

Books exploring race relations and the African American experience, available as discussion sets for book clubs at the New Hanover County Public Library

Memoirs

The Color of Water, by James McBride, son of a white Jewish mother and an African American father

Having Our Say : the Delaney Sisters First 100 Years, a memoir by African American sisters Sarah and Annie Delaney

Slaves in the Family, a remarkable family history by Edward Ball, a descendant of a prominent South Carolina slave-holding family

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down, a nonfiction study of culture clash by Anne Fadiman

The Water is Wide, a memoir of teaching the forgotten children of Daufuskie Island, South Carolina, by Pat Conroy

We Have Taken a City, a nonfiction account of Wilmington's 1898 riots by H. Leon Prather

When I was Puerto Rican, a memoir by Esmeralda Santiago

Beloved, Jazz, Paradise, and Song of Solomon, novels by Toni Morrison

Cape Fear Rising, a novel set in Wilmington in 1898 by Philip Gerard

One Thousand White Women, a novel of the American frontier by Jim Fergus

The Color Purple, the classic novel by Alice Walker

Cry, the Beloved Country, a novel of South Africa during apartheid by Alan Paton

The House on Mango Street, a novel about Chicana girlhood by Sandra Cisneros

I Been in Sorrow's Kitchen and Licked out All the Pots, a novel by Susan Straight

Invisible Man, the classic novel by Ralph Ellison

Kindred, a science fiction novel by Octavia Butler

A Lesson Before Dying, the classic by Ernest Gaines

Mama Day, a novel by Gloria Naylor

Sally Hemings, based on the story of Thomas Jefferson's mistress, by Barbara Chase-Riboud

Their Eyes Were Watching God, a classic novel of the Harlem Renaissance by Zora Neale Hurston

Things Fall Apart, a novel of colonial Africa by Chinua Achebe

The Wedding, a Harlem Renaissance novel by Dorothy West

Novels

The Activist's Daughter, set in Chapel Hill during the Civil Rights movement by Wilmington's Ellyn Bache

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain