



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
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Global Reading Challenge: West Indies

West Indies: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

DB26220 Collected Poems, 1948-1984 by Derek Walcott (St. Lucia)
Includes generous selections from the poet's nine books of poetry and adds the entire text of "Another Life," his autobiography in verse, which is a tribute to the formative influence of the island of St. Lucia. Walcott is primarily a stylist who leaves his signature in complex chains of imagery. (1992 Nobel Prize)

DB39376 A Way In The World by V.S. Naipaul (Trinidad)
A novel based on the idea that the characteristics and memories of thousands of ancestors churn within each person, with the result that "sometimes we can be strangers to ourselves." In autobiographical episodes mixed with meditation and invention, the author, a Trinidadian of Indian descent, narrates a series of historical events that formed his society and his identity within it. 1994. (2001 Nobel Prize)

DB96109 Patsy by Nicole Dennis-Benn (Jamaica)
Patsy's long-held dream of moving to America from Jamaica finally comes true just shy of her thirtieth birthday. She longs to be reunited with her best friend Cicely, whose letters paint a rosy picture. But Patsy's plans don't involve her evangelical mother or her five-year-old daughter, Tru. Unrated. 2019.

DB56137 Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez (Dominican Republic)
Dominican Republic. In the early 1960s, twelve-year-old Anita's family is harassed and under surveillance by the secret police. She learns that close relatives are involved in the underground movement to end the crushing dictatorship of General Trujillo, endangering the entire family. For grades 6-9. 2002.

DBC09844 After The Dance: A Walk Through Carnival in Jacmel, Haiti

by Edwidge Danticat (Haiti)

Twenty years after emigrating to America, Danticat (Breath, Eyes, Memory) return to her native Haiti and the coastal village of Jacmel to take part in her first Carnival but not without reservations. This is her memoir and travelogue about rediscovering herself and the culture of Haiti. 2002.

DB50057 Empress Of The Splendid Season by Oscar Hijuelos (Cuba)

The dreams and setbacks of a Cuban American family in New York City. Raul pledges to provide for Lydia, his bride and empress of the splendid season of love. But when heart disease incapacitates Raul, highborn Lydia must support the family as a cleaning woman. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. 1999.

DB107228 Cuba: An American History by Ada Ferrer (Pulitzer Prize for History, 2022)

A historian of Cuba recounts the sweeping history of Cuba and its complex ties to the United States, from before the arrival of Columbus to the early twenty-first century. The author describes the evolution of the modern nation with its record of conquest and colonization, slavery and freedom, independence and revolutions. Unrated. 2021.

DB92018 A History Of Barbados: From Amerindian Settlement To Caribbean Single Market by Hilary Beckles (nonfiction, history/geography)

An overview of the history of the island nation of Barbados. Examines colonization, the influences of the Amerindians, the sugar industry, the African slave trade, emancipation, the civil rights movement, the gaining of independence, nationalism, and more. 2006.

DBG04989 The Real Jerk: New Caribbean Cuisine by Lily & Ed Pottinger (cooking)

A cookbook of Caribbean cuisine, including recipes for jerk chicken, shrimp creole, and ackee and codfish (Jamaica's national dish). Prepared by Lily and Ed Pottinger, who are the proprietors of the Real Jerk restaurant in Toronto. Alongside the recipes are tales behind the traditions of Jamaican cooking, and examples of the laid-back spirit of the Caribbean. Unrated. 2002.

DB28712 A Small Place by Jamaica Kincaid (nonfiction, history of Antigua)

The author, born on the island of Antigua, examines the history and geography of the island and describes the negative effects tourists have had on her native land. Kincaid portrays the natural beauty, the external oppression, and the internal corruption of the island. 1988.