

norton anthology of african american literature pdf

norton anthology of african american literature pdf is a highly sought-after resource for students, educators, and literary enthusiasts interested in the rich and diverse spectrum of African American literature. This comprehensive anthology offers an extensive collection of works spanning from the earliest slave narratives to contemporary writings, showcasing voices that have shaped and continue to influence American literary culture. The availability of the Norton Anthology in PDF format has increased its accessibility, allowing readers to engage with critical texts conveniently. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF, including its content, significance, and how it serves as an essential academic tool. Additionally, it addresses common questions about the anthology's use and availability in digital form, while highlighting key features that make it a pivotal work in literary studies. Below is a detailed table of contents to guide this comprehensive overview.

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Overview of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature is a carefully curated collection of literary works that highlight the experiences, struggles, and achievements of African American writers throughout history. The anthology is published by W.W. Norton & Company, a reputable publisher known for academic texts and literary collections. It encompasses a wide range of genres, including poetry, fiction, essays, speeches, and slave narratives, all selected to represent the breadth and depth of African American literary traditions. The anthology is updated periodically to include contemporary voices alongside classic texts, ensuring relevance and comprehensiveness for modern readers.

Historical Context and Publication

First published in the early 2000s, the Norton Anthology of African American Literature was designed to fill a gap in literary anthologies by focusing exclusively on African American contributions to literature. It emerged as an essential resource in academic settings, supporting courses in African American studies, American literature, and cultural history. The editors of the anthology are scholars with expertise in African American literature, which guarantees the selection's academic rigor and authenticity.

Content and Structure of the Anthology

The anthology is organized chronologically and thematically, allowing readers to trace the evolution of African American literary expression across different historical periods. It includes a diverse array of texts that reflect the social, political, and cultural contexts in which they were produced.

Chronological Organization

The Norton Anthology divides the content into historical eras such as the Antebellum period, Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Movement, and contemporary times. This structure helps readers understand how African American literature has responded to changing social dynamics and historical events.

Thematic Sections

Within each chronological section, the anthology groups works by themes such as identity, resistance, freedom, and community. These thematic divisions enhance comprehension of the recurring motifs and concerns central to African American literary traditions.

Notable Features

- Extensive introductions and biographical notes for each author
- Critical essays and contextual information accompanying selections
- Glossaries of key terms and historical references
- Indexes for easy navigation of authors, titles, and themes

Significance in African American Literary Studies

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature holds a prominent place in literary scholarship due to its comprehensive and authoritative approach. It serves as a foundational text for understanding the literary contributions of African Americans and their impact on American culture and beyond. The anthology not only preserves historical voices but also elevates contemporary writers, thereby fostering a continuous dialogue within literary studies.

Impact on Curriculum Development

Educators frequently adopt the Norton Anthology as a core textbook in courses focusing on African American literature and cultural studies. Its depth and breadth enable instructors to design curricula that reflect diverse perspectives and critical approaches, making it an indispensable teaching tool.

Promotion of Literary Diversity

By including a wide range of voices from different time periods and backgrounds, the anthology promotes literary diversity and challenges the traditional literary canon. This inclusivity broadens readers' understanding of American literature as a whole.

Availability and Access to the PDF Version

Accessing the Norton Anthology of African American Literature in PDF format is a common request among students and educators seeking digital convenience. The PDF version allows for portability, easy searching, and annotation, which are valuable features for academic study.

Official Sources and Purchasing Options

The PDF version is typically available through authorized academic platforms or directly from the publisher. Purchasing the digital edition ensures users receive a complete and legally obtained copy that respects copyright laws.

Institutional Access

Many universities and libraries provide access to the Norton Anthology PDF through their digital resources. Students affiliated with these institutions can often download or view the anthology online via library subscriptions or course materials.

Considerations for Unauthorized Copies

While unauthorized PDFs may circulate online, obtaining the anthology through unofficial means is illegal and undermines the work of authors and publishers. It is important to use legitimate sources to access the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF.

Educational Uses and Academic Applications

The Norton Anthology serves multiple educational purposes, supporting both teaching and research in African American literary studies. Its comprehensive content makes it suitable for a variety of academic levels, from high school to graduate studies.

Classroom Integration

Instructors use the anthology to expose students to primary texts and critical perspectives, facilitating discussions around themes such as racial identity, social justice, and cultural expression. It is also employed in interdisciplinary courses involving history, sociology, and cultural studies.

Research and Scholarship

Scholars rely on the anthology as a reliable source for primary texts and scholarly commentary. Its carefully edited selections provide a solid foundation for literary analysis, historical research, and comparative studies.

Student Benefits

- Access to a wide range of African American literary works in one volume
- Contextual information that aids in understanding historical and cultural backgrounds
- Support for writing assignments, presentations, and critical essays

Key Authors and Works Featured

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature includes works from some of the most influential African American writers, whose contributions have defined and shaped the literary landscape.

Classic and Historical Authors

Included are pioneering figures such as Phillis Wheatley, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, and W.E.B. Du Bois. These authors provide foundational perspectives on slavery, emancipation, and early African American identity.

Harlem Renaissance and Mid-20th Century Writers

The anthology features notable Harlem Renaissance authors like Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Claude McKay, alongside mid-century writers such as Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison, who explored themes of racial injustice and existential identity.

Contemporary Voices

Modern authors such as Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, and Ta-Nehisi Coates are also represented, reflecting ongoing dialogues about race, culture, and social change in contemporary America.

Legal and Ethical Considerations for PDF Use

When using the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF, it is essential to consider copyright laws and ethical usage to respect intellectual property rights and support the continued publication of such works.

Copyright and Licensing

The anthology is protected by copyright, and unauthorized distribution of its PDF version constitutes infringement. Users should seek licensed copies through official channels to ensure compliance.

Fair Use in Academic Contexts

While academic use may fall under fair use provisions, this does not permit unauthorized sharing or downloading of entire texts. Proper licensing and permissions must be observed.

Supporting Publishers and Authors

Legitimate access to the Norton Anthology encourages continued scholarship and publication of African American literature, benefiting authors, editors, and the broader academic community.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF?

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF is a digital version of the comprehensive collection of African American literary works published by W.W. Norton & Company, featuring writings from various authors across different periods.

Where can I legally access the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF?

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF can be accessed legally through academic libraries, university subscriptions, or by purchasing it directly from the publisher's official website or authorized e-book retailers.

Is the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF available for free?

No, the Norton Anthology of African American Literature is a copyrighted work and is typically not available for free. Access is usually granted through purchase or academic institution subscriptions.

What types of works are included in the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF?

The anthology includes poetry, fiction, essays, speeches, and historical documents from prominent and emerging African American writers spanning from the 18th century to contemporary times.

Can I use the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF for academic research?

Yes, the anthology is widely used for academic research and study. However, users should ensure they have lawful access to the PDF and cite it properly in their work.

Does the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF include contemporary authors?

Yes, the anthology includes a range of authors from historical figures to contemporary writers, offering a broad perspective on African American literature and culture.

How is the Norton Anthology of African American

Literature PDF organized?

The anthology is organized chronologically and thematically, featuring sections that cover different literary periods, genres, and cultural movements within African American literature.

Are there study guides available for the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF?

Yes, several educational websites and publishers offer study guides and supplementary materials to accompany the Norton Anthology of African American Literature to aid student understanding.

Can I print the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF for personal use?

If you have legally obtained the PDF, printing pages for personal and educational use is generally allowed under fair use policies, but mass distribution or sharing is prohibited.

What editions of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature are available in PDF format?

Multiple editions of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature exist, with newer editions including updated content. Availability in PDF format depends on the publisher and the platform from which it is purchased or accessed.

Additional Resources

1. *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*

This comprehensive anthology offers an extensive collection of African American literary works spanning from the 18th century to contemporary times. It includes poetry, fiction, essays, and speeches by notable authors such as Frederick Douglass, Zora Neale Hurston, and Toni Morrison. The anthology is widely used in academic settings for its rich historical context and diverse voices.

2. *African American Literature: An Anthology* by William L. Andrews and Henry Louis Gates Jr.

This anthology presents a broad spectrum of African American literary voices, blending classic and contemporary works. It provides insightful introductions and critical essays that help readers understand the cultural and historical significance of the texts. The collection is ideal for students and scholars interested in the evolution of African American literature.

3. *Voices of the Harlem Renaissance* by Nathan Irvin Huggins

Focusing on the Harlem Renaissance era, this book compiles key writings from influential African American artists and intellectuals. It captures the vibrancy and creativity of the period, highlighting themes of racial pride, identity, and social change. The collection includes poetry, fiction, and essays that shaped African American cultural history.

4. *Black Women Writers: An Anthology* edited by Mari Evans

This anthology spotlights the contributions of Black women writers across different periods, emphasizing their unique perspectives and literary achievements. It features a diverse range of genres, including poetry, short stories, and essays, showcasing voices often marginalized in mainstream anthologies. The book enhances understanding of gender and race intersections in literature.

5. *The Oxford Anthology of African American Literature* edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Nellie Y. McKay

A carefully curated collection that offers a wide-ranging overview of African American literary history, this anthology includes lesser-known works alongside canonical texts. The editors provide comprehensive annotations and critical commentary, making it a valuable resource for both general readers and academics. The anthology spans multiple genres and historical periods.

6. *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* by John Hope Franklin and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham

Though primarily a historical text, this book integrates significant literary excerpts to illustrate the African American experience. It provides context for many of the writings found in literary anthologies, linking literature to broader social and political movements. The narrative enhances readers' appreciation of the interplay between history and literature.

7. *Contemporary African American Women Writers: A Critical Reader* edited by Angelyn Mitchell

This reader focuses on the works of contemporary African American women authors, offering critical essays and selected texts. It explores themes such as identity, feminism, and cultural memory, reflecting ongoing dialogues within African American literature. The collection is essential for understanding modern literary trends and voices.

8. *Harriet Jacobs: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

An autobiographical narrative by Harriet Jacobs, this seminal work provides a personal account of slavery from a female perspective. It is frequently included in African American literature anthologies for its historical significance and powerful storytelling. The book offers insight into the lived experiences behind many literary themes.

9. *Blues People: Negro Music in White America* by LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka)

While primarily a study of African American music, this influential work connects musical expression to broader cultural and literary movements. It explores the roots of blues and jazz, highlighting their impact on African American identity and literature. The book enriches understanding of the cultural context that informs much African American writing.

[**Norton Anthology Of African American Literature Pdf**](#)

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF: A Comprehensive Guide to a Literary Landmark

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature is a monumental collection of writings spanning centuries, offering invaluable insight into the diverse experiences, perspectives, and artistic achievements of African Americans. Its significance lies in its role as a primary resource for scholars, students, and anyone seeking to understand the profound impact of Black voices on American and global literature. This ebook delves into the anthology's contents, its historical context, its enduring relevance, and practical strategies for accessing and utilizing its rich literary landscape.

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature: A Detailed Breakdown

Here's a structured overview of the anthology's contents:

Introduction: Provides historical and literary context for understanding the anthology's scope and the evolution of African American literature.

Part 1: Beginnings to 1865: Explores early forms of African American writing, including slave narratives, spirituals, and early poetry, showcasing the resilience and creativity amidst oppression.

Part 2: Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance: Covers the period following emancipation, documenting the complexities of freedom, racial injustice, and the burgeoning artistic movements of the early 20th century.

Part 3: The Harlem Renaissance and Beyond: Details the flourishing literary scene of the Harlem Renaissance, its impact on subsequent generations, and the emergence of new voices and styles.

Part 4: The Mid-20th Century and Beyond: Examines the evolution of African American literature in the mid-20th century and beyond, including the Civil Rights Movement's literary expressions, the Black Arts Movement, and contemporary trends.

Conclusion: Synthesizes the anthology's key themes, offering perspectives on the enduring legacy of African American literature and its continued relevance.

Appendix: Often includes biographical information on the authors, critical essays, and supplementary materials.

Detailed Explanation of Each Section:

The Introduction sets the stage, outlining the challenges of compiling such a diverse body of work and offering a critical framework for interpreting the anthology's contents. It emphasizes the anthology's significance within the broader context of American literary history.

Part 1: Beginnings to 1865 provides a foundational understanding of how African American literature emerged under the brutal conditions of slavery. It showcases the power of storytelling, spiritual expression, and coded language used to resist oppression and maintain cultural identity. Slave narratives, like those of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs, are central to this section.

Part 2: Reconstruction to the Harlem Renaissance examines the transition from slavery to freedom, depicting the triumphs and setbacks experienced by African Americans during Reconstruction and the rise of Jim Crow laws. This part highlights the development of new literary forms and styles, laying the groundwork for the Harlem Renaissance's explosion of creativity.

Part 3: The Harlem Renaissance and Beyond delves into the vibrant cultural movement of the Harlem Renaissance, emphasizing its significance as a moment of artistic explosion and social commentary. This section showcases the works of iconic figures like Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Claude McKay, along with lesser-known yet equally important voices.

Part 4: The Mid-20th Century and Beyond traces the continued evolution of African American literature, addressing the complexities of the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Arts Movement, and the multifaceted literary landscape of contemporary times. This section often includes works that explore themes of identity, race, gender, and class.

The Conclusion provides a synthesis of the anthology's overarching themes and their enduring relevance. It connects the historical trajectory of African American literature to contemporary issues, highlighting its continued impact on society. The Appendix provides valuable supplementary materials for further exploration.

Accessing the Norton Anthology of African American Literature PDF

While a legitimate PDF version isn't officially available for free download, accessing the anthology can be done through various legitimate means:

University Libraries: Most university libraries have physical copies and often provide digital access through their online databases.

Public Libraries: Many larger public libraries also possess copies of the anthology. Check their online catalogs or contact library staff for availability.

Subscription Databases: JSTOR, Project MUSE, and other academic databases often provide online access to the anthology, usually through institutional subscriptions.

Purchasing a Physical Copy: This is the most straightforward method. You can purchase the anthology from online retailers like Amazon or directly from publishers.

Utilizing the Norton Anthology of African American Literature Effectively

To get the most out of this rich resource, consider the following strategies:

Contextual Reading: Always consider the historical and social context in which each work was written.

Critical Analysis: Engage with critical essays and interpretations provided within the anthology or through external sources.

Comparative Analysis: Compare and contrast works from different periods and authors to identify

recurring themes and stylistic variations.

Active Annotation: Take notes, highlight passages, and record your thoughts and interpretations as you read.

Engagement with Secondary Sources: Supplement your reading with critical essays, biographies, and historical accounts to enrich your understanding.

The Enduring Significance of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature

The Norton Anthology of African American Literature remains a crucial resource for understanding the rich tapestry of Black literary expression. It not only showcases extraordinary talent but also serves as a vital tool for examining the historical and ongoing struggles for racial justice and equality in America. Its continued relevance lies in its capacity to foster critical thinking, promote empathy, and encourage dialogue on vital social issues. Its accessibility, either through physical copies or institutional digital access, ensures its ongoing contribution to scholarship, education, and broader cultural understanding.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is there a free PDF version of the Norton Anthology of African American Literature? No, a freely available, legal PDF is not publicly available. Access is primarily through libraries or paid subscriptions.
2. Where can I find the anthology online? University and public libraries offer access through their online databases. Academic subscription services like JSTOR often include it.
3. What is the best way to utilize the anthology for academic research? Combine close reading with contextual research, incorporating critical essays and secondary sources to build a strong argument.
4. How does the anthology represent the diversity of African American experiences? The anthology showcases a wide range of voices, styles, and perspectives, reflecting the complexity of Black identity and experience across time and social contexts.
5. What are some key themes explored in the anthology? Recurring themes often include identity, race, gender, class, freedom, oppression, resilience, and the search for belonging.
6. What are some of the most important authors included in the anthology? The anthology features significant works by Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and many more.
7. How is the anthology organized? It's typically organized chronologically, spanning from early slave narratives to contemporary literature, with sections devoted to major literary movements.

8. What are the differences between the different editions of the anthology? Later editions may include updated works and critical essays reflecting contemporary scholarship and perspectives.
9. Is the anthology suitable for non-academic readers? Absolutely! While useful for academics, the anthology's rich and engaging content makes it accessible and rewarding for anyone interested in exploring African American literature.

Related Articles:

1. The Harlem Renaissance and Its Literary Impact: This article explores the historical context, key figures, and lasting literary legacy of the Harlem Renaissance.
2. Slave Narratives as a Form of Resistance: An examination of how slave narratives served as both personal testimonies and powerful forms of protest against slavery.
3. The Evolution of African American Poetry: Tracing the development of African American poetry from early spirituals to contemporary verse.
4. The Black Arts Movement and its Literary Contributions: This article explores the philosophies and artistic expressions of the Black Arts Movement.
5. Toni Morrison's Literary Legacy: A deep dive into the life and work of Nobel laureate Toni Morrison.
6. James Baldwin's Social and Political Commentary: Examining Baldwin's works as powerful social and political critiques.
7. The Representation of Gender in African American Literature: An analysis of how gender intersects with race in the narratives of the anthology.
8. African American Literature and the Civil Rights Movement: This article explores the intertwined relationship between literature and the struggle for civil rights.
9. Contemporary African American Literature: Trends and Themes: Exploring recent works and the ongoing evolution of African American literary styles and themes.

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norton anthology of african american literature pdf: Half in Shadow Shanna Greene Benjamin, 2021-04-01 Nellie Y. McKay (1930-2006) was a pivotal figure in contemporary American letters. The author of several books, McKay is best known for coediting the canon-making with Henry Louis Gates Jr., which helped secure a place for the scholarly study of Black writing that had been ignored by white academia. However, there is more to McKay's life and legacy than her literary scholarship. After her passing, new details about McKay's life emerged, surprising everyone who knew her. Why did McKay choose to hide so many details of her past? Shanna Greene Benjamin

examines McKay's path through the professoriate to learn about the strategies, sacrifices, and successes of contemporary Black women in the American academy. Benjamin shows that McKay's secrecy was a necessary tactic that a Black, working-class woman had to employ to succeed in the white-dominated space of the American English department. Using extensive archives and personal correspondence, Benjamin brings together McKay's private life and public work to expand how we think about Black literary history and the place of Black women in American culture.

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norton anthology of african american literature pdf: A Companion to African American Literature Gene Andrew Jarrett, 2013-02-25 Through a series of essays that explore the forms, themes, genres, historical contexts, major authors, and latest critical approaches, *A Companion to African American Literature* presents a comprehensive chronological overview of African American literature from the eighteenth century to the modern day Examines African American literature from its earliest origins, through the rise of antislavery literature in the decades leading into the Civil War, to the modern development of contemporary African American cultural media, literary aesthetics, and political ideologies Addresses the latest critical and scholarly approaches to African American literature Features essays by leading established literary scholars as well as newer voices

norton anthology of african american literature pdf: The Earliest African American Literatures Zachary McLeod Hutchins, Cassander L. Smith, 2021-12-16 With the publication of the 1619 Project by The New York Times in 2019, a growing number of Americans have become aware that Africans arrived in North America before the Pilgrims. Yet the stories of these Africans and their first descendants remain ephemeral and inaccessible for both the general public and educators. This groundbreaking collection of thirty-eight biographical and autobiographical texts chronicles the lives of literary black Africans in British colonial America from 1643 to 1760 and offers new strategies for identifying and interpreting the presence of black Africans in this early period. Brief introductions preceding each text provide historical context and genre-specific interpretive prompts to foreground their significance. Included here are transcriptions from manuscript sources and colonial newspapers as well as forgotten texts. *The Earliest African American Literatures* will change the way that students and scholars conceive of early American literature and the role of black Africans in the formation of that literature.

norton anthology of african american literature pdf: Sweetgum & Lightning Rodney Terich Leonard, 2021-02-15 An intersection of jazz and the written word: poems to be experienced and felt *Sweetgum & Lightning* lets us into an extraordinary poetic universe, shaped by a vernacular rooted in the language of self, one's origins, and music. In poems that are deeply sensual in nature, Rodney Terich Leonard considers gender and sexuality, art, poverty, and community. Imagery expands through unexpected lexical associations and rumination on the function of language; words take on new meaning and specificity, and the music of language becomes tantamount to the denotations of words themselves. Through extensive webs of connotation, Leonard's narratives achieve a sense of accuracy and intimacy. The nuanced lens of these poems is indicative of the honesty of expression at work in the collection—one that affirms the essentiality of perception to living and memory--

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norton anthology of african american literature pdf: Bars Fight Lucy Terry Prince, 2020-10-01 Bars Fight, a ballad telling the tale of an ambush by Native Americans on two families in 1746 in a Massachusetts meadow, is the oldest known work by an African-American author. Passed on orally until it was recorded in Josiah Gilbert Holland's History of Western Massachusetts in 1855, the ballad is a landmark in the history of literature that should be on every book lover's shelves.

norton anthology of african american literature pdf: The Concise Oxford Companion to African American Literature William L. Andrews, Frances Smith Foster, Trudier Harris, 2001-02-15 A breathtaking achievement, this Concise Companion is a suitable crown to the astonishing production in African American literature and criticism that has swept over American literary studies in the last two decades. It offers an enormous range of writers—from Sojourner Truth to Frederick Douglass, from Zora Neale Hurston to Ralph Ellison, and from Toni Morrison to August Wilson. It contains entries on major works (including synopses of novels), such as Harriet Jacobs's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl, Richard Wright's Native Son, and Lorraine Hansberry's A Raisin in the Sun. It also incorporates information on literary characters such as Bigger Thomas, Coffin Ed Johnson, Kunta Kinte, Sula Peace, as well as on character types such as Aunt Jemima, Brer Rabbit, John Henry, Stackolee, and the trickster. Icons of black culture are addressed, including vivid details about the lives of Muhammad Ali, John Coltrane, Marcus Garvey, Jackie Robinson, John Brown, and Harriet Tubman. Here, too, are general articles on poetry, fiction, and drama; on autobiography, slave narratives, Sunday School literature, and oratory; as well as on a wide spectrum of related topics. Compact yet thorough, this handy volume gathers works from a vast array of sources—from the black periodical press to women's clubs—making it one of the most substantial guides available on the growing, exciting world of African American literature.

norton anthology of african american literature pdf: Honey, Hush! Nikki Giovanni, 1998 In this dazzling anthology (Publishers Weekly), Daryl Cumber Dance has collected the often hard-hitting, sometimes risqué, always dramatic humor that arises from the depth of black women's souls and the breadth of their lives. The eloquent wit and laughter of African American women are presented here in all their written and spoken manifestations: autobiographies, novels, essays, poems, speeches, comic routines, proverbial sayings, cartoons, mimeographed sheets, and folk tales. The chapters proceed thematically, covering the church, love, civil rights, motherly advice, and much more.

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insist on a past that is more productively put behind us.

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norton anthology of african american literature pdf: *Everyday Use* Alice Walker, 1994 Presents the text of Alice Walker's story *Everyday Use*; contains background essays that provide insight into the story; and features a selection of critical response. Includes a chronology and an interview with the author.

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norton anthology of african american literature pdf: *Praisesong for the Widow* Paule Marshall, 1984-04-16 From the acclaimed author of *Daughters* and *Brown Girl, Brownstones* comes a "work of exceptional wisdom, maturity, and generosity, one in which the palpable humanity of its characters transcends any considerations of race or sex" (Washington Post Book World). Avey Johnson—a black, middle-aged, middle-class widow given to hats, gloves, and pearls—has long since put behind her the Harlem of her childhood. Then on a cruise to the Caribbean with two friends, inspired by a troubling dream, she senses her life beginning to unravel—and in a panic packs her

bag in the middle of the night and abandons her friends at the next port of call. The unexpected and beautiful adventure that follows provides Avey with the links to the culture and history she has so long disavowed. "Astonishingly moving."—Anne Tyler, *The New York Times Book Review*

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