

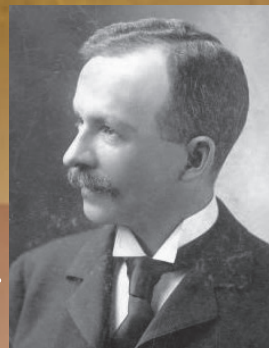
American LITERATURE



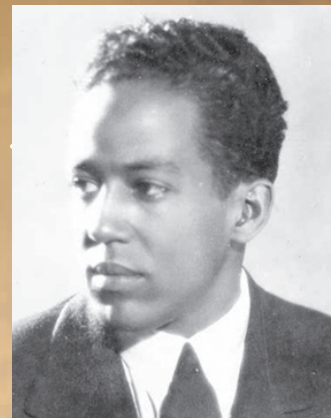
Jessie Redmon Fauset

PART III:

From The Harlem Renaissance to the 1980s



Charles Chesnutt



Langston Hughes



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Toni Morrison



1920 The Harlem Renaissance begins. The movement spans the 1920s and early 1930s.

The Twentieth Amendment is passed, allowing women the right to vote. However, African American men and women are still disenfranchised in most areas of the South.

1929 Martin Luther King, Jr., is born in Georgia.

1931 Toni Morrison is born in Ohio.

Nine young African American men, popularly known as the "Scottsboro Boys," are tried for rape. In this influential case, the Supreme Court rules that jurors may not be excluded on the basis of race.

1932 Charles Chesnutt dies.

1936 Jessie Owens wins four gold medals in track and field at the Olympic Games held in Nazi Germany.

1939 World War II begins.

1940-70 In what becomes known as the "Second Great Migration," over five million African Americans leave the South in search of greater economic opportunity.

1941 The U.S. Army forms a unit of black fighter pilots at the Tuskegee Institute. They are known as the "Tuskegee Airmen."

1945 World War II ends.

1948 President Harry Truman orders the desegregation of the armed forces.

1954 The Supreme Court declares the segregation of public schools unconstitutional in *Brown v. Board of Education*, overturning the "separate but equal" doctrine established 58 years earlier in *Plessy v. Ferguson*. This event is commonly recognized as the beginning of the American Civil Rights Movement.

1955 Fourteen-year-old Emmett Till is brutally murdered for whistling at a white woman. His killers are later acquitted by an all-white jury.

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, thus inspiring the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

1956 The Montgomery Bus Boycott, led by Martin Luther King, ends when the U.S. Supreme Court finds Montgomery segregation laws unconstitutional.

1957 King takes leadership of the newly formed Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

1959 U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War begins.

1960 Sit-in protests are held throughout the country to oppose segregation.

1961 Jessie Redmon Fauset dies.

1963 King delivers his "I Have a Dream" speech at the March on Washington, a large, peaceful civil rights rally held in Washington, D.C.

W. E. B. Du Bois dies.

Four young girls are killed while attending Sunday school in Birmingham, Alabama, when their church is bombed by members of the Ku Klux Klan.

1964 King receives the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership of the American Civil Rights Movement and opposition to the Vietnam War.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 outlaws racial segregation in employment, public facilities, and schools.

1965 Jim Crow segregation is officially ended with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

1966 The Black Panther Party is formed. The term "Black Power" is popularized.

1967 Langston Hughes dies.

1968 Martin Luther King, Jr., is assassinated.

1970 Toni Morrison publishes her first novel, *The Bluest Eye*.

1971 In *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, the Supreme Court rules that students may be assigned to schools based primarily on racial quotas, rather than geographic proximity to a given school.

1974 In *Milliken v. Bradley*, the Supreme Court limits busing to school districts in which there is an actual policy of segregation.

1975 The Vietnam War ends.

1993 Toni Morrison becomes the first black woman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.