerse yourself in *What's Ray Saying*, a world of Southern-baked personal narratives, interwoven with Black American history, all told through the lens of Ray Christian's remarkable life. In each episode, the award-winning storyteller, combat veteran, historian, and devoted father of six, invites you to become part of his community, as he shares stories from the scenic mountains of Appalachia. The award-winning podcast can be found at <https://drraychristian.com/the-podcast>.

**Daniel, Danielle.** *Ghost of Old Man Willie*. Beavers Pond Press. 2006. Folks believed that Old Man Willie buried diamonds and gold on his property. After he died people went up the hill to search for the treasure, but the ghost of Old Man Willie frightened them away. One day Alex, Dominique and Mai were bored and they decided to go look for the treasure. Little do the three know what awaits them and how the trip to Old Man Willie's will change the town of Zachary forever.

**Davis, Betty.** *"Growing Pains"*. Real Talk: Poetry for Young Adults, Vol. 1. AuthorHouse. 2012. When I go into a school and see behavior that needs attention, I try to address my feelings as well as those of the students who are affected. Rather than telling someone how to live their life, I'd rather show in words what my experiences have led me to believe. We all have the right to choose the path we wish to take, it's also good to know what our options are.

- *Let it Go: Decisions, Decisions*. Melonese Brookins Podcast. 2023

**Dawson, Carlo L'Chelle.** *Semblance of a Footprint: A Collection of Intimate Poetry & Strategies for Healing After the Loss of an Unborn or Newly Born Child*. Self-published. October 2016.

- Blog, [www.carlolchelledawson.com](http://www.carlolchelledawson.com). Self-Published. 2016
- *The Time is Now*. Original Track produced in compilation for the College of Charleston Sampler Soundtrack. Self- Published. 2013
- "Daddy, Come Home Original Poetry", *Tribal Voices* (Editor-in-Chief). Self- Published. 2001

**Djeli.** *The Day After Juneteenth*. Dreamcatcher Entertainment, LLC. 2022. What is freedom to someone who has never known freedom? Who are you? Who do you become? What did it feel like when hearing of their freedom on that day in Texas? Djeli contemplates the questions and renders provocative thought in poetic verse.

**Draper, Sharon.** *Out of My Mind*. Simon and Schuster. New York. 2010. Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

- 29 Titles: <https://www.sharondraper.com/books>

**Ellis, Rex.** *Beneath the Blazing Sun*. August House. 2026. This collection of 18 stories serves as both a historical teaching tool and a method for exploring slavery. From African roots to the present day, scholar and storyteller Rex Ellis animates the African American experience, weaving the strands of African folklore, early American history, and contemporary interpretations into a rich quilt. His stories spin a thread from the Windward Coast of West Africa to the shores of Jamestown and beyond. He uses storytelling as both a historical teaching tool and a method for dealing with controversial subjects. Ellis' unique style of storytelling educates, informs, and inspires courage and trust.

- *Boats in the Desert*. Central Queensland University Press. 2006
- “Yelling Without Being Loud” in Anthology *Supporting Diversity and Inclusion with Story: Authentic Folktales and Discussion Guides*. Libraries Unlimited. 2020
- “My Friend Benny”, Showdown in L.A.” and “Old Ben”, in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995
- “The Spoken Word” in Anthology, *Sayin’ Somethin’*. The National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006

**Evans, Ilene.** *Climbing Up The Beanstalk, the Book and Script*. Voices From the Earth, Inc. (VFTE). Thomas, WV. 2008. In Ilene Evans' Collection of her Original Children's Poems. She performs poems including, "Mother Wit", "Defiance", "Limericks", "The Jump Jig Toddy", and many more. Ilene also revisits the old tale of Jack and the Beanstalk—retold in a rap and rhythm style.

- Essay “Storytelling and the Watch Night Tradition in the African American Community”. *Spread The Word*. National Association of Black Storytellers. Winter 2012,11. Baltimore, MD
- Essay: “Telling Our Story – In Our Own Voice”. *Spread The Word*. National Association of Black Storytellers. Summer 2010, 6. Baltimore, MD
- *Behind Enemy Lines*. Album on Amazon Music. 2020
- Posts on Black Appalachian Storyteller Fellows on *NABS Talking Blog*
- “The Varied Voices of Black Storytelling” in *Black By God Newsletter*. April 8, 2024
- “The National Association of Black Storytellers Announces the Black Appalachian Fellowship Awardees for 2025” in *Black by God Newsletter*. November 2025

**Ferlatte, Diane.** "Ole Sis Goose" in Anthology *Supporting Diversity and Inclusion with Story: Authentic Folktales and Discussion Guides*, Lyn Ford & Sherry Norfolk. Libraries Unlimited 2020. Goose loves to swim on the lake. But Brer' fox don't much agree with that and not only wants to make her stop flapping and dipping on the lake but wants to break her neck and pick her bones. Ole Goose wants to take it to court. This cautionary tale awakens the reader to be mindful when seeking justice.

- In *Ready to Tell Tales*. Holt & Mooney. August House. 1994
- In *African Americans: Voices of Triumph-Creative Fire*. Time-Life Books. 1994
- In *The Language of Literature*. McDougal Littell. 1997
- In *The Storyteller's Guide*. Holt & Mooney. August House. 1996
- *Living on Earth*., National Public Radio. December 2002
- *Timeless Wisdom Tales*, Vol II. Dr. Kumuda Reddy. Samhita Productions. 1999
- "Why the Sky is So High" on *Rainbow Tales* (audiocassette & CD). Rounder Records. 1997
- "Brer Tiger and the Big Wind" on *Sierra Storytelling Festival Best of 1987*. Bennett House
- "The Knee High Man" on *Story Spinners*. Course Crafters Inc.1997

**Ford, Lyn.** *Affrilachian Tales: Folktales from the African-American Appalachian Tradition*. Parkhurst Brothers Publishing. 2012. The power of Lyn's storytelling comes straight out of her family heritage, which is the content of this, her first book. Here she tells how she learned stories from her father and grandfather.

- *Hot Wind Boiling Rain: Scary Stories for Strong Hearts*. Parkhurst. 2015
- *Boo-Tickle Tales. Not-so-Scary Stories for ages 4 and up*. Parkhurst. 2017
- *Speak Peace, Words of Wisdom, Work & Wonder* with Sherry Norfolk. Parkhurst. 2019
- *Supporting Diversity and Inclusion with Story: Authentic Folktales and Discussion Guides* with Sherry Norfolk. Libraries Unlimited. 2020
- "Big Fish" in Anthology in *Sayin' Somethin'*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006

**Frazier Dasent, Joann.** *A Farmer, His Son and Their Mule*. Regenerating Our Offspring Stories. 2022. Have you ever made a decision about something and more than one person decides to give you their advice and things do not turn out the way you expected? That's exactly what happens when the Farmer and his son are happy as they go to the market to sell their mule to buy school clothes. They are so excited they sing a song on their way to keep up their morale.

- *A Cool Windy Day on Table Mountain*. Independently Published. 2019

**Frink Reed, Caroliese.** "What is a Griot/Griotte?" in *The Griots' Storybook: An Anthology of Black Storytelling*. Griots' Circle of Maryland. 2023. Essay on definition, linguistic origins and cultural usages of the terms *griot/griot*.

- "We Are the Ones We've Been Waiting For" and "The African Oral Tradition" in Anthology *Sayin' Somethin'*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006

- "Removing the Veil" in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995
- Editor, *Poems, Stories, ETC: An Eclectic Experience*, Shirley Riley. Spiritual Press. 2002
- Various Blog posts on *NABS Talking*
- Also see... National Association of Black Storytellers Members' Bibliography of Education, Health & Scholarship

**Gilliard-Davis, Saundra.** *Revolutionary Maids Inc.* in Anthology *Sayin' Somethin'*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006. Neferitti Sojourner Jones, proud legacy owner of Revolutionary Maids Inc., informs high powered executive Alexis Dupree of the many ways her family has contributed to the struggle for liberation and human dignity throughout the decades. It bridges Black Consciousness and Black Progressive Black Womanhood with a storytelling style that captures the voice and lived experiences of flatfooted Black women.

- "God's Answer to Prayer" in Anthology *Poems, Stories, ETC: An Eclectic Experience* Shirley Riley. Spiritual Press. 2022

**Good, Crystal.** Publisher, *Black By God Newsletter*. Founded in 2020. *Black by God* (BBG) is at the forefront of community-led news and storytelling in West Virginia. The Newsletter is committed to showcasing the diverse experiences of Black and BIPOC communities in the Appalachian region. Their core mission is to present a detailed and varied portrayal of life in these communities, focusing on agriculture, technology, community, civics, and business. BBG is on a mission to revolutionize West Virginia's media scene with an aim to lift the voices, perspectives, and issues of those overlooked by mainstream media, thereby strengthening the Black/BIPOC community's impact.

**Goss, Linda.** *The Frog Who Wanted To Be A Singer*. Orchard Books. 1996. The birds are the only animals that sing in the forest, but a frog with a powerful desire to make music gets his chance.

- *The Color of My Soul: Poems and Story Songs*. Story Bells Press. 2017
- *Afro-American Tales and Games*. Smithsonian Folkways Records. 1980
- *It's Storytelling Time*. Smithsonian Folkways Records. 1983
- In *Southern Appalachian Storytellers: Interview with Sixteen Keepers of the Oral Tradition* edited by Saundra Gerrell Kelley. MacFarland. 2019

**Goss, Linda & Barnes, Marian.** *Talk That Talk: An Anthology of African-American Storytelling*. Simon and Schuster. New York. 1989. Introduction by Louis Gates. This compilation of African American folktales, historical commentaries and sermons is considered "The Bible of African American Storytelling". Contributors include Zora Neale Hurston, Jackie Torrence and Langston Hughes. Chapter titles are: "When the Animals Talked: Animal Tales and Fables", "Like it Was: History Remembered", "Preaching the Word: Sermons", "Love Who Loves You: Traditional and Contemporary Stories of Family and Home", "The Bogey Man's Gonna Git You: Tales of Ghosts and Witches", "Shut My Mouth Wide Open: Humorous Tales and Anecdotes", and "Ah-la-dee-da-dee-bob-de-bop: Raps, Rhythms and Rhymes in the Storytelling Tradition."

**Goss, Linda & Goss, Clay.** *Jump Up and Say: A Collection of Black Storytelling* with an introduction by Ossie Davis. Simon & Schuster. 1995. A collection celebrating the rich heritage

of African American storytelling from around the world includes folklore, stories, fables, songs, and poems by such writers as Maya Angelou and James Baldwin.

- *It's Kwanzaa Time.* BT. Bound. 1995.
- *The Baby Leopard.* Bantam Books. 1989

**Grant, Mary J.** *Shadows on Sunday*. Mascot. 2017. Maymay's nighttime habits are okay except for Sundays. She knows she needs to get to bed early, but she can't help trying to get her way and stay up late. This story shares her experiences as she tries to overcome her fear of the dark and replace it with a memory that lasts forever. *Shadows on Sunday* has a simple rhyme that comforts and creates a delightful book.

- *My Special Jar.* Xlibris US. 2019
- *Floyd B's Pond.* Mascot Books. 2014
- *My Daddy Taught Me to Read.* Xlibris US. 2011

**Greene, Janice Curtis.** *Thema and the Wonderful Black Gourd*. AuthorHouse. 2011. A delightful coming of age story set in Ghana. As Thema struggles with growing up away from her parents she is helped by a beautiful reflection in the river. Grow with Thema and you may discover the lesson hidden in the Wonderful Black Gourd.

- *King Lion Takes a Census.* AuthorHouse. 2020
- "Storytellers in the House in Anthology *Sayin' Somethin'*". National Association of Blacks Storytellers. 2006

**Griffin, Brenda & Mason, Carsie.** *Voicing Our Stories: Honoring the Griot Tradition in Spirit and Truth*. BQE. 2021. This is a collection of stories that show our magical and struggling past, present and future. It gives accounts of the people who warmed our hearts, understood our struggles, and loved us unconditionally. These stories help shape our reality.

**Griots' Circle of Maryland.** *The Griots' Storybook: An Anthology of Black Storytelling*. Patricia Smart, Linda Goss, Fellisco Keeling, Martha Ruff, editors. Independently Published. 2023. This anthology is a literary journey from members of the Griots' Circle of Maryland, Inc. The writings in this collection have a foundation in Black culture. There are story poems that highlight Brer Rabbit, Anansi the Spider and the Cajun culture of Louisiana. Some others celebrate outstanding Black leaders with poetry based on Black spirituals and the rhythms of Paul Laurence Dunbar's dialect poems. The resources in this collection include information on Afrocentric bookstores, literary suggestions, libation statements, cultural recipes and words of wisdom from the African diaspora.

**Hodge Muse, Naomi.** *Tales of Koehler Hollow: An African American Family in Rural Appalachia*. Unsung Voices Books. 2024. Winner of the Bill Fisher Award for Best First Book: Nonfiction! Tales of Koehler Hollow tells the story of Amy Finney and her descendants. Amy, a formerly enslaved Black woman, gained her freedom and established a homestead in the Appalachian Mountains during a time in American history when she was dehumanized for the color of her skin and devalued for being female. Naomi Hodge-Muse, working with Christopher A. Brooks, recounts stories from her family history, starting with her great-great-grandmother, Amy, through her parents, aunts, uncles, and siblings and their

rural life. Their family story represents a microcosm of the African American experience in southern Virginia from the mid-19th century to the present - along with the complications, joys, tragedies, and sorrows that surrounded them.

**Holloway, J.M. Linda.** *Little Miss Linda Speaks Out About Death*. Keen Vision Publishing, LLC. 2024. This story helps kids understand and cope with the loss of a loved one, featuring the character Little Miss Linda helping her mother deal with a terminal illness, offering a gentle way for families and educators to discuss grief, emotions, and the reality of death with young children. It is part of a series including "[Little Miss Linda Copes with Divorce](#)," using storytelling and interactive questions to create safe spaces for children to process loss.

- *Come on Down to Montgomery*. Anchored Magazine, 34-36. Alabama
- *50 Shades of Blackness*. Journal of Poetry Therapy (1), 2  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08893675.2024.2396136>. (2023)
- Also see... National Association of Black Storytellers Members' Bibliography of Education, Health & Scholarship

**Holley, Sharon Jordan.** "African American History Rap" in the Anthology *Talk that Talk*. Simon and Schuster. 1989. From A to Z a delightful poetry rhyme that boosts pride in being African American blended with culture and historical reference of sheroes and heroes.

- "S-T-O-R-Y" and "Why Lizards Don't Hop" in Anthology *Sayin' Somethin'*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006

**Jackson-Smith, Tanya.** *The Game*. Self-Published. St. Paul, Minnesota. 2024. The Game is about the love everyone has for the game of baseball, but everyone who was good at the game couldn't play because of the Jim Crow Laws.

- *The Bronze Snake Pole: Where Doctors and Barbers Got Their Symbols*. Amazon Self-Published. St. Paul, Minnesota. 2024

**Jolle, Kelly.** *Lady Faye Ukelele*. Books and Things Publishing. 2025. When three friends go to the museum for the unveiling of their favorite artists' ukulele, they hear a story about her they've never heard before. Margo, the host of the event, shows one of Lady Fay's ukuleles and invites the audience to hear more about Lady Fay Ukulele and her very special pen. When that pen goes missing, Lady Fay turns to an old friend for answers. This folktale retelling will remind readers of the importance of forgiveness and friendship.

**King, Oba William.** *Firefly and Little Star*. Creative Space Independent Publishing Platform. 2014. Little Star needs help! She's fallen from the sky and lost her light. Can Firefly show her how to get back where she belongs? Share this story of friendship and confidence with your favorite child. Wonderful interactive workshop pages. Great for Classroom and Homework activities.

**Koram, Baba Jamal.** *When Lions Could Fly*. Sea Island Information Group. 1989. In African traditions, the Lion is a symbol of power and royalty, however, in some African tales the Lion is often on the losing end of many circumstances, as the weaker animals find ways of outwitting the stronger, more powerful Lion. Not so, with this collection. In *When Lions*

*Could Fly*, the Lion is royal, wise, generous, and sometimes devious. But no matter what role the Lion, or Lioness, is playing he/she will always take a stand based on positive principles. These stories are for all ages. Children will respond to the reading of these Lion Tales if they are read with gusto. By Jamal Koram the StoryMan.

- *Aesop: Tales of Aethiop the African: 001*. Sea Island Information Group. 1990
- “Pulling that Yam” and “The Little Cornbread Man” in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995
- “The Lion and the Ashiko Drum” in the Anthology *Talk that Talk*. Simon and Shuster. 1989

**L. Renée.** “the bone carrier”, “The Unmapped Place”, and “Tradition”. *PLUCK! The Journal of Afrrilachian Arts & Culture* and *New Lime Review*. Crystal Wilkinson Creative Writing Prize, second place winner.

- 19 Selected Poems. <https://lreneepoems.com/writing>

**Lasana, Oni.** *Story Village Podcast*. Apple, Spotify. 2024. Enjoy over 50 amazing stories and poetry over the coolest world music on the planet. Story Village is a great resource for classroom listening and for students and aspiring storytellers to retell. Story Village with Aunti Oni is a multicultural family-friendly audio adventure.

- *Kwanzaa Time with Aunti Oni*. Podcast. Newark, NJ. 2024
- *The Palm & The Poui, a Tobago Tale*. Oni Lasana. 2025

**McKissack, Patricia.** *Never Forgotten*. Schwartz & Wade. 2011. This gorgeous picture book by Newbery Honor winner Patricia C. McKissack and two-time Caldecott Medal-winning husband-and-wife team, Leo and Diane Dillon, is sure to become a treasured keepsake for African American families. Set in West Africa, this a lyrical story-in-verse is about a young black boy who is kidnapped and sold into slavery, and his father who is left behind to mourn the loss of his son. Here's a beautiful, powerful, truly unforgettable story about family, memory, and freedom. A 2012 Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book.

- [Author of over 100 Books](#).
- “The 11:59” in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995

**McKissack, Patricia & Moss, Onawumi.** *Precious and the Boo Hag*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2005. When Precious is left home alone with a stomachache, she's got nothing but a warning from Mama -- *“Don’t let nothing or nobody into this house”* -- to keep her company. You see, “nothing or nobody” could turn out to be *something* awful: the Boo Hag! The Boo Hag's got a voice that rumbles like thunder and hair that shoots out like lightning. And she can disguise herself to look like *anything*. So, when the Boo Hag comes calling, will Precious be clever enough to outwit even the trickiest trickster?

Here's an oh-so-funny -- and not-too-scary -- story from Newbery Honor-winning author Patricia C. McKissack and Onawumi Jean Moss that's paired with spirited, folksy illustrations by Kyrsten Brooker.

**Morgan, Hugh.** *Brother Blue: A Narrative Portrait of Brother Blue a.k.a. Dr. Hugh Morgan Hill* (Portrait Series) by Warren Lehrer (Bay Press, WA, October 1995) contains several of Brother Blue's stories conveyed through Warren's imaginative typesetting.

- "Miss Wunderlich" in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995. Also, in, *Homespun, Tales from America's Favorite Storytellers*. Crown Publishers. 1988
- "The Rainbow Child" in *Spinning Tales, Weaving Hope*. New Society Publishers. 1992
- "The Butterfly" in *Talk That Talk*. Simon and Schuster. 1989

**National Association of Black Storytellers.** *Sayin' Somethin'*. Goss, Linda, Pritchett Dylan & Frink Reed, Caroliese, editors. Morris Publishers. 2008. Introduction by Eleanora Tate. The first anthology by the National Association of Black Storytellers that features 34 stories of 32 organizational members. Chapter Titles are: "The Call", "The Response", "The Circle", "The Shout."

- *Spread The Word Newsletter Printed Version*. 1988 - 1998
- *NABS Talking Blog*. Established 2015
- *The Fourteenth*. 2015-2016 (The 14<sup>th</sup> President's monthly newsletter)
- *Spread the Word Newsletter On-line*. Established 2015
- *Founders' Newsletter*. 2015- present
- *Founders' Daily Word*. Established 2023

**Norfolk, Bobby & Norfolk, Sherry.** *Anansi and the Pot of Beans* (Story Cove). August House. 2026. Did you ever wonder why spiders have no hair? After reading *Anansi and the Pot of Beans*, you too will know the answer. This classic folktale from Africa, written by Bobby and Sherry Norfolk, tells the story of when Anansi goes to help his grandmother. Upon arrival he finds her steaming, hot pot of beans, which he can't resist. This is where the fun begins. *Anansi and the Pot of Beans* is a charming story that is entertaining while also teaching important life lessons in character values about responsibility and trust.

- 7 Titles at August House. <https://www.augusthouse.com/books>

**Ologboni, Teju.** "Two Kinds of Women" in Anthology *Talk that Talk*. Simon and Schuster. 1989. A cautionary tale about loving and life told from the perspective of wisdom, experience and hindsight of a concerned father to a young son confused about his choices.

- "Desert Traveller" in Anthology *Sayin' Somethin'*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2026
- "The Young Lion" in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Shuster. 1995

**Olufemi, Christine** *Something Is Missing*. New World Press. 2020. A day's journey of a child in which many odd and delightful things happen including kangaroos hopping on the street, crickets jumping and scratching their legs, a raccoon bringing back what he had stolen; they all seem pretty humorous, but something is missing.

- *Butterfly News*. Heartfelt Publications. 2025

- *From My Back Porch*. KOA Publications. 1993

**Petties, Michelle.** *Leaving Large: The Stories of a Food Addict*. Brand New Now Press. Annapolis, MD. 2021. Michelle Petties shares a collection of personal essays that chronicle her triumph over 42 years of obesity and ill-health. As a result of uncovering and understanding her Food Stories, Michelle untangled long held and mistaken beliefs around food and hunger. She learned to make peace between her mind, body and long held eating habits.

- Also see... entries in National Association of Black Storytellers Members' Bibliography of Education, Health & Scholarship

**Pritchett, Dylan.** *The First Music*. August House. 2006. Inspired by the sounds and rhythms of the west African forest, avid storyteller and performer, Dylan Pritchett weaves a tale that reveals the music we all have inside us. In the beginning, each animal makes his own sound—everyone, that is, except the frogs, who seem more comfortable listening than performing. But when Elephant stumbles on a log, he accidentally creates an intriguing, unfamiliar sound that engages everyone's attention. What follows might be called the first jam session, with each animal contributing his or her unique sound to the rhythm to create an engaging, harmonious, sweet sound – the first music. Erin Bennett Banks' bold and vibrant oil paintings capture not only the density of the African forest and the personalities of its inhabitants but also bring this cumulative tale to a satisfying crescendo.

- *Yellow-Speckled Black Bird*. Alp Arts Press. 2022
- “The Lion and The Rabbit” in Anthology *Sayin’ Somethin’*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006

**Ruff, Martha.** “Journey to God's House” in Anthology *Griots' Storybook*. Independently Published. 2023. A reflective and contemplative stare at life's small and large moments as we travel toward “God's House”.

**Sanchez, Sonia.** *This is not a Small Voice*. Beacon Press. 2026. Few poets in history have possessed the irrepressible humanity and abundant positivity that characterize Sonia Sanchez's astonishing body of work. Energetic, infectious and rich with sonic exuberance, Sanchez's poems have radically transformed the direction of American poetry over the past six decades and have been an inspiration to readers around the world, including Toni Morrison and Chinua Achebe. Whether it's her iconic haiku, rhythmic ballads or devastating elegies, Sanchez's luminous verse thrums with a profound generosity and an international consciousness, rendering all of life's agony and ecstasy.

- 26 Titles. <https://soniasanchez.net/publications/>
- “Bubba” in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995
- “Just Don't Ever Give Up on Love” in Anthology *Talk That Talk*. Simon and Schuster. 1989.

**Simmons, Toni.** *The Cheese Chase: Why Dogs Chase Cats, An African-American Folk Tale*. Beavers Pond. 2004. This delightful read-aloud tale of sharing and friendship is based on the African-American folktale, *Why Dogs Chase Cats*. Dog and Cat are good friends until they buy together a chunk of cheese. As they carry their cheese home to eat they sing. Dog sings,

"Cheese, cheese I'm carrying OUR cheese." Cat sings, "Cheese, cheese I'm carrying MY cheese". Suddenly the chase begins. This story is brought to life with this participatory cheese chant and Brian Wolf's fanciful artwork.

**Smith, Mary Carter.** *Heart to Heart*. Aframa Agency. 1988. "Mother Mary Carter Smith invites readers to come aside for a private chat, *Heart to Heart*. She offers prose that evokes the most secret joy and pain of her existence. I doubt that any reader will be able to move through the pages of *Heart to Heart* without the feeling that the mask of his or her soul is slipping, making oneself vicariously vulnerable to the passion and pain of the author's reality." - Paul Evans.

- "Club Woman" and "Jungle" In *Poetry of the Negro, An Anthology* edited by Langston Hughes and Arana Bontemps. Doubleday & Company. 1970
- *Town Child*. Nordika Publications. 1976
- *My Autobiography: A Tale That is Told*. Mary Carter Smith. 2004
- *The Griots' Cookbook* with Alice McGill. Mary Carter Smith. 1986
- "Cindy Ellie: A Modern Fairytale" in Anthology *Talk That Talk*. Simon and Schuster. 1989
- *Mary Carter Smith African-American Storyteller* by Babs Hajdusiewicz. Enslow Publishers. 1995. A biography of the African-American woman who gained fame as a storyteller and became "America's Mother Griot" and official storyteller of Official Storyteller of Maryland.
- *Funeral* in Anthology *Jump Up and Say*. Simon and Schuster. 1995 and *Sayin' Somethin'*. National Association of Black Storytellers. 2006

**Tate, Eleanora.** *Just an Overnight Guest*. Just Us Books, Inc. 1997. Everything is fine in nine-year-old Margie Carson's life in Nutbush, MO until four-year-old Ethel Hardisen comes along. Ethel throws rocks, fights, cusses -- and then moves right into Margie's bed!

- 12 Titles. <https://www.leanoraetate.com>
- "Daddy and the Plat-Eye Ghost" in the Anthology *Talk that Talk*. Simon Schuster. 1989

**TAHIRA Akua TAHIRA.** *Rise to Freedom*. Album. 2015. African oral tradition stories and music about hope and change, available on platforms like Spotify.

- "Freedom Call." Song. 2020 on Spotify

**Torrence, Jackie.** *Jackie Tales: Magic of H.* William Morrow. 1998. One of America's best-known, beloved storytellers shares sixteen of her most popular stories and shows parents how to tell them warmly and compellingly through easy-to-follow "stage directions," accents and gestures, and expressive photographs.

- *The Importance of Pot Liquor*. August House. 1994
- "Case of the Missing Strawberry Pie" in Anthology *Talk that Talk*. Simon and Schuster. 1989

**Turley, Alicetyne.** *The Gospel of Freedom: Black Evangelicals and the Underground Railroad*. The University Press of Kentucky. 2024. Alicetyne Turley positions Kentucky

as a crucial "pass through" territory and addresses the important contributions of antislavery southerners who formed organized networks to assist those who were enslaved in the Deep South. Drawing on family history and lore as well as a large range of primary sources, Turley shows how free and enslaved African Americans developed successful systems to help those enslaved below the Mason-Dixon Line. Illuminating the roles of these Black freedom fighters, Turley questions the validity of long-held conclusions based on Wilbur H. Siebert's original work and suggests new areas of inquiry for further exploration. *The Gospel of Freedom* seeks to fill in the historical gaps and promote the lost voices of the Underground Railroad.

**Washington, Donna.** *Prak Fills the House*. Peachtree. 2023. This hilarious retelling of "The Three Little Pigs" stars a spirited pig as she outsmarts her older siblings in a friendly competition.

- *Boo Stew*. Peachtree. 2021
- *Lil Rabbit's Kwanzaa*. Harper Collins. 2010
- *The Story of Kwanzaa: A Holiday Book for Kids*. Harper Collins. 1997
- Various Blog Posts on *NABS Talking*

**White, Jerry G.** *Anansi and the Colorful Kente Cloth*. 1010 Publishing. June 2021. The story of Anansi the spider comes to life once again with the beautifully illustrated story written by Jerry G. White and illustrated by Courtney Strickland. The book is written in English and Twi...but you can check out our Spanish and Twi version too.

**Williams, Diane.** *The Life and Legacy of B.B. King a Legendary Blues Icon*. The History Press. 2019. Born on a cotton plantation in 1925, the man born Riley B. King would grow up to be one of the most influential blues musicians of all time, being crowned "The King of the Blues." He never wavered from his vocation, even as he gathered up other musicians in his wake and melded them into the harmony of his animating passion. In this intimate portrait of King, author Diane Williams offers a brief account of the monumental blues man's life before settling in for a series of interviews with his bandmates and beloved family members, offering readers an invaluable opportunity to feel like they know King too.

- *Annie Mae Jumps the Broom*. Independently Published. 2020
- Editor, NABS Quarterly Newsletter, 2024
- Also see... entries in National Association of Black Storytellers Members' Bibliography of Education, Health & Scholarship

**Williams, Ivory D.** *Grown Folks Talkin'...HUSH!* An Anthology. Blurb Self-Publishing. 2024. Collection of hilarious tales highlighting the wit, wisdom and humor from Detroit's Master Storytellers.

- *I Remember When...* An Anthology. Blurb Self-Publishing. 2025
- *Mary Mac Mac Mac*. An Anthology. Blurb Self-Publishing. 2024

**Womack, Roshanda & Andrew Womack.** *Anancy and Why The Sea Is Salty*. Brothers-Womack Publishing, LLC. Flint, MI through KDP. 2022. This book is the Womack's contribution to the long legacy of Anancy folktales that have traveled from West Africa to the

Caribbean and all around the world. In this new folktale, you will discover how Anancy caused the water in the sea to become salty.

- *Anancy and Why Groundhog is Afraid of His Shadow*. Brothers-Womack Publishing. LLC. Flint, MI through KDP. 2024

**Williams Bush, Sandra.** *"Honoring Formerly Enslaved Ancestors -- Sons and Daughters of the U.S. Middle Passage: My 2nd Great-grandfather, Ned Washington"*, article; The Afro-American Genealogical and Historical Society of Chicago newsletter. June 2024.

- “Samuel Brown, Mississippi Homesteader”, U. S. National Park Service website <https://www.nps.gov/people/samuel-brown.htm>. August 22. 2023
- *Kindred Stories: Genealogy and Family Histories: A Collection of Family Stories and Genealogy From Members of the Buffalo Genealogical Society of the African Diaspora* (BGSAD). Buffalo New York. 2020
- “Ancestor Callings: Georgia and Mississippi Roots”, family history genealogy blog <https://ancestorcallings.blogspot.com> (started in 2013)

**Zulu, Nothondo.** *Straighten Up and Fly Right*. [StoryLibrary.org](https://www.storylibrary.org/stories/s/straighten-up-and-fly-right). In an African American folktale, popularized by the 1943 song by Nat King Cole, buzzard offers monkey a ride in the air; his intentions are to trick and eat him. See how monkey outwits buzzard and tells him to “straighten up and fly right”. Master Storyteller Nothando Zulu’s expressions, gestures and vocalizations convey depth, beauty and a cultural resonance that is the epitome of storytelling.

- How Alligator Got a Rough Back. [StoryLibrary.org](https://www.storylibrary.org/stories/s/how-alligator-got-a-rough-back)