



Student Name:

Class Period:

Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Lillian Horace. Then, answer questions about it.

Lillian Horace 1880–1965

Fort Worth's Lillian Horace was a prominent educator in her day. It is only now that we recognize her as Texas's first Black woman novelist.

Born in 1880 in East Texas, Horace stated her ambitions at a young age: "to read—to unite—to teach—to possess no fear of death." Her pursuit of higher education was crucial to her journey, as she moved from Bishop College and Prairie View A&M in Texas to the University of Chicago and Columbia in New York.

But it was Fort Worth's I. M. Terrell High, her alma mater and the city's first Black school, that became her longest association. She taught there for many years, founding its library, drama department, and school newspaper.

Throughout her life, Horace also wrote. Her first novel, 1916's *Five Generations Hence*, was a utopian account of Black Americans escaping the Jim Crow South through migration to Africa. The book was ahead of its time, predicting both Marcus Garvey's popular emigration movement and the Afrofuturism of Black science fiction.

By the 1950s, Horace had completed two additional books, a biography of the Baptist leader Lacey Kirk Williams, praised at the time by Martin Luther King Jr., and the novel *Angie Brown*. Her works were not widely distributed in her lifetime, and it was decades before scholars uncovered the rich creative life of this revered public figure.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Lillian Horace. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. Lillian Horace was known as an educator, but what did she also do throughout her life?
2. Name three books that Horace wrote.

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** Why do you think one of Horace's life ambitions was "to possess no fear of death"? What might that have allowed her to do?