

ONE MARYLAND ONE BOOK 2024

# WHAT STORM, WHAT THUNDER

Myriam J. A. Chancy

READER'S GUIDE



## WHAT IF EVERYONE READ THE SAME BOOK AT THE SAME TIME, THEN CAME TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT IT?

When we read a great book, we can't wait to share the experience with others. That's one of the joys of reading. In this spirit, Maryland Humanities created One Maryland One Book to bring together diverse people in communities across the state through the shared experience of reading the same book.

Now in its seventeenth year, One Maryland One Book remains Maryland's only state-wide community reading program. Each year, the selection process is guided by a common theme. The theme for 2024 is **Restorative Futures**.

The Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities partners with public libraries, high schools, colleges and universities, museums, bookstores, correctional facilities, and other organizations to bring book-centered discussions and other related events to communities across Maryland. But One Maryland One Book is not just about reading or literature; it is also about bringing people together for meaningful dialogue.

The book selected for 2024 is *What Storm, What Thunder* by Myriam J. A. Chancy.

### GRAB YOUR COPY

Find a FREE copy of *What Storm, What Thunder* at your local library or purchase it from a bookstore and get reading! Maryland Humanities has partnered with libraries across the state to hold print copies of the book for giveaway, as well as adding e-book and audio editions to their catalog.

### REACH OUT

Each year, more than 15,000 Marylanders read the One Maryland One Book selection. How many of those people are your friends or family? Use the book to jump-start a meaningful conversation in person or virtually with an old friend or to make a new one.

### PULL UP A CHAIR

We invite you to join Maryland Humanities and thousands of other Marylanders at one of the many book discussions and related events happening around the state and online from mid-September to mid-November, including the author tour in October. To find One Maryland One Book programs in your area, go to [onemarylandonebook.org](http://onemarylandonebook.org) and click on Events.

After each One Maryland One Book program you attend, please visit [omobfeedback.org](http://omobfeedback.org) and share your thoughts by taking our brief survey.

For all the latest information, "like" or follow us:

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### FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND CEO



Welcome! We are thrilled to have you join Maryland Humanities for the seventeenth year of One Maryland One Book, Maryland's largest reading and discussion program. Since 2008, the OMOB has brought together thousands of readers across the state to explore a specific work of literature through discussions at book clubs, libraries, colleges, museums, and more.

Literature has the power to delight, inform, and connect us. The OMOB is selected by a committee of distinguished members of Maryland's literary community. We hope this connects you to parts of your community in a new way.

*What Storm, What Thunder* is a novel that aptly captures this year's theme of Restorative Futures, as characters in and around Port-au-Prince, Haiti navigate how to move on in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake. Crossing themes of class, race, religion, gender, and migration, it shows us how a community both fractures and repairs through trauma.

We at Maryland Humanities hope this book continues to affect readers with its lush, lyrical prose and interconnected perspectives that paint a vivid, loving mosaic of Haiti and its people. This book presents many opportunities to discuss how we envision moving forward after disaster.

We encourage you to pick up your copy of *What Storm, What Thunder* and join the conversation at one of our many public events across the state. This guide features discussion questions and a guide to further reading and learning, compiled by our partners at Baltimore County Public Library.

As a program of the Maryland Center for the Book at Maryland Humanities, One Maryland One Book is made possible each year through the generosity of our sponsors and community partners. We greatly thank them for their support. Find out more how to get involved at [www.onemarylandonebook.org](http://www.onemarylandonebook.org).

Please join us!

Alicia S. Jones, Board Chair  
Lindsey Baker, CEO



Photo Credit: N. Affonso

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Myriam J. A. Chancy is the author most recently of the novel *Village Weavers* (Tin House). Her previous novel, *What Storm, What Thunder*, was named a best book of the year by NPR, *Kirkus*, *Library Journal*, the *Boston Globe*, and *The Globe and Mail*; shortlisted for the CALIBA Golden Poppy Award and Aspen Words Literary Prize; longlisted for the Brooklyn Public Library Book Prize and the OCM Bocas Prize; and awarded an ABA from the Before Columbus Foundation. Her past novels include *The Loneliness of Angels*, winner of the Guyana Prize for Literature Caribbean Award in Fiction; *The Scorpion's Claw*; and *Spirit of Haiti*, shortlisted for the Commonwealth Prize's Best First Book in Canada and the Caribbean. She is also the author of several academic monographs, including *Harvesting Haiti: Reflections on Unnatural Disasters* and *Framing Silence: Revolutionary Novels by Haitian Women*. Her recent writings have appeared in *Whetstone Magazine*, *Electric Literature*, and *Guernica*.

She is a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation and HBA Chair in the Humanities at Scripps College in California.

## ABOUT THE BOOK

*Reprinted with permission from publisher*

At the end of a long, sweltering day, an earthquake of 7.0 magnitude shakes the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince. Award-winning author Myriam J. A. Chancy masterfully charts the inner lives of the characters affected by the disaster—Richard, an expat and wealthy water-bottling executive with a secret daughter; the daughter, Anne, an architect who drafts affordable housing structures for a global NGO; a small-time drug trafficker, Leopold, who pines for a beautiful call girl; Sonia and her business partner, Dieudonné, who are followed by a man they believe is the vodou spirit of death; Didier, an emigrant musician who drives a taxi in Boston; Sara, a mother haunted by the ghosts of her children in an IDP camp; her husband, Olivier, an accountant forced to abandon the wife he loves; their son, Jonas, who haunts them both; and Ma Lou, the old woman selling produce in the market who remembers them all.

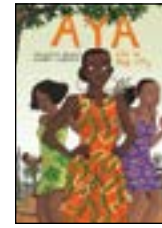
Brilliantly crafted, fiercely imagined, and deeply haunting, *What Storm, What Thunder* is a singular, stunning record, a reckoning of the heartbreaking trauma of disaster, and—at the same time—an unforgettable testimony to the tenacity of the human spirit.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read the scenes on pages 30-31 where Sara summons spirits and she sees her little girls who have passed away. How do Sara's practices and beliefs compare to your perception of spirits and the afterlife? Do you believe that you can communicate with spirits, like Sara does?
2. Richard tells the reader "I no longer thought of myself as having a mother. She had birthed me, this was true, take care of me those early years, but I had rebirthed myself. I was my own mother," (68). Why does Richard have a fractured relationship with his mother? Based on your reading of the entire book, was he justified in being so distant from her? Can you relate to how Richard feels in any way?
3. Leopold tells the reader that the turtles existed before dinosaurs and were the "first superheroes" but started out "puny and fragile" and points out how easy they are to step on when they're little (103). Discuss the symbolism of the sea turtles in the novel. What other events or moments in the novel do you think they can represent?
4. On page 134, Taffia describes finding people in the rubble and admits "there were mercy killings." Do you agree that such acts are mercy? Does the idea of mercy change with the context, especially during an extreme emergency like a natural disaster?
5. Taffia describes a culture of misogyny in the IDP camp: "...because you gave her twenty-five cents worth of stuff, meaning, a boy can buy a girl for a quarter. Just because we're poor, it doesn't mean that we're not worth something." (153). What are your thoughts on misogyny, sexual abuse, and its role in the novel? Which other characters encounter it, and how?
6. Discuss how Taffia navigates the aftermath of the sexual violence she experiences in the IDP camp; what impact does it have on her life and how does she choose to communicate it? Do you think there is a parallel between how she survives this trauma and how others are surviving the trauma of the earthquake?
7. Discuss Didier's experience of learning "what it means to black in America," and how "Black here doesn't mean what it means back home." (177). What do you feel he is talking about? What historical differences between America and Haiti might influence this? How does Black identity change across the diaspora?
8. Discuss the differences between Haitian and American culture that appear in Didier's section of the book. What would a Haitian immigrant to America need to learn in order to adapt? What would an American have trouble adapting to in Haiti?
9. Olivier says "Haitians don't kill themselves: we have too much to strive for, so much resilience," (236). How do faith and beliefs in the afterlife affect Olivier's decision? How might an American observe Olivier's decision compared to a Haitian?
10. Explore how time and structure frame the novel. Why does the author choose to include a range of years from different characters' points-of-view? What does it add to the story as a whole?
11. Kreyòl and French are languages that are embedded throughout the novel. What was your experience reading them throughout the story? How do you think the reader's ability to access parts of the book due to language can affect our experience of the story?

## FICTION



*Aya: Life in Yop City*  
by Marguerite Abouet &  
Clément Oubrerie

Set in 1978 in Yop City located on the Ivory Coast of West Africa, Aya experiences everyday life with all the drama and love that family and close friends bring with them.



*Afterglow: Climate Fiction for Future Ancestors* with foreword  
by adrienne marie brown

This anthology of hopeful and forward-looking short stories explores the impact of climate change on communities and nature. Spanning diverse settings and themes, these thought-provoking tales envision across the globe where strength and optimism prevail.



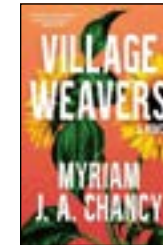
*Velorio* by Xavier Navarro Aquino

The people of Puerto Rico were devastated when Hurricane Maria exploded onto their island. Those who were not among the three thousand killed were left abandoned without food, water, or power. Velorio (which means wake), brings us characters battling the elements as well as their own beliefs and ideology. This raw and haunting debut novel confronts humanity at its worst but proves to be a story of resilience and hope.



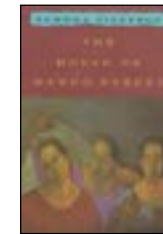
*When We Were Birds*  
by Ayanna Lloyd Banwo

Through vivid prose, the novel follows the journeys of Yejide and Darwin, whose lives intersect in unexpected ways as they navigate personal struggles and societal expectations. As their spiritual and romantic connection deepens amidst the lush backdrop of Trinidad, Yejide and Darwin must confront the complexities of their relationships with their homes and each other.



*Village Weavers*  
by Myriam J. A. Chancy

Village Weavers by the author of What Storm What Thunder, is a heartwarming historical fiction story about two friends, Gertie and Sisi, who grow up together in Haiti. They come from different backgrounds, but their friendship is strong. A big secret from the past tears them apart. Can Gertie and Sisi's friendship survive their struggles and the war of color and class? Chancy masterfully tackles difficult themes of regime, revolution, sisterhood, and class while telling a story that centers on love.



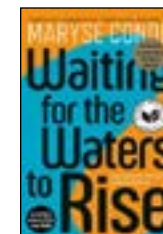
*The House on Mango Street*  
by Sandra Cisneros

Through a series of short stories, we follow Esperanza on her journey to womanhood. Full of hope, dreams, and sometimes ugly reality Esperanza ultimately discovers the joy in being true to yourself and taking pride in your roots.



*Hardears* by Matthew  
Clarke and Nigel Lynch

Hardears is an Afro-Caribbean fantasy adventure graphic novel set on Jouvert Island, the alternate version of Barbados where a group of local heroes set out to stop a ruthless merchant from exploiting the island following a superstorm.



*Waiting for the Waters to Rise*  
by Maryse Condé

Waiting for the Waters to Rise immerses readers in the lush landscapes of Guadeloupe, where protagonist Babakar navigates the complexities of family, identity, and societal upheaval. As the threat of natural disaster looms, Babakar grapples with his past and seeks solace in the bonds of community.



**Krik? Krak!** By Edwidge Danticat  
Titled after the exchange between Haitian storytellers and their listeners, Danticat's collection of short stories was a National Book Award finalist. Ordinary Haitians experience spirituality, a desire to escape their circumstances, and a shared sense of heritage, as they all reveal ties to a common ancestral town.



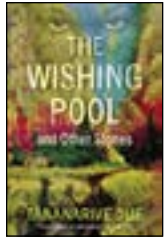
**Real Americans** by Rachel Khong  
Real Americans is a captivating exploration of American identity across three generations, from Y2K-era New York to a secluded Washington island in 2021. Lily and Matthew, from vastly different backgrounds, navigate love amidst societal expectations. Through immersive storytelling, Rachel Khong delves into themes of class, race, and family, prompting readers to ponder the truths we conceal to find love and acceptance.



**Aftershock** by Zhang Ling  
Aftershock delves into the intricate layers of family bonds and decades-long scars of trauma in the aftermath of a catastrophic earthquake in Tangshan, China. Xiaodeng, now a successful Canadian writer, confronts her past and embarks on a journey to find her mother. Ling skillfully crafts lyrical prose and a moving character-driven narrative that explores themes of resilience, guilt, and the enduring power of love across generations.



**Octavia's Brood: Science Fiction Stories from Social Justice Movements** edited by adrienne marie brown and Walidah Imarisha  
This groundbreaking anthology merges speculative fiction with activism, offering a visionary exploration of social justice struggles. Through a diverse array of captivating stories across genres of sci-fi, horror, fantasy, and magical realism these stories entertain, challenge conventions, and inspire readers to imagine bold, transformative possibilities for collective liberation.



**The Wishing Pool and Other Stories** by Tananarive Due  
Due's collection is a gripping blend of horror, science fiction, and suspense, set in the mysterious town of Gracetown, Florida in the aftermath of a pandemic and into the future. This is a collection for those who love stories that are both imaginative and disturbing, suspenseful and thought-provoking.



**The Book of Fire** by Christy Lefteri  
The Book of Fire by Christy Lefteri puts readers in the aftermath of a devastating wildfire in present-day Greece. Through lyrical prose and first-person narration, we follow Irini's journey as she grapples with the trauma of losing her home, caring for her burn-victim husband Tasso, and navigating the complexities of guilt and suspicion surrounding the fire's origins. Lefteri masterfully explores themes of environmental loss, accountability, and endurance in the face of tragedy.



**The God of Good Looks** by Breanne Mc Ivor  
In Mc Ivor's debut novel, young Trinidadian model and writer Bianca Bridge challenges patriarchal norms with the support of a renowned beauty mogul Obadiah Cortland. While the narrative examines the world of Caribbean cosmetics, it's far from superficial; Mc Ivor explores sheds light on the struggles against misogyny, poverty, and the importance of authenticity in overcoming barriers.



**Sankofa** by Chibundu Onuzo  
Anna finds the journal of the father she has never met and discovers that he was involved in London's radical political scene of the 1970s. Further research leads to find that not only might he be the retired dictator of a small West African Nation, but he is also still alive. Upon meeting him, Anna realizes that perceptions of home, family, and self are a complex tapestry of belonging.



**The Quarter Storm** by Veronica G. Henry  
Mambo Reina Dumond is a Haitian-American Vodou priestess in New Orleans who uses her water magic to heal and protect her community. When her co-voudouisant is connected to a murder, she decides to investigate and clear his name, uncovering a larger conspiracy of danger, deception, and dark magic along the way.



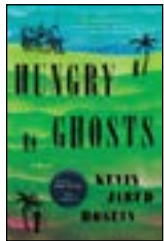
**God Loves Haiti** by Dimitry Elias Leger  
Natasha, an artist, has married a man who became the Haitian president. As the earthquake strikes, this causes her to be able to escape, but there is a wrinkle. She was having an affair with her lover, Alain, in the palace, and he is left behind there as she escapes. Beautifully poignant tale about leaving the attachment you have to your country, and how country is not on a map, but the people within.



**Zo** by Xander Miller  
Amidst the chaos of the earthquake, protagonist Zo embarks on a journey through Haiti, encountering unexpected allies, formidable adversaries, and confronting profound grief. Miller's compelling narrative makes deft use of magical realism to explore themes of redemption and the enduring power of the human spirit in the face of adversity.



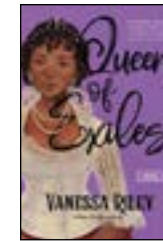
**A Grandmother Begins the Story** by Michelle Porter  
A haunting and gorgeously crafted tale that spans five generations of Métis women, intertwining their desires for healing with the power of familial bonds. Through well-developed characters, including Mamé navigating the afterlife and Geneviève grappling with addiction, Porter also gives voice to bison, grasslands, and dogs, enriching the novel's sense of land, history, and traditions for this Indigenous community.



**Hungry Ghosts** by Kevin Jared Hosein  
Set against the backdrop of 1940s Trinidad, the author draws inspiration from Caribbean oral traditions, capturing the intertwined lives of the affluent Changoor family and the struggling Saroops. Hosein explores themes of poverty, wealth, and the consequences of power dynamics with vivid descriptions. building towards a climactic confrontation that leaves a lasting impact on readers.



**The Garden of Broken Things** by Francesca Momplaisir  
Momplaisir intricately weaves a tale of survival and inter-generational Genevieve, a third-generation Haitian immigrant and single mother, grapples with her son's behavior in New York City, leading them on a journey to reconnect with their roots and confront their family's painful past – just as the earthquake strikes the country. Momplaisir's lyrical prose and compelling characters offer a nuanced exploration of motherhood, cultural identity, and the enduring legacy of trauma.



**Queen of Exiles** by Vanessa Riley  
This historical novel brings to life the remarkable story of Queen Marie-Louise, who escaped upheaval in Haiti and rose to prominence in European royalty. As she navigates political turmoil and personal tragedy alongside her husband, King Henry, Louise's journey from Haitian queen to European socialite unfolds against the backdrop of racial prejudice and political intrigue.



***A Fire So Wild***  
by Sarah Ruiz-Grossman  
A fast-moving wildfire threatens the community and lives of the diverse residents of Berkley, California. Told in short vignettes, *A Fire So Wild* tells the story of three very different families and how the fire affected their lives. Important conversations about climate change, homelessness, and housing inequity, as well as how the path back from disaster looks different for the haves versus the have-nots are a clear focus of this debut novel.

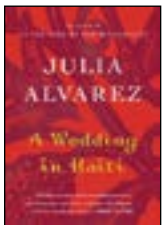


***River Sing Me Home***  
by Eleanor Shearer  
Emancipation at the Providence plantation in Barbados merely replaces slavery with apprenticeship, prompting Rachel to flee in search of her children who were sold into slavery. Rachel's journey across the Caribbean underscores the enduring power of maternal love amidst adversity, as she encounters fellow travelers with their own tales of escape and resilience.



***Remembrance*** by Rita Woods  
This novel follows four strong women who live in four different times and very different places. Ranging from Haiti in 1791, to New Orleans in 1857 to modern day Ohio, their individual stories intertwine across time.

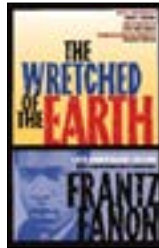
## NON-FICTION



***A Wedding in Haiti: The Story of a Friendship*** by Julia Alvarez  
In this memoir, Julia Alvarez looks at the impact that befriending a Haitian worker on her coffee farm in the Dominican Republic has had on her. Alvarez explores the history between Haitians and Dominicans and reflects upon how historical views can be changed when people from different countries get to know each other and become friends.



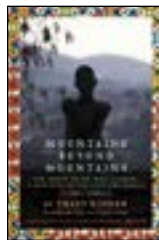
***We Fed an Island: The True Story of Rebuilding Puerto Rico, One Meal at a Time*** by José Andrés  
Chronicling remarkable humanitarian efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, chef José Andrés' gripping narrative shows how a grassroots movement that transforms into a massive relief operation, providing nourishment and hope to millions amid the devastation. This inspiring tale illustrates the power of community, resilience, and solidarity after catastrophe.



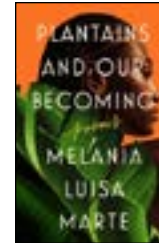
***The Wretched of the Earth*** by Frantz Fanon  
The classic social and philosophical criticism of colonialism, and how it affects both the colonized and the colonizer. Though written in 1961, Fanon's work endures today, and can be a useful tool for us to understand how these old attitudes persist in new forms in the modern globalized world.



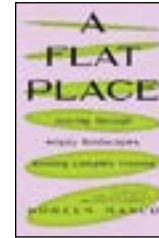
***The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*** by C. L. R. James  
In the late 18th century, how did a group of black slaves overpower the most powerful national armies to win their freedom from their French masters? Written in 1938, this deeply researched and thoughtful take on revolution and freedom is like a quick course in Haitian history.



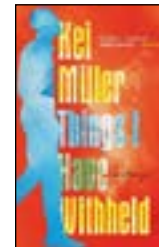
***Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World*** by Tracy Kidder  
Dr. Paul Farmer dedicated his career (and won a MacArthur genius award) for his efforts to bring health care into impoverished nations, including his establishment of a health clinic in remotely rural Haiti.



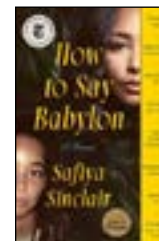
***Plaintains and Our Becoming: Poems*** by Melania Luisa Marte  
A debut poetry collection that eloquently explores the African Latin American experience, focusing on the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Marte delves into themes of identity, belonging, intergenerational trauma, and self-acceptance. Her imaginative and blistering writing beautifully captures the complexities of history and culture, inviting readers on a journey of introspection and understanding.



***A Flat Place: Moving Through Empty Landscapes, Naming Complex Trauma*** by Noreen Masud  
In her memoir, author Noreen Masud embarks on a journey to the serene landscapes of Scotland, seeking solace and introspection following profound psychological traumas. Through these encounters with nature, she uncovers the healing power of the natural world and literature and how they combine to help one experience a sense of place.



***Things I Have Withheld*** by Kei Miller  
In his collection of essays, Kei Miller delves into his experiences in Jamaica and Britain, writing the impact of silence on issues like discrimination and identity. The essays use personal anecdotes, cultural encounters, letters, and reflections to explore privilege, prejudice, victimhood, and self-expression.



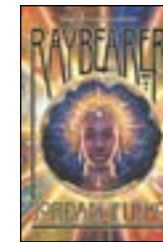
***How to Say Babylon*** by Safiya Sinclair  
How to Say Babylon chronicles Sinclair's journey of self-discovery and resistance against the stifling cultural norms of Rastafari, offering both a personal narrative of overcoming oppression and a broader exploration of the intersection of gender, tradition, and colonialism in Jamaican society.



***Children of Blood and Bone*** by Tomi Adeyemi  
Zelie remembers when Orisha was full of magic. Things changed forever the night the magic disappeared when the magi were killed. With the help of a rogue princess, Zelie sets out to bring the magic back to Orisha. This is the first book in a highly popular series for any one seeking their next YA adventure fantasy fix.



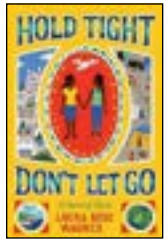
***Guardian of Fukushima*** by Fabien Grolleau  
This poignant graphic novel depicts the story of Naoto Matsumura, a farmer who chooses to return to his irradiated home in the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster to care for his animals. Through evocative illustrations and quietly profound dialogue, Grolleau weaves in elements of Japanese folklore, illustrated beautifully by Ewen Blain, to offer readers a compelling and unforgettable ode to our environment and a testament to those in the face of disaster.



***Raybearer*** by Jordan Ifueko  
Children throughout the country of Aristar have been summoned to the capital to find companions who will form the Council of 11. They will serve the Crown Prince until his death when they all come of age. Tarisai, one of the summoned, has been magically bound by her mother to kill the Crown Prince once she gains his trust. Set in a mythical West African country, this is a spellbinding tale of love, trust, and loyalty.

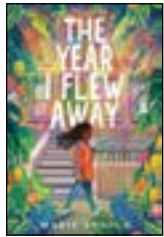


***Dear Haiti, Love Elaine*** by Maika Moulite  
Alaine lives an upscale life in Miami with her psychiatrist father. After an impulsive screw-up, it is decided that she will spend two months in Haiti on a volunteer assignment with her aunt. This very ambitious American girl finds a lot more to love in her homeland than she expected.



**Hold Tight, Don't Let Go: A Novel of Haiti** by Laura Rose Wagner  
Two teenage cousins, Magdalie and Nadine survive the Haitian earthquake but lose their adult caretaker. They promise to stay together in the refugee camp, but when one of them has a chance to leave for Miami, will that promise hold?

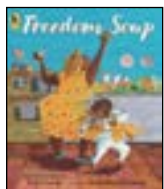
## CHILDREN



**The Year I Flew Away** by Marie Arnold  
Ten-year-old Gabrielle, moves from Haiti to the United States. It's a dream come true! When she arrives in Brooklyn, she struggles to fit in and suffers from a bad case of homesickness. With help from a magical witch, Gabrielle becomes the "perfect American" and learns who she really is in the process.



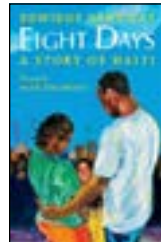
**Maya and the Rising Dark** by Rena Baron  
When Maya's father disappears while at work, she discovers that he is the guardian between the worlds protecting our world from the powerful Orishas and the Lord of Darkness that inhabit our dark shadow world. His disappearance has allowed the veil between the two worlds to open. Maya sets out to find her father and repair the veil.



**Freedom Soup** by Tami Charles  
Ti Gran and her granddaughter Belle make Freedom Soup to celebrate Haiti's Independence on New Year's Day. As they make the soup, Ti Gran shares the history of the soup, her family, and Haiti's Independence.



**My Day with the Panyé** by Tami Charles  
Fallon has been waiting forever to carry the panyé, the basket her Mama carries to market on her head – and the day's finally here. Through vibrant illustrations and songlike verse, we watch Fallon realize carrying the panyé is so much harder than she expected. Is she ready to take on this task after all?



**Eight Days: A Story of Haiti** by Edwidge Danticat  
Trapped under the wreckage of his house for eight days after the Haitian Earthquake in 2010, a young boy imagines everything he loves about Haiti.



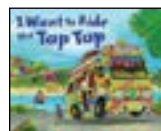
**The Coquíes Still Sing** by Karina Nicole González  
Elena is devastated when Hurricane Maria sweeps through Puerto Rico and knocks down her favorite mango tree. Where will the coquí frogs perch to sing their reassuring nighttime song? As Elena's family and community rebuild, patience and hard work are rewarded with new buds on their beloved tree, and the ooothing "Co-qui, co-qui!" slowly return.



**Two Degrees** by Alan Gratz  
In this fast-paced novel, four children are going about their normal day, when catastrophe strikes – a wildfire in California, a polar bear attack in Canada, and a hurricane in Florida. As they fight for survival, they see the impact that climate change has had on our world and surroundings and vow to do something about it... if they can make it out alive.



**When the Rain Came Down** by Leslie Helakoski  
This picture book that tells the story of how a rainstorm turned one urban community into a place of destruction. Vibrant illustrations and lyrical verse capture the devastation of flooding. Even though many homes were destroyed, as the water begins to recede hope is restored and the community comes together.



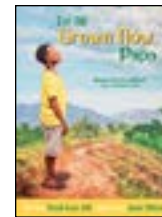
**I Want to Ride the Tap Tap** by Danielle Joseph  
Claude and Manman walk Papa to the Tap Tap stop every day and wait for him to catch the bus to go to work. One magical Sunday, Claude and Manman get onto the Tap Tap bus with Papa and go to the beach to discover new wonders.



**Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings** by Francie Latour  
Auntie Luce lives in Haiti and paints vibrant pictures of the people and places of her homeland. Every winter, a young girl flies to Haiti to visit Auntie Luce. Through the colors of the paintings, the young girl begins to understand the history, culture, and identity of Haiti.



**Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance** by Nikki Grimes  
Nikki Grimes uses Golden Shovel poetry, a form that attributes and then builds on poets who came before – in this case women of the Harlem Renaissance – to create entirely new works that highlight the struggles and victories experienced by women across generations.



**I'm All Grown Now, Papa** by Claude Louis, MD  
This authentic depiction of growing up in Qui Croit, Haiti is the first in a series of children's books by Doctor Claude Louis based on his own childhood, with artist Junior Michel. Sales support his non-profit, Words In Action Haiti, which sponsors education and community development in Qui Croit, aiming to develop a self-sustaining health clinic.



**Ikenga** by Nnedi Okorafor  
Set in modern-day Nigeria, Ikenga is a powerful story about love and loss. Nnamadi is a young boy struggling to deal with emotions in the wake of his father's murder. Nnamadi's magical powers are accessed with the help of a magical Ikenga which responds to his emotions.



**Plátanos are Love** by Alyssa Reynoso-Morris  
Plátanos are more than food. They are love. They feed us in more ways than one. Abuela and her nietas discuss how plátanos have sustained their family for generations as they cook heirloom recipes together.



**José Feeds the World: How a Famous Chef Feeds Millions of People in Need Around the World** by David Unger  
Follow the true story of José Andrés and the founding of the World Central Kitchen, from soup kitchens to Haiti, Puerto Rico, Bahamas, Guatemala and more as he brings comfort to communities recovering from disasters in the one way he knows best--cooking!

## DVDS



**The Earth is Blue as an Orange**  
A captivating documentary that follows a Ukrainian family's journey to create a film amidst the backdrop of conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Through their artistic endeavor, the family finds solace and strength, offering a unique perspective on the human experience during war. The film beautifully intertwines the power of creativity with the harsh realities of living in a war-torn region, ultimately showcasing the indomitable spirit of its creators.



**Haiti Untold: The Untold Story on Radical Change in Haiti**  
This documentary recounts the journey of men and women dedicated to the fight of bringing about a change in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake. This film can be found on Kanopy through your local library.



**Rebuilding Paradise**  
Rebuilding Paradise, a documentary by Ron Howard, offers a poignant and intimate look at the resilience of a community devastated by wildfire. Through raw and emotional storytelling, Howard captures the collective strength and determination of the residents of Paradise, California, as they strive to rebuild their lives amidst tragedy and uncertainty. The film serves as a powerful testament to the human spirit and the unwavering resolve to find hope and healing.

## PODCASTS



### Killer Earth

Natural disasters happen everywhere around the world. When you really think about it, the Earth that we live on is scary. Even though natural disasters are terrifying, what we can learn from them can make our world a better place. Killer Earth Podcast provides raw conversation about natural disasters throughout history from all over the world.

Website & Episodes:  
[killerearth.buzzsprout.com](http://killerearth.buzzsprout.com)



### Lessons of Hope: A Haiti H2O Podcast

Join the Haiti H2O team as they introduce their partners and friends from the villages in Southern Haiti. Each episode contains a story that will fill you with Hope.

Website & Episodes:  
[haitih2o.org/lessons-of-hope](http://haitih2o.org/lessons-of-hope)



### State of the World

NPR takes you around the world to wherever news is happening and explains why it matters.

Website & Episodes:  
[npr.org/podcasts/510366/state-of-the-world](http://npr.org/podcasts/510366/state-of-the-world)

## MUSIC



### What Storm, What Thunder Playlist

Created by Myriam Chancy, this playlist contains music that influenced her writing and inspired her to continue writing the story. You can also find a [playlist](#) for her newest, *Village Weavers* (2024).

[Listen on Spotify.](#)



### Let the Rhythm Lead: Haiti Song Summit

Numerous artists and members of a Haitian roots band collaborate on *Let The Rhythm Lead*, blending North American Indie Rock with Haitian Vodou percussion, featuring songs in multiple languages. Recorded at the Artists Institute in Jacmel, Haiti, the album celebrates the resilience of the Haitian people and the work of Artists for Peace and Justice which embodies the spirit and challenges of rebuilding Haiti after multiple disasters.

[Listen on Spotify.](#)



### Goumen Pou Saw Kwè

Barikad Crew were a Haitian kreyol hip hop group, who experienced terrible tragedy, including member Young Cliff dying in the earthquake.

[Listen on Spotify.](#)



### Breaking the Thermometer

Drawing from her Haitian roots and New Orleans upbringing, Leyla McCalla creates a unique musical blend that reflects her personal journey and cultural heritage. This multi-disciplinary album intertwines personal and political narratives, shedding light on Haiti's history and the resilience of its marginalized communities.

[Listen on Spotify.](#)

The content and resources of this guide were created and compiled by Maryland Humanities, with significant contributions from the staff of Baltimore County Public Library. Portions have been reprinted with permission from Tin House Books.

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Maryland Humanities  
3600 Clipper Mill Road  
Suite 320  
Baltimore, MD 21211

(410) 685-0095  
[www.mdhumanities.org](http://www.mdhumanities.org)

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