



## Glossary of Terms used in the RBS Young Book Lovers Series Video

### GWENDOLYN BROOKS

**Author's inscription:** an *inscribed copy* of a book; the author has hand-written their name (*autograph*) in the book, usually on the title-page or *half-title*. A related term is *presentation copy*, which refers to a book that is the gift of the author to another person and is inscribed by the author.



Photograph of Angela Jackson, the biographer of Gwendolyn Brooks. *The History Makers*, ©2020.

**Biographer:** A *biography* is a detailed description of an individual's life and experiences. It is usually written by someone who has researched that individual in detail. It may sometimes be written by a writer who also knew the individual personally. For example, Angela Jackson knew Gwendolyn Brooks in real life and she is also Brooks' *biographer*. If you would like to learn more about Angela Jackson, we would recommend listening to this interview with her. It is available on the website *The HistoryMakers*: <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/angela-jackson-41>

**Black Arts Movement:** A group of African American artists and writers in the United States who used art and activism in the 1960s and 1970s to advocate for Black pride and to find new ways to express the Black experience through visual arts and literature.

**Cassette tapes:** These were small plastic cases that held reels of magnetic tape on which music or other sounds (like a person speaking) were recorded. They were first introduced in 1963. Cassette tapes were originally used for dictation (recording one's voice), but they were later developed for recording music and became very popular in the 1970s and 1980s. Up until the early 1990s, Rare Book School used to record its lectures on cassette tapes!

**Dust-jacket:** A long piece of paper that is wrapped around most modern books to protect their cloth covers. Dust-jackets usually include illustrations, photographs, the book title and the name of the



Cassette tape recording of music with original case, most likely produced in the 1980s, Rare Book School.

author and publisher, and sometimes a description of the book’s contents and a biography of the author. Books that still have their original dust jacket are considered more collectible than those that do not.

**First edition:** A very simple explanation is that the term *first edition* means the first appearance of a book. However, this concept is quite complicated! You may wish to read the *ABC for Book Collectors* entry on “edition” to learn more. See pages 87 and 88 in the online version of this useful guide: [https://ilab.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/ABC-BOOK-FOR-COLLECTORS\\_0.PDF](https://ilab.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/ABC-BOOK-FOR-COLLECTORS_0.PDF)

**Half-title:** This is the leaf (a word for an individual piece of paper in a book) that appears before the title-page. The half-title usually includes the title of the book and sometimes additional information such as the volume number if the book has multiple volumes.

**Journal:** A type of publication that may be published once a month, or at regular intervals several times a year. For example, a *quarterly* journal is published four times a year. Academic journals usually relate to an academic discipline (for example, history, science, or art).

**Poet laureate:** A poet who has been officially designated by an institution, city, or state to write poems on special occasions on behalf of that institution, city, or state. Joy Harjo is the current poet laureate of the United States. Gwendolyn Brooks was the poet laureate of the state of Illinois and served in this role from 1968 until her death in 2000.

**Publisher:** A person or a group of people (corporation) who are responsible for preparing books and other related materials (such as journals) to be edited, printed, sent to bookstores, and sold. Another word for publisher is *publishing house*.



Photograph of a typical reel of recording tape used from the 1950 to 1970s, ©2003 by Daniel P. B. Smith, Wikipedia.

**Reel recordings:** Also known as *reel-to-reel tape*. Using a tape recorder, one could record music or the human voice on magnetic tape that was wound up in a reel and that could be played back using a machine called a tape deck. In the 1960s and 1970s, you could buy home tape recording machines to make your own recordings, and this technology was also used by music studios.

**Review copy:** A copy of a newly published book that is sent out by the publisher for reviewers to read. These reviewers will then write articles describing and evaluating the book and publish their reviews in newspapers or journals.