

African-American  
Literature

# African American literature

- is literature written by, about, and sometimes specifically for African Americans.
- began during the 18th and 19th centuries and continues till the nowadays.

# Common themes

- Grisly Narratives of Slavery
- Alienation by Color-Line
- The New, Angry Negro

# Periods of African-American Literature

- Early African American Literature
- Slave Narratives
- Post Slavery Era
- Harlem Renaissance
- Civil Rights Movement Era
- Contemporary African-American Literature

# Alice Walker

- was born on February 9, 1944, in the small rural town of Eatonton, Georgia.
- parents' experiences with the oppressive sharecropping system and the racism of the American South deeply influenced her writing and life's work.
- was active participant in the African-American civil rights movement.
- in 1982, Walker published her most famous novel, *The Color Purple*.

# The Color Purple by Alice Walker

- Celie, the protagonist and narrator of The Color Purple, is a poor, uneducated, fourteen-year-old black girl living in rural Georgia.
- Nettie, Celie's sister
- Alfred, Celie's husband
- Shug Avery, Alfred's mistress

# Themes

- the power of strong female relationships;
- the cyclical nature of racism and sexism;
- the disruption of traditional gender roles.

# Motifs & Symbols

- Letters

*(The novel is written in the epistolary style)*

- God



# **5 Reasons to Read African American Literature**

- A Complete Education
- Exposure to Different Perspectives
- Development of Empathy
- Cool Culture
- Everyone Loves a Good Book