

# Deepening Our Connections: Further Reading

In the summer of 2021, the Lake Oswego Public Library and Respond to Racism partnered on a three-part book discussion group on African American literature called Deepening Our Connections. The purpose of this series was to enhance individual and collective understandings of African American history and experiences, to deepen our connections to one another, and to help facilitate important ongoing community conversations about race and caste in America. The series focused on African American writing from three different periods of time. Together we read a slave narrative, works from the Harlem Renaissance, and a modern novel:

- *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs
- *Quicksand* and *Passing* by Nella Larsen
- *Beloved* by Toni Morrison

The following list of further reading was compiled by Respond to Racism member Regan Parker, who developed the series, provided historical context for each work, and helped to lead the discussions.

## Slave Narratives

- Frederick Douglass: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*
- Solomon Northup: *Twelve Years a Slave*

## Harlem Renaissance Period

- Zora Neale Hurston: *Mules and Men, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Barracoon*
- W. E. B. Du Bois: *The Souls of Black Folk*
- Claude McKay: *Home to Harlem*
- Pauline Hopkins: *Contending Forces*
- Langston Hughes
- Alain Locke

## Modern Works

- Toni Morrison: *Love, Paradise, The Bluest Eye, Sula*
- Lalita Tademy: *Cane River*
- Octavia Butler: *Lilith's Brood*