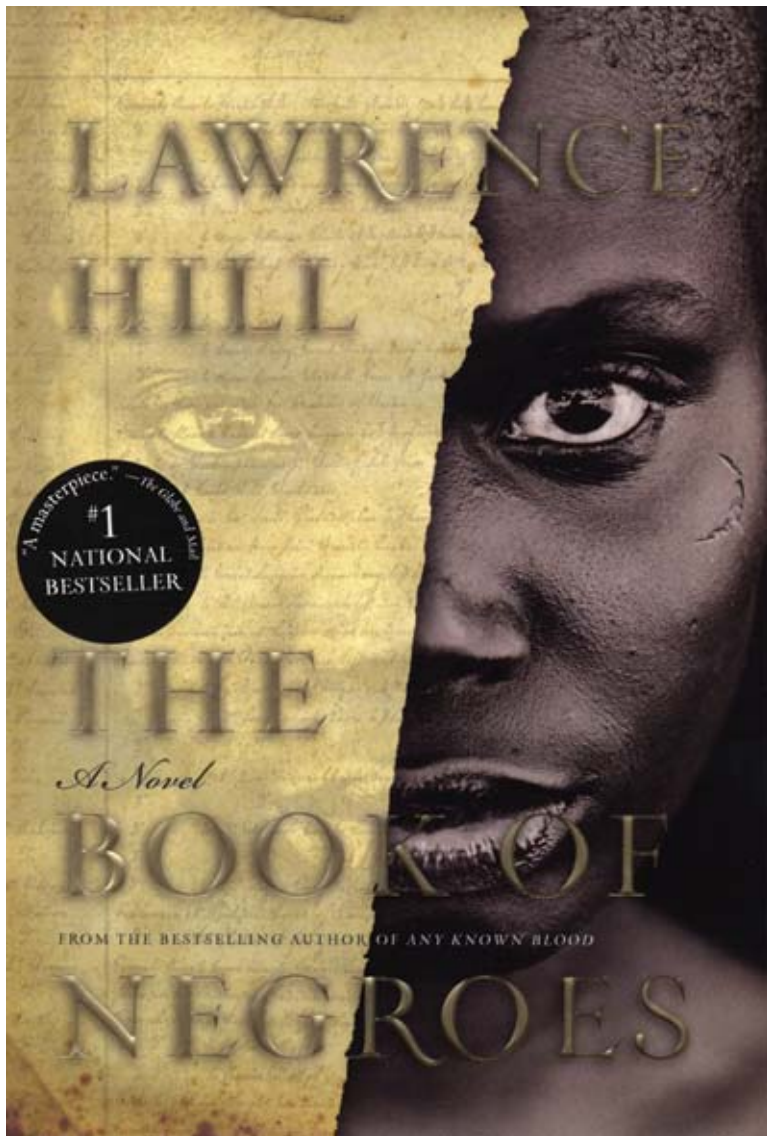


# Reader's Roadmap

Helping you navigate the world of books



F H646b

Côte Saint-Luc Reads  
2009



Reader's Roadmaps enable readers to pursue threads of interest inspired by a book they've just read.

## **Book of Negroes F H646b**

### **The History Behind the Novel**

The original *Book of Negroes* measures about a foot-and-a-half by a foot-and-a-half and runs just over 150 pages. Though known to just a handful of scholars, this remarkable hand-written ledger is a historical treasure. Detailing names, ages, backgrounds and often degrading physical descriptions ("stout wench"), it's the first public documentation of black people in North America — specifically, the 3,000 freedom-seekers who left New York for Nova Scotia and other British colonies near the end of the American Revolutionary War. In exchange for their service to the empire, Black Loyalists were promised liberty and land. What they received was little better than the circumstances they left behind: poverty, hunger, disease and servitude.

Everyone has heard of Canada's involvement in the Underground Railroad; less known is this country's own history of slavery and its dubious distinction as the site of North America's first race riot. In 1784, gangs of unemployed white men attacked the black settlement of Birchtown, N.S., destroying 20 homes. Angry at their betrayal by the British, 1,000 Black Loyalists sailed for Sierra Leone just ten years after arriving in Canada, embarking on the world's first return-to-Africa journey.

"My parents were great storytellers, and they always interwove the most painful, oppressive stories with rollicking, raucous humour. It's a very common survival strategy for oppressed people, whether they're black, Jewish, Russian – that combination of horror and humour. My parents taught me the emotional saving grace of humour."

Written over five years, Hill's masterful and affecting epic tells the story of Aminata Diallo. A skilled midwife and able to read and write – thanks to covert tutoring by a fellow slave – Aminata survives kidnapping by slave traders at the age of 11, the horrors of the Middle Passage and, later, an exodus to Nova Scotia, then Sierra Leone and finally England.

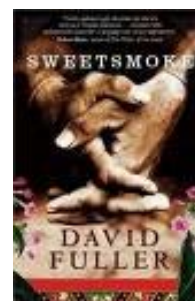
### **Lawrence Hill**

This story of the migration from Africa to the Americas and back was an irresistible one for Lawrence Hill, who borrowed the title for his new novel, *The Book of Negroes*. The Burlington, Ont. author has long been drawn to issues of black history and identity. Hill's many books include the 2001 novel *Any Known Blood*, which follows an African-American family from slavery to the present day, as well as the 2002 part-memoir, part-polemic *Black Berry, Sweet Juice: On Being Black and White in Canada*. His civil-rights activist parents founded the Ontario Black History society in the family's suburban basement in 1978.



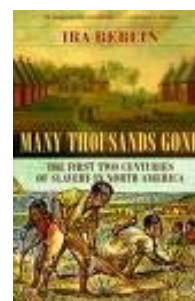
## Slaves and the Slave Trade in Fiction

- Amistad by David Pesci (1997) **F P473a**
- Beloved by Toni Morrison (1987) **F M882be**
- Blonde Roots by Bernardine Evaristo (2009) **F E929b**
- Crossing the River by Caryl Phillips (1994) **F P5585cr**
- Finn by Jon Clinch (2007) **F C6414f**
- Hunting Midnight by Richard Zimler (2003) **F Z71h**
- The Known World by Edward P. Jones (2003) **F J764k**
- Song Yet Sung by James McBride (2008) **F M1192s**
- SweetSmoke by David Fuller (2008) **F F965s**
- Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1851) **F S892**
- Walk Through Darkness by David Anthony Durham (2002) **F D9612w**



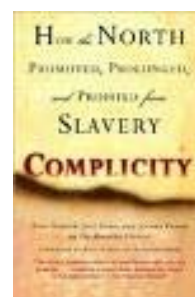
## Slaves and Slavery

- Epic Journeys of Freedom: Runaway Slaves of the American Revolution and their Global Quest for Liberty by Cassandra Pybus (2006) **973.3 P995**
- The Hemingses of Monticello : An American Family by Annette Gordon-Reed (2008) **973.08625 H488g**
- Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America by Ira Berlin (1998) **326 B515**
- A Shadow on the Household: One Enslaved Family's Incredible Struggle for Freedom by Bryan Prince (2009) **306.362 W397p**
- Slaves in the Family by Edward Ball (1998) **92 B1874 1998**
- The Sounds of Slavery: Discovering African American History Through Songs, Sermons, and Speech by Shane White and Graham White (2005) **326.0973 W588**



## The Slave Trade

- African Voices of the Atlantic Slave Trade by Anne C. Bailey (2005) **326 B154a**
- Complicity : How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited From Slavery by Anne Farrow, Joel Lang, and Jenifer Frank (2005) **326.0973 F246**
- Slave Ship: A Human History by Marcus Rediker (2007) **326 R317**



## Slavery in Montreal

- The Hanging of Angelique : The Untold Story of Canadian Slavery and the Burning of Old Montréal by Afua Cooper (2006) **301.45 A582c**



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