

Catlett-Walker Timeline

- 1915 Catlett is born on April 15, 1915 in Washington, DC.
Walker is born on July 7, 1915 in Birmingham, Alabama.
- 1932 Walker goes to a Langston Hughes lecture and meets him. He encourages her to write poetry and becomes a mentor.
- 1934 Walker publishes her first poem in *Crisis* magazine.
- 1935 Catlett graduates cum laude from Howard University.
Walker graduates from Northwestern University.
- 1936 Walker begins work for the Federal Writers Project in Chicago. She is a member of the South Side Writers Group.
- 1937 Walker writes "For My People", which is then published in *Poetry: A Magazine of Verse* in November of that year.
- 1939–40 Catlett and Walker become roommates in Iowa City.
- 1940 Catlett earns one of the first three MFAs ever awarded, from the University of Iowa. She also wins first prize in sculpture for *Mother and Child* (1940) at the American Negro Exposition in Chicago.
- 1942 Walker earns her MFA from the Iowa Writer's Workshop at the University of Iowa. Her thesis project *For My People* wins the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award. She is the first black poet to win the award.
- 1943 Walker is accepted into Yaddo, an artists' residency in Saratoga Springs, New York. Langston Hughes, one of her mentors, also attends.
- 1945–46 Catlett receives the Rosenfeld Fellowship and moves to Mexico.
- 1947 Catlett returns to Mexico permanently and becomes a member of the Taller de Gráfica Popular [People's Graphic Workshop].

- 1949 Walker begins working at Jackson College for Negro Teachers (now Jackson State University) in Mississippi, where she remains until she retires in 1979.
- 1959 Catlett becomes professor of sculpture at the UNAM [National Autonomous University in Mexico].
- 1962 Catlett renounces her US citizenship and becomes a Mexican citizen; the US State Department declares her an "undesirable alien".
- 1965 Walker earns her PhD in English from the University of Iowa; her dissertation, which she researched and wrote over the span of thirty years, builds on memories her maternal grandmother, Elvira Ware Dozier, shared with her.
- 1966 Walker publishes her dissertation as her first novel, *Jubilee*.
- 1968 Walker founds the Institute for the Study of History, Life, and Culture of Black People (now the Margaret Walker Center) at Jackson State University.
- 1998 Walker is inducted into the African American Literary Hall of Fame. She dies on November 30 the same year, in Chicago, IL.
- 2002 Catlett regains her US citizenship.
- 2012 Catlett dies on April 2, 2012 in Cuernavaca, Mexico.