

**Durthy A. Washington**  
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### **Biographical Sketch**

**Durthy A. Washington** is the founder of *LitUnlocked LLC*, which offers literature workshops and seminars, and author of *Culturally Responsive Reading: Teaching Literature for Social Justice* (Teachers College Press, 2023), endorsed by Dr. Ghody Muhammad and Pulitzer Prize-winning author Junot Díaz. The book has also been selected as a Reading Group Guide by the Colorado State Library's Book Club Resource.

Washington has been published in *The Bloomsbury Review*, *Academic Exchange Quarterly*, *African American Voice*, *The Urban Spectrum*, *The Black Scholar*, and elsewhere. Her work has been anthologized in *Nonwhite and Woman* (Woodhall, 2022); *Connections and Influence in the Russian and American Short Story* (Lexington, 2021); *Encyclopedia of the Black Arts Movement* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019); *Critical Insights: Beloved* (Grey House, 2015); and *The Fiction of Toni Morrison: Reading and Writing on Race, Culture, and Identity* (NCTE, 2007). She has twice served as Visiting Scholar for "Language Matters," a faculty development seminar series co-sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Toni Morrison Society and received the Outstanding Academy Educator Award from the U.S. Air Force Academy, where she taught literature for 16 years.

### **Education**

MA English, San Jose State University  
MS Education, University of Southern California, Los Angeles  
BA English, San Diego State University

### **Academic Appointments and Employment History**

Writer/Seminar Leader, LitUnlocked (2015 to present)  
Assistant Professor, U.S. Air Force Academy (1999–2015)  
Writing Center Director, U.S. Air Force Academy (2000–2015)  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Colorado College (Summer 2008)  
Visiting Scholar, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Seminars (Language Matters)

- Northern Kentucky University (July 2005)
- Cardozo High School, Washington, D.C. (July 2003)

### **Research Interests**

Culturally responsive reading; culturally responsive teaching; race and ethnicity; diversity and inclusion; multiculturalism and identity politics; African American literature and culture; postcolonial literature; immigrant narratives

### **Research Keywords**

Culture, literature, literary criticism, identity, cultural studies, culturally responsive reading, mindful reading, race and ethnicity, multiculturalism, social justice, African American literature, Ralph Ellison, Toni Morrison, Ernest Gaines, James Baldwin, Richard Wright, Junot Díaz, LIST Paradigm, LitUnlocked

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### **Community Service**

An active member of the Colorado Springs community, Washington has presented lectures, workshops, and seminars at numerous venues including Theatreworks; the African American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC); the Educating Children of Color Summit (ECOC); BodhiMind Center; the Pikes Peak Library District's Adult Reading Program, and PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning.

### **Selected Publications**

#### **Books**

*Culturally Responsive Reading: 50 Key Concepts*. Teachers College Press (under review).  
*Culturally Responsive Reading: Teaching Literature for Social Justice*. Teachers College Press, 2023.

#### **Cliffs Notes (Literary Study Guides)**

Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. IDG Books Worldwide, Inc., 2001.  
Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. IDG Books Worldwide, Inc., 2000.  
Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*. Cliffs Notes, Inc., 1999.  
Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. Cliffs Notes, Inc., 1999. NOOK. Kindle.

#### **Blogs**

"Language, Identity, Space, and Time: A Q&A with Durthy Washington." Teachers College Press. Columbia University. (March 20, 2023). <https://www.TCPress.com>  
"Misreading Literature: Confronting the Challenge of Censorship." Teachers College Press. Columbia University. (February 20, 2023). <https://www.TCPress.com>

#### **Essays, Articles, and Book Chapters**

"Benefits." *The Sun Magazine* (under review)  
"Terminal." *The Sun Magazine* (under review)  
"The Strange Career of Coleman Silk: *The Human Stain* as Jim Crow Narrative." *American Modernism (Re)Considered*. Ed. Jeff Birkenstein and Robert C. Hauhart. Bloomsbury Academic. (Forthcoming 2025).  
"Sonny's Blues." *Encyclopedia of the Black Arts Movement*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) Ed. Verner D. Mitchell. Rowman & Littlefield. (Forthcoming 2025) Originally published 2019.  
"The Early Novels of Toni Morrison." *Encyclopedia of the Black Arts Movement*. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) Ed. Verner D. Mitchell. Rowman & Littlefield. (Forthcoming 2025) Originally published 2019.  
"Exploring the LIST Paradigm: Reading *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*." *Culturally Responsive Reading: Teaching Literature for Social Justice*. Teachers College Press, 2023  
"Mischling." *Nonwhite and Woman: 131 Microessays on Being in the World*. Eds. David and Madeleine Woodhall. Woodhall Press, 2022.  
"Outsiders and Others: Revisiting Richard Wright's *Underground Man*." *Connections and Influences in the Russian and American Short Story*. Ed. Jeff Birkenstein and Robert C. Hauhart. Lexington Books, 2021.

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- "Exploring the LIST Paradigm: Reading and Teaching *Beloved*." *Critical Insights: Beloved*. Ed. Maureen N. Eke. Grey House Publishing, 2015.
- "Third World Girl as Superhero in Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*." *The Image of the Hero in Literature, Media, and Society: Proceedings of the Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery (SISSI) Conference*. Colorado State University, Pueblo (June 2014).
- "Teaching Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*." *Academic Exchange Quarterly*. (2008).
- "Teaching *Song of Solomon*: Exploring the LIST Paradigm." *The Fiction of Toni Morrison: Reading and Writing on Race, Culture, and Identity*. Ed. Jami L. Carlacio. National Council of Teachers of English, 2007.
- "Muhammad Ali"; "Martin Luther King, Jr."; and "Malcolm X." *Dictionary of Literary Influences*. Ed. John Powell. Greenwood Press, 2004.
- "*A Lesson Before Dying* by Ernest J. Gaines." *Rationales for Teaching Young Adult Literature*. Ed. Louann Reid. Calendar Islands, 1999.
- "Womanist or Feminist?: Black Women and the Women's Movement." *The Urban Spectrum*. (Mar. 1998).
- "The Mystery of History: A Literary Perspective." *The Urban Spectrum*. (Mar. 1997).
- "'Change the Joke. . . ': On English and Ebonics." *The Urban Spectrum*. (Feb. 1997).
- "Criminal Injustice: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal." *African American Voice*. (Aug. 1995).
- "Conquering Coping Fatigue." *Psych Discourse*. Vol. 26, No. 4 (Apr. 1995).
- "*The Colored Museum*: An Existential Exhibit of the African-American Experience." *African American Voice*. (Feb. 1994).

### **Profiles and Interviews**

- "Seeking Surprises: An Interview with Yusef Komunyakaa." *The Black Scholar*. Vol. 27, No. 1 (Spring 1997).
- "Colorado Gold: The Art of J. Clark Wider." *Colorado Springs Independent*. (Feb. 1994).
- "On Love and Art: A Conversation with Clarence Shivers." *Colorado Springs Independent*. (Dec. 1993).

### **Book Reviews**

- Voices of Resistance: Oral Histories of Moroccan Women* by Alison Baker. *Bloomsbury Review*. Vol. 10, Issue 2 (Mar./Apr. 1999).
- The Truth That Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender, and Freedom* by Barbara Smith. *Bloomsbury Review*. Vol. 19, Issue 1 (Jan./Feb. 1999).
- Bone Black: Memoirs of Girlhood* by bell hooks. *Bloomsbury Review*. Vol. 17, Issue 1 (Jan./Feb. 1997).
- Swing Low: Black Men Writing* by Rebecca Carroll. *Bloomsbury Review*. Vol. 17, Issue 1 (Jan./Feb. 1997).

### **Articles about Durthy A. Washington**

- "Unlocking Literature." Alumni Profile. *Washington Square*. San Jose, CA: San Jose State University (Spring/Summer 2014).
- "Taking Notes." Feature Article. *Gazette*. Colorado Springs, CO (Aug. 30, 1998).
- "AAV Editor to Speak at Springs Conferences." Feature Article. *African American Voice*. Colorado Springs, CO (Mar. 1998).

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“People On the Move.” Photo Essay. *Business Journal*. Colorado Springs, CO (Aug. 1995).

### **Theatreworks “Scholar Chats,” Colorado Springs, CO**

August Wilson’s *King Hedley II* (May 2023)

Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye* (April 2022)

### **Courses and Conference Presentations**

Reading Through the Lens of Culture: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. College Language Association (CLA) Conference. Memphis, TN. (April 2024)

Culturally Responsive Reading: What It Is and Why It Matters. NCTE Conference. Anaheim, CA. (Nov. 2022)

Culturally Responsive Reading: What It Is and Why It Matters. College Reading & Learning Association (CRLA) Conference. San Diego, CA. (Nov. 2022)

The Artist as Activist. African American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC). Colorado Springs, CO (Mar. 2019)

Culturally Responsive Reading: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. Educating Children of Color Summit (ECOC). Colorado Springs, CO (Jan. 2019)

“Inner Visions”: The Art of Mindful Reading. ECOC Summit. Colorado Springs, CO (Jan. 2018)

“Once Upon a Time”: Celebrating Stories. ECOC Summit. Colorado Springs, CO (Jan. 2017)

Teaching Multicultural Texts: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. Colorado Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (CoTESOL) Conference. Denver, CO (Nov. 2013)

Engaging Learners through Culturally Responsive Teaching. MSU Denver Teacher/Scholar Forum. Denver, CO (Oct. 2013)

Creating Inclusive Learning Environments through Culturally Responsive Teaching. CoTESOL Conference. Denver, CO (Nov. 2012)

Teaching Multicultural Texts: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. Poster Session. Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Conference. Savannah, GA (Mar. 2012)

Teaching Multicultural Texts: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. Poster Session. SoTL Forum, U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Sept. 2011)

Promoting Culturally Responsive Teaching. SoTL Forum. U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Sept. 2010)

Morrison in the Classroom. Teaching Roundtable. American Literature Association (ALA) Conference. San Francisco, CA (May 2006)

Surfing the Seventh Wave: Promoting Culturally Responsive Teaching. CRLA Pre-Conference Institute. Long Beach, CA (Nov. 2005)

Bigger Thomas Jefferson: Rage, Redemption, and Transformation in Ernest Gaines’s *A Lesson Before Dying* and Richard Wright’s *Native Son*. Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities. Honolulu, HI (Jan. 2005)

Teaching Multicultural Texts: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. CRLA Conference. Kansas City, MO (Oct. 2004)

Culture in the Classroom: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. Air Force Humanities Institute. U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (May 2004)

Teaching Multicultural Texts: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. CRLA Pre-Conference Institute. Albuquerque, NM (Oct. 2003)

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Racial Myths and the Shadow of Slavery in Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*. Popular Culture/American Culture Association Conference. New Orleans, LA (Apr. 2003)  
Making Sense of Nonsense: Improving Reading Comprehension. Hawaii International Conference on Education. Honolulu, HI (Jan. 2003)  
Exploring the LIST Paradigm: Teaching Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*. CRLA Conference. Spokane, WA (Oct. 2001)  
Learning to Stand: Defining Black Manhood in Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*. National Association of African American Studies Conference. Cancun, Mexico (Aug. 2001)  
Exploring the LIST Paradigm: Teaching Ethnic American Literature. Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the U.S. (MELUS) Conference. Knoxville, TN (Mar. 2001)  
Multicultural Perspectives in Art. Panel Presentation. University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO (Apr. 1999)  
Learning to Stand: Reading Ernest J. Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying*. Guest Lecture. U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Nov. 1998)  
Toni Morrison: The Artist as Activist. Guest Lecture. Pikes Peak Library District. Colorado Springs, CO (Feb. 1998)

***Classes, PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning, Colorado Springs, CO***

"How Does This Story Work?": Exploring Narrative Structure (March 2024)

The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story (Feb. 2024)

The LIST Paradigm: A Guided Approach to Critical Reading (Oct. 2023)

Culturally Responsive Reading: What It Is and Why It Matters (Oct. 2023)

How I Wrote My First Book and Survived the Process (June 2023)

Reading Ruth Ozeki's *A Tale for the Time Being* (Nov. 2021)

"If We Must Die": Reflections on Ernest Gaines's *A Lesson Before Dying* (Oct. 2021)

The Art of Reading Malcolm Gladwell (August 2021)

Writing the South: Portraits in Black and White (June 2021)

"Sailing Alone Around the Room": The Poetry of Billy Collins (Apr. 2021)

The Black Novel as "Protest Fiction" (Feb. 2021)

*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*: A Viewer's Guide (Dec. 2020)

Reading to Heal: The Art of Bibliotherapy (Dec. 2020)

Writing Memoir and Autobiography (June 2020)

African American Classics: An Introduction (Feb. 2020)

How to Read a Novel (Jan. 2020)

Reading Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer* (Oct. 2019)

Reading Through the Lens of Culture (Oct. 2019)

Reading in Reverse: Connecting with "the Classics" (Sept. 2019)

The Art of the Personal Essay (June 2019)

August Wilson's "Century Cycle" (May 2019)

"An Invitation to Converse": The African American Sonnet (Feb. 2019)

"Dusting Off the Myth": The Novels of Toni Morrison (Feb. 2019)

"The Art of the Story": A Meditation on "Sonny's Blues" (Dec. 2018)

"A Home Elsewhere": The Story of African American Literature (Feb. 2018)

***Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) Adult Reading Program, Colorado Springs, CO***

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Reading Celeste Ng's *Our Missing Hearts* (April 2023)  
"Taste of PILLAR": Reading Through the Lens of Culture (Feb. 2021)  
The Black Novel as "Protest Fiction" (Feb. 2021)  
African American Classics: An Introduction (Feb. 2020)  
Reading Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer* (Oct. 2019)  
Reading in Reverse: Connecting with "the Classics" (Feb. 2019)  
"Illuminations": Exploring Post-Colonial Literatures (July 2018)  
"A Home Elsewhere": The Story of African American Literature (Feb. 2018)  
"Inner Visions": The Art of Mindful Reading (Sept. 2017)

### **Faculty Development Workshops**

Lit Unlocked: Exploring the LIST Paradigm. Center for Character and Leadership Development (CCLD). U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Sept. 2014)  
Teaching Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*. U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Sept. 2010)  
Approaches to Learning-Centered Teaching. King's School, Budaburam, Ghana, West Africa (Mar. 2010)  
Exploring the LIST Paradigm: Teaching Ousmane Sembene's *Niiwam*. U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Sept. 2009)  
Teaching Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and *Sula*. U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Feb. 2008 and Sept. 2007)

### **Writing Workshops**

Writing with POWER: Exploring the Writing Process. Community Workshop, PPLD. Colorado Springs, CO (Dec. 2018)  
Writing Powerful Personal Statements. Graduate Scholarship Seminar. U.S. Air Force Academy, CO (Feb. 2010–2014)  
Writing from Your Roots. Colorado Language Arts Society (CLAS) Conference, Colorado Springs, CO (Mar. 1998); Rocky Mountain Book Festival, Denver, CO (Nov. 1997); and Pikes Peak Writers Conference, Colorado Springs, CO (Apr. 1996)

### **Professional Memberships**

- The Toni Morrison Society
- College Language Association (CLA)
- Colorado Authors League (CAL)
- Colorado Language Arts Society (CLAS)
- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

### **Honors and Awards**

- English Language Specialist, St. Petersburg University, Russia (Feb.–Apr. 2015)
- Cadet Escort, Olmsted Cultural Immersion Trip, Ghana, West Africa (2010)
- Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program, Senegal, West Africa (2009)
- NYU Faculty Research Network Seminars (2003, 2005, 2006, & 2008)
- Hurston-Wright Foundation Writer's Workshop, Howard University, Washington, D.C. (July 2004)
- U.S. Air Force Academy Outstanding Academy Educator Award (May 2001)

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- Keynote Speaker, U.S. Air Force Academy African American Heritage Luncheon (Feb. 2001)
- U.S. Air Force Academy Literary Research Award (May 2000)