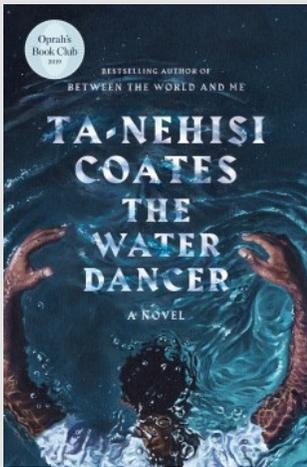


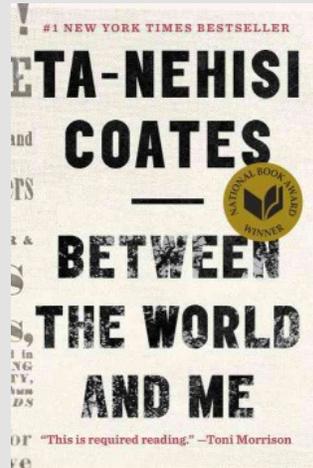
**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

# Ellen's PICKS

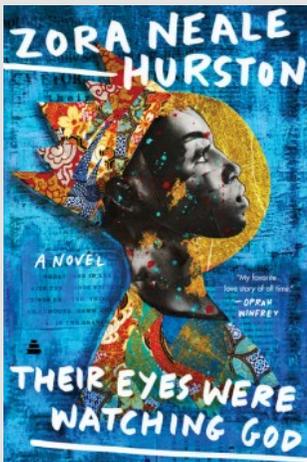
For books read in February 2025



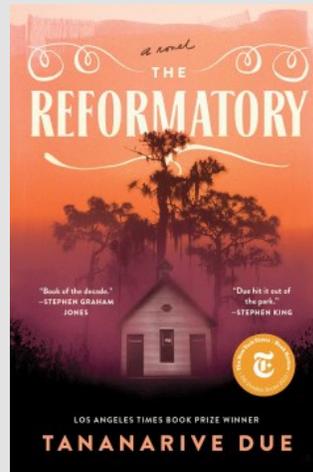
Fiction book about a young man born into slavery, but given special privileges because of his photographic memory, which comes with other special "powers". It's part magical, part historical fiction. I was on the edge of my seat rooting for Hiram and his freedom.



Non-fiction Coates book published in 2015 as a letter to his teen son about what it means to be young and Black in the US. He details his own life experiences about growing up in Baltimore and losing a friend to police brutality. Coates is a brilliant voice.



Classic written in 1937 but feels modern. We learn about Janie, a fiercely strong, independent woman searching for her identity as a Black woman in the 1930's.



Same subject matter as Colson Whitehead's Nickel Boys, Due takes on the real life Dozier school in FL where many boys were tortured and even killed. She fictionalizes Robert and Gloria, but there is no doubt that their stories were inspired by true events. Trigger warnings!



This may be the book for you if you want to learn more about the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921. It explains so much of what led up to the events and also what has happened since. I didn't know about The Greenwood District, or Black Wall Street, or the internment camps in the aftermath. As philosopher George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember history are condemned to repeat it."