

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910151613203321
Autore	Wright Nazera Sadiq <1974->
Titolo	Black girlhood in the nineteenth century // Nazera Sadiq Wright
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Urbana, Chicago, Springfield, [Illinois] : , : University of Illinois Press, , 2016 ©2016
ISBN	0-252-09901-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource : illustrations (black and white)
Disciplina	305.89607309034
Soggetti	African American girls - History - 19th century African Americans - Social conditions - 19th century African Americans - Politics and government - 19th century Political culture - United States - History - 19th century African Americans - Intellectual life - 19th century American literature - African American authors - History and criticism African Americans in literature Girls in literature Politics and literature - United States - History - 19th century Electronic books. United States Race relations History 19th century
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Previously issued in print: 2016.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction: Toward a Genealogy of Black Girlhood -- Black Girlhood in the Early Black Press -- Youthful Girls and Prematurely Knowing Girls : Antebellum Black Girlhood -- "Teach your Daughters" : Black Girlhood and Mrs. N. F. Mossell's Advice Column in the New York Freeman -- Moving the Boundaries : Black Girlhood and Public Careers in Frances E. W. Harper's Trial and Triumph -- Black Girlhood in Early-Twentieth-Century Black Conduct Books -- Epilogue: The Changing Same? : Next-Generation Black Girlhood.
Sommario/riassunto	"Long portrayed as a masculine endeavor, the African American struggle for progress often found expression through an unlikely literary figure: the black girl. Nazera Sadiq Wright uses heavy archival

research on a wide range of texts about African American girls to explore this understudied phenomenon. As Wright shows, the figure of the black girl in African American literature provided a powerful avenue for exploring issues like domesticity, femininity, and proper conduct. The characters' actions, however fictional, became a rubric for African American citizenship and racial progress. At the same time, their seeming dependence and insignificance allegorized the unjust treatment of African Americans. Wright reveals fascinating girls who, possessed of a premature knowing and wisdom beyond their years, projected a courage and resiliency that made them exemplary representations of the project of racial advance and citizenship"-- Publisher description.

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