## CONTENTS

**List of contributors**

**Acknowledgements**

**Chronology of major works and events**

**Introduction**

**ANGELYN MITCHELL AND DANILLE K. TAYLOR**

1. **HISTORY, CONTEXTS, AND CRITICISM**

1. Early African American women’s literature
   **FRANCES SMITH FOSTER AND LAROSE DAVIS**

2. Women of the Harlem Renaissance
   **CHERYL A. WALL**

3. Women writers of the Black Arts movement
   **ELEANOR W. TRAYLOR**

4. Contemporary African American women writers
   **DANA A. WILLIAMS**

5. African American feminist theories and literary criticism
   **ROBERT J. PATTERSON**

**II. GENRE, GENDER, AND RACE**

6. African American women and the United States slave narrative
   **JOYCELYN MOODY**

7. Autobiography and African American women’s literature
   **JOANNE M. BRAXTON**
## Contents

8. “Even some fiction might be useful”: African American women novelists  
   **Madhu Dubey**  
   150

9. African American women poets and the power of the word  
   **Keith D. Leonard**  
   168

10. African American women in the performing arts  
    **Olga Barrios**  
    187

11. African American women writers of children’s and young adult literature  
    **Dianne Johnson**  
    210

12. African American women essayists  
    **Marilyn Sanders Mobley**  
    224

13. African American women writers and the short story  
    **Crystal J. Lucky**  
    245

14. African American women writers and popular fiction: theorizing black womanhood  
    **Herman Beavers**  
    262

*Bibliography*  
278

*Index*  
301