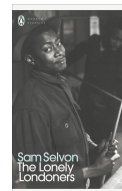


Black History Month 2021 - The English Department Recommends...

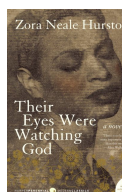
Mr Coolin: *The Lonely Londoners* by Sam Selvon. A vivid picaresque comedy with serious, melancholy undertones, *The Lonely Londoners* documents the 1950s immigrant experience through the affectionate relationship of a new arrival and a rueful old timer. Masterful character comedy rubs up against an evocative portrait of post-war London in Selvon's seminal, exquisitely judged work.



Miss Williamson: *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. Arguably the greatest African novel of the 20th century and one of the first to explore colonialism from a black perspective. Okonkwo is the greatest warrior alive but when he accidentally kills a clansman, things begin to fall apart. Okonkwo returns from exile to find colonists have arrived in his village and his life hurtles towards tragedy. Not just a novel about colonisation but also a poignant examination of the relationship between fathers and sons.



Mr Hindley: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. Very readable - lots of twists and turns. A novel that explores issues of gender and racial equality yet the humanity of the protagonist is never overpowered by the political voice of one of the leading female figures of the Harlem Renaissance. A great read.



Mrs Burrows: *Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo. *Girl, Woman, Other* follows the lives of twelve very different people in Britain, predominantly female and black. Aged 19 to 93, they span a variety of cultural backgrounds, sexualities, classes and occupations as they tell the stories of themselves, their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.



Mr Jamison: *A Portable Paradise* by Roger Robinson. Winner of the 2020 T.S. Eliot Prize for poetry, this collection deals not only with race and prejudice, but also with the concept of paradise and how we might find it in ourselves, in poems which are well crafted and lively.



Mrs Phillips-Grey: *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Winner of the 1988 Pulitzer Prize, *Beloved* is set just after the American Civil War and explores the impact of both slavery and abolition on a young mother called Sethe. It is a surreal, gritty and at times disturbing novel which forces us to consider difficult moral questions and reflect on what we might have done in the same situation.



Miss Isle: *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* by Reni Eddo-Lodge. Award-winning journalist Eddo-Lodge provides a powerful exploration of what it's like to be a person of colour living in Britain today, discussing issues from eradicated black history to the purpose of systemically engrained political white dominance.

