A film by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady

Delve Deeper into "The Boys of Baraka"

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Rebecca Federman of the New York Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “The Boys of Baraka” that premieres on September 12, 2006 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

African American boys have a very high chance of being incarcerated or killed before they reach adulthood. In Baltimore, one of the country’s most poverty-stricken cities for inner-city residents, the Baraka School project was founded to break the cycle of violence through an innovative education program that literally removed young boys from low-performing public schools and unstable home environments. “The Boys of Baraka” follows four boys as they travel with their classmates to rural Kenya in East Africa, where a teacher-student ratio of one to five, a strict disciplinary program and a comprehensive curriculum form the core of an extraordinary new journey in their transformation to men. Winner of awards at the Newport, Chicago, Woodstock and Silverdocs Film Festivals. A co-presentation with the Independent Television Service (ITVS). Produced in association with P.O.V./American Documentary.

ADULT NONFICTION


Dunbar, Christopher. Alternative Schooling for African American Youth: Does Anyone Know We’re Here? New York: P. Lang, 2001. A group of middle school students are taken out of their school and put into an alternative learning environment in order to prevent expulsion.


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A guide to programs established to help African American teens. Describes the methods used and the difficulties encountered by these programs.


Robinson, Jo Ann. Education as My Agenda: Gertrude Williams, Race, and the Baltimore Public Schools. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. After working 49 years in the Baltimore public school system, Williams identifies the essential elements of a sound education, describes her own education and examines the highs and lows of urban public education since World War II in this memoir.


ADULT FICTION

Apollo. Concrete Candy. New York: Anchor, 1996. Written when the author was only 15, Concrete Candy follows three young men in and around Oakland, California.


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES


"Rize.” A film by David LaChappelle. David LaChapelle Studios, 2005. (86 min.) Explores crunking and clowning, two similar
dance movements in South Central Los Angeles.


School: The Story of American Public Education
www.pbs.org/kcet/publicschool
The Web site of the PBS special on the history of America’s public school system. Includes information on leaders in the education movements as well as how the classroom and education, in general, have evolved.

Maryland Business Roundtable for Education
www.mbrt.org/
An initiative to provide a quality education for all of Maryland’s elementary and secondary school students.

Association of Independent Maryland Schools
www.aimsmd.org/
Includes over 100 of Maryland’s private, alternative and prep schools.

Special Education Law
www.wrightslaw.com/
Site provides information for parents and educators on special education laws for students with disabilities. Provides resources and articles on special education topics.

Education Week Newsletter
www.edweek.org/
Access to Education Week and Teacher Magazine articles and issues dealing with K-12 education.

Back to School: America’s Changing Classroom
A look at the way traditional education has changed. Explores home schooling, charter schools, online classrooms and other alternative methods of learning.

Teens: The Forgotten Face of Black History
Explores the important role teens played in African American history and civil rights.

The Jackson Davis Collection of African American Educational Photographs from the University of Virginia Library
www.lib.virginia.edu/small/collections/jadavis/
Collection of photographs from educational reformer and photographer Jackson Davis. Photos taken from schools throughout the Southeastern U.S. Includes several counties in Maryland.

Status and Trends in the Education of Blacks
National Center for Education Statistics Web site that presents data culled from a variety of reports on African American education. From 2003.

National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior
www.cr.nps.gov/crdi/colleges/blk.htm
List of historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

United Negro College Fund
www.uncf.org/
The Web site of the oldest and largest minority higher education assistance program. Provides information on fellowships, internships and tuition assistance for African American students.

African Americans in the Sciences
http://webfiles.uci.edu/mcbrown/display/faces.html
Profiles of African American men and women who have contributed to the world of science. Broken down by area of scientific expertise.

Center for the Education of Students Placed At Risk
www.csos.jhu.edu/crespar/
Collaboration between Johns Hopkins and Howard University to conduct research and find strategies and applicable programs for students who qualify as “at risk.”