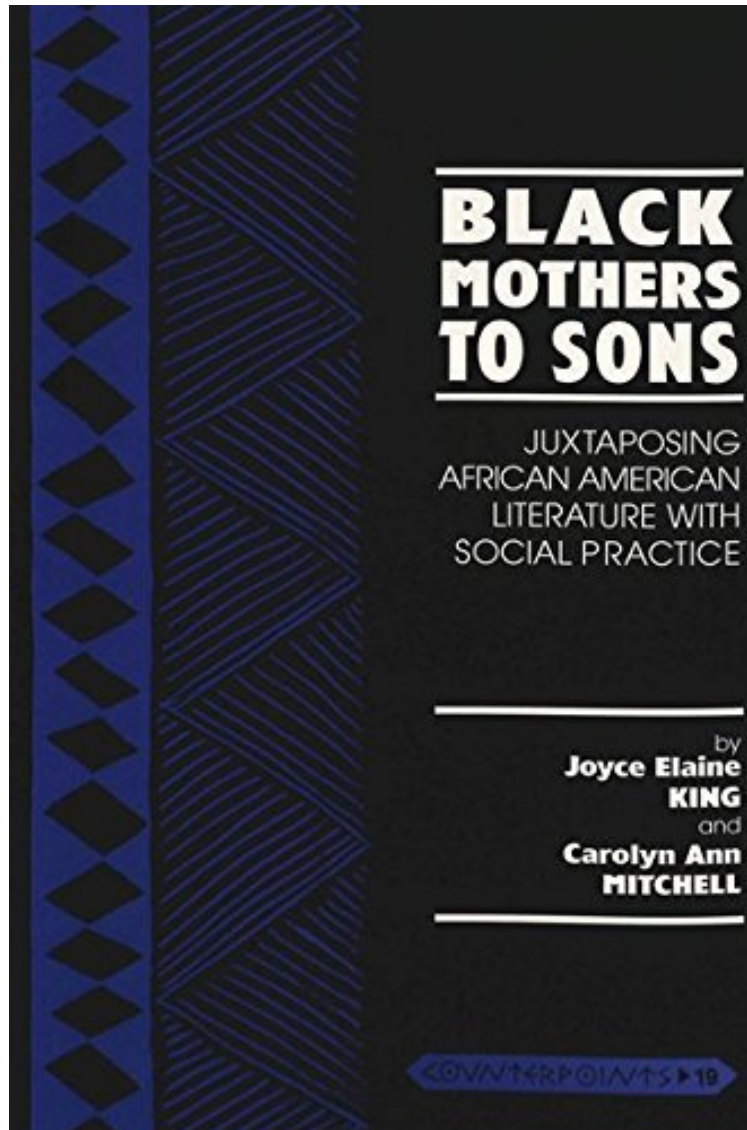


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Black Mothers to Sons: Juxtaposing African American Literature With Social Practice (Counterpoints)

Joyce E. King, Carolyn Mitchell
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This book combines a literary and sociological analysis of black mother to son relationships. The authors focus on the extraordinary struggles of black mothers in literature and real life who attempt to teach their sons not only to survive, but also to transcend the obstacles that black people encounter in American society. This study breaks new ground by using an innovative Afrocentric methodology to reveal definite connections between African American poetry, fiction, and black family life. In this second edition the authors reaffirm the political nature of art, literature, and social research and reflect on critical insights this study shares with recent writing in Black Studies, Black women's theorizing, and analyses of the sociocultural production of race and the significance of gender.

This book goes a long way to remind us of the ways in which 'our' ideas help us to survive. Provocative, extraordinary in its honesty and analysis, King and Mitchell's book is a marvelous synthesis of our long intellectual tradition and how it helps us to keep on keeping on. (Barbara T. Christian, Professor, UC Berkeley) Sometimes a book rises way beyond its time to say something that profoundly impacts the way we view the world. 'Black Mothers to Sons' by Joyce Elaine King and Carolyn Ann Mitchell is just such a book. It is defining Afrocentric work, clearly written, persuasively argued, and intensely relevant to a better world. (Molefi Kete Asante, Author of 'The Afrocentric Idea', Professor, Temple University) In a time of conservative triumphalism when rightist stereotypes threaten to become a society's commonsense, it is crucial that we hear the voices of African American parents struggling to teach and build a life for their children in difficult circumstances. We need to listen carefully to their honest stories of success. Joyce King and Carolyn Mitchell not only provide us with such honest stories, but they give us reason for hope. This is an important and insightful book, one that needs to be read by all people interested in the educational and social conditions of this society. (Michael W. Apple, John Bascom Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison) From the Publisher "Sometimes a book rises way beyond its time to say something that profoundly impacts the way we view the world. Black Mothers to Sons by Joyce Elaine King and Carolyn Ann Mitchell is just such a book. It is defining Afrocentric work, clearly written, persuasively argued, and intensely relevant to a better world." Molefi Kete Asante, Author of The Afrocentric Idea. "In a time of conservative triumphalism when rightist stereo-types threaten to become a society's commonsense, it is crucial that we hear the voices of African American parents struggling to teach and build a life for their children in difficult circumstances. We need to listen carefully to their honest stories of success. Joyce King and Carolyn Mitchell not only provide us with such honest stories, but they give us reason for hope. This is an important and insightful book, one that needs to be read by all people interested in the educational and social conditions of this society." Michael W. Apple, John Bascom Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison. Black Mothers to Sons. is volume 20 in the series Counterpoints: Studies in the Postmodern Theory of Education, edited by J e L. Kinchel e and Shirley R. Steinberg. This book combines a literary and sociological analysis of black mother to son relationships. The authors focus on the extraordinary struggles of black mother in literature and real life who attempt to teach their sons not only to survive, but also to transcend the obstacles that black people encounter in American society. This study breaks new ground by using an innovative Afrocentric methodology to reveal definite connections between African American poetry, fiction, and black family life. In this second edition the authors reaffirm the political nature of art, literature and social research ad reflect on critical insights this study shares with recent writing in Black Studies, Black women's theorizing and analyses of the sociocultural production of race and the significance of gender.