



# The Literature of the American South: A Norton Anthology With Audio

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

*The Literature of the American South* spans four centuries, from the early 1600s to contemporary times, bringing together the work of nearly 90 American writers. Even if that were all it contained, this anthology would be welcome. But what makes *The Literature of the American South* especially noteworthy is the juxtaposition of black and white writers, whose texts make clear both divisions and commonalities, and places the literary history of the region in a new light. Excerpts from Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* are followed by black surveyor and inventor Benjamin Banneker's letter to Jefferson, which points out the contradiction between Jefferson owning slaves and the ideals of the Declaration of Independence. Also included is an illuminating counterpoint between the excerpt from former slave Harriet Ann Jacobs's autobiography, and the diary of plantation mistress Mary Boykin Chesnut. In addition, the volume contains material by such stalwarts as Zora Neale Hurston, Jean Toomer, Sterling A. Brown, and Richard Wright.

#### Review

I particularly like the efforts made by the editors to reflect the diversity of the American South. -- *Barbara Ladd, Emory University*

The anthology gives us the best of traditional and postmodern possibilities. -- *Jerry W. Ward Jr., Tougaloo College*

With its scope and variety, it would be very easy to structure a course with this anthology alone. -- *Will Brantley, Middle Tennessee State University*

#### About the Author

William L. Andrews is E. Maynard Adams Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is general editor of *Wisconsin Studies in Autobiography* and *The Literature of the American South: A Norton Anthology*, and co-editor of *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature* and *The Norton Anthology of African American Literature*. Other works include the Norton Critical Edition of *Up From Slavery*; *The Literary Career of Charles W. Chesnutt*; *To Tell a Free Story: The First Century of Afro-American Autobiography, 1760–1865*; *Sisters of the Spirit*; *The Curse of Caste* by Julia C. Collins; *Life of William Grimes, the Runaway Slave*; and *Slave Narratives after Slavery*.

Minrose C. Gwin (Ph.D. University of Tennessee) is professor of English at the University of New Mexico. She is the author of *The Feminine and Faulkner: Reading (Beyond) Sexual Difference* and *Black and White Women of the Old South: The Peculiar Sisterhood in American Literature*.

Trudier Harris (Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She is the author of five books, most recently *The Power of the Porch: The Storyteller's Craft* in Zora Neale Hurston, Gloria Naylor, and Randall Kenan, and a co-editor of *The Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the United States* and *The Oxford Companion to African American Literature*.

Fred Hobson (Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is Lineberger Professor in the Humanities at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of numerous books, most recently

Mencken: A Life and The Southern Writer in the Postmodern World, and a co-editor of Southern Literary Journal.

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#### **Katie Doll:**

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