As Black History Month ends, Bass librarians and students keep the conversation going

March 1, 2018

A Bass Library initiative to amplify underrepresented voices has generated a crowd-sourced reading list of books “by and about people of color”. Now, students and librarians are looking for ways to keep that list growing.

“We see a real community conversation unfolding, and we want to support that,” said Emily Horning, director of undergraduate programs at Bass Library.

The Reading Resilience Project invites members of the Yale community to suggest creative works via a book recommendation webform [1]. In February, in honor of Black History Month, recommendations were also solicited via a whiteboard in Bass.

“The response was amazing,” Horning said. “Within a few days, the board was covered with suggestions. Some students have offered just one title they feel passionately about; others have e-mailed entire bibliographies.”

As of late February, the list had grown to 93 titles, from more than 100 recommenders—about half of whom are students. (The full list is...
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below.)

Some students added notes explaining the reasons for their recommendations.

“This book is critical for understanding how Black girls and women navigate hostile territory and make a self,” one senior wrote about *Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship* by Aimee Meredith Cox.

*Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison, another senior wrote, is “beautiful, just beautiful.”

The Reading Resilience Project was sparked by conversations between Horning and two students, Katherine Wyatt ’16 and Peter Huang ’16, in late 2015 during a wave of student activism aimed at making Yale more inclusive. The project went quietly in 2017 before being revived this year.

Now, Horning wants to make sure the conversation continues. The submission form will remain open and now can be used to recommend poetry, art objects, films, and other creative works by or about people of color.

Students and other Yale affiliates may add their own suggestions to the list [2] and then check out recommended books from the project, which are displayed near the Bass circulation desk. Suggestions for other Bass Library initiatives may be emailed to Emily.horning@yale.edu [3].

**Reading Resilience Project Booklist**

*A Chinese Life* by Li Kunwu

*A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* by Ronald Takaki

*A Mercy* by Toni Morrison

*A Toast in the House of Friends* by Akilah Oliver

*African American Women Confront the West: 1600-2000* by Quintard Taylor and Shirley Ann Wilson Moore

*Aloha America: Hula Circuits through the U.S. Empire* by Adria Imada

*Aloha Betrayed* by Noenoe K. Silva

*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*An Unkindness of Ghosts* by Rivers Solomon

*Angela Davis: An Autobiography* by Angela Davis

*Another Country* by James Baldwin

*Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

*Bad Feminist* by Roxane Gay

*Beauty is a Wound* by Eka Kurniawan

*Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self* by Danielle Evans

*Beloved* by Toni Morrison

*Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

*Binti* by Nnedi Okorafor

*Black Like Me* by John Howard Griffin
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**Bluest Eye** by Toni Morrison

*Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* by Gloria Anzaldua

*Cane* by Jean Toomer

*Circle K Cycles* by Karen Tei Yamashita

*Code of the Street* by Elijah Anderson

*Cosmopolitan Canopy* by Elijah Anderson

*Cruising* by Gerald Walker

*Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples* by Linda Tuhiwai Smith

*Feel Free* by Zadie Smith

*Fifteen Dogs* by Andre Alexis

*Fight or Flight (Shifting Tides Book 1)*

*For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide / When the Rainbow is Enuf* by Ntozake Shange

*From a Native Daughter: Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai‘i* by Haunani Kay Trask

*Ghana Must Go* by Taiye Selasi

*Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin

*Go Tell it On the Mountain* by James Baldwin

*Half a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

*Here Comes the Sun* by Nicole Dennis-Benn

*House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

*How Tia Lola Came to Stay* by Julia Alvarez

*In Praise of Shadows* by Jun'ichir? Tanizaki

*Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Waldo Ellison

*Jazz* by Toni Morrison

*Like One of the Family; Conversations from a Domestic Life*, by Alice Childress

*Maud Martha* by Gwendolyn Brooks

*Ms. Marvel* (Volumes 1-11) by G. Willow Wilson

*Murgu* by Artan Fuga

*Never Fall Down* by Patricia McCormick
Of Love and Dust by Ernest J. Gaines
On Beauty by Zadie Smith
Oreo by Fran Ross
Parable of the Sower by Octavia E. Butler
Passing by Nella Larsen
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
Pimp by Iceberg Slim
Please Look After Mom by Kyung-Sook Shin
Prison Writings: My Life is My Sundance by Leonard Peltier
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Race Matters by Cornel West
Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in America by Karen E. Fields and Barbara J. Fields
Regarding the Pain of Others by Susan Sontag
Reservation Blues by Sherman Alexie
Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward
Searching for Zion by Emily Raboteau
Season of Migration to the North by Tayeb Salih
Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship by Aimee Meredith Cox
She Weeps Each Time You’re Born: A Novel by Quan Barry
So Far from God by Ana Castillo
Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
Swingtime by Zadie Smith
Teaching to Transgress by bell hooks
The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao by Junot Diaz
The Broken Earth series by N.K. Jemisin
The Color Purple by Alice Walker
The Condemnation of Blackness by Khalil Muhammad
The Essential Tagore by Rabindranath Tagore
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*The Fifth Season* by N. K. Jemisin

*The Fire This Time* by Jesmyn Ward

*The Hate You Give* by Angie Thomas

*The Prey of Gods* by Nicky Drayden

*The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie

*The Women of Brewster Place* by Gloria Naylor

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

*This Bridge Called My Back* by Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, editors

*This Is How You Lose Her* by Junot Diaz

*Tram 83* by Fiston Mwanza Mujila

*When My Name Was Keoko* by Linda Sue Park

*When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka

*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith

*Zaatar Diva* by Suheir Hammad

*Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* by Audre Lorde

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[3] &amp;#109;&amp;#97;&amp;#105;&amp;#108;&amp;#116;&amp;#111;&amp;#58;&amp;#69;&amp;#109;&amp;#105;&amp;#108;&amp;#121;&amp;#46;&amp;#104;&amp;#111;&amp;#114;&amp;#110;&amp;#105;&amp;#110;&amp;#103;&amp;#64;&amp;#121;&amp;#97;&amp;#108;&amp;#101;&amp;#46;&amp;#101;&amp;#100;&amp;#117;