

# PAL: Perspectives in American Literature - A Research and Reference Guide - An Ongoing Project

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## Chapter 10: Mari Evans (1923- )

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Best known for her award-winning poetry, Evans is also the author of children's books and plays. Both her poetry and her juvenile fiction address the concerns of the African American community. Her children's books examine incest, physical abuse, and other injustices that children in the black community face. A critically acclaimed anthology of African American women authors, *Black Women Writers (1950-1980): A Critical Evaluation*, was published in 1984 providing autobiographical statements by women authors as well as critical commentary on their work. The winner of many awards, such as a Woodrow Wilson grant in 1968, Evans divides her time between teaching, writing, theater work, and community service.

### Primary Works

*Where Is All the Music?* London: P. Breman, 1968.

*I Am a Black Woman*. New York City: Morrow, 1970. PS3555 .V22 12

*J. D.* Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1973.

*I Look at Me!* Chicago: Third World Press, 1974.

*Rap Stories*. Third World Press, 1974.

*Singing Black*. Reed Visuals, 1976.

*Jim Flying High*. Garden City: Doubleday, 1979.

*Whisper*. Berkeley: University of California Center for African American Studies, 1979.

*Nightstar: Poems 1973-1978*. Los Angeles: University of California Center for African American Studies, 1981.

*Black Women Writers (1950-1980): A Critical Evaluation*, Ed. New York: Doubleday, 1984. PS153 .N5 B558

*A Dark and Splendid Mass*. New York: Harlem River Press, 1992.

*Dear Corinne, Tell Somebody! Love, Annie: A Book about Secrets*. Just Us Books, 1999. Dewey 362.76

*How We Speak*. Chicago: Third World Pr., 2003.

Plays:

*River of My Song*. Indianapolis, Lilly Theatre, Childrens' Museum, 1977; Chicago, Northeastern Illinois University, Center for Inner City Studies, 1977.

*Boochie and Potrait of a Man* 1979

*Eyes* (Adapted from Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*), New York, Richard Allen Cultural Center, 1979; Cleveland, Karamu Theatre of the Performing Arts, March-April 1982.

Periodical Publications:

"In the Time of the Whirlwind: I'm With You." *Negro Digest* 17 (May 1968): 31-36, 77-80.

"Blackness: A Definition." *Negro Digest* 19 (November 1969): 19-21.

"Contemporary Black Literature." *Black World* 19 (June 1970): 4, 93-94.

"Behind the Green Door." as E. Reed, *Black Enterprise* 7 (February 1977): 27-32.

"The Nature and Methodology of Colonization and Its Relationship to Creativity: A Systems Approach." *Black Books Bulletin* 6 (August 1979): 10-17.

"Decolonization as Goal; Political Writing as Device." *First World* 2 (November 1979): 34-39.

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Harris, Trudier, and Thadious M. Davis. eds. *Afro-American Poets Since 1955*. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 1985.

Evans, Mari, and Stephen E. Henderson. eds. *Black Women Writers (1950-1980): A Critical Evaluation*. Garden City, NY: Anchor-Doubleday, 1984.

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