Sources/Suggested Reading: Barbie

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**Films:**

*Black Barbie* (2023). Directed by Lagueria Davis. Distributed by Netflix. Documentary film about the struggle to create black dolls and the history of making the Barbie brand more inclusive

“My whole philosophy of Barbie was that through the doll, the little girl could be anything she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman has choices.”

– Ruth Handler

Timeline

1916  Ruth Mosco born in Denver, CO. Marries Elliot Handler in 1938
1945  Handlers found Mattel with partner Harold Matson
1959  Barbara Millicent Roberts doll introduced at New York Toy Fair on March 9
1961  Ken, Barbie’s boyfriend, introduced in response to consumer requests
1968  Christie, one of the first black dolls, debuts as a friend of Barbie
1971  Malibu Barbie introduced
1975  Ruth and Elliot Handler resign from board of directors of Mattel
1980  First black and Hispanic dolls named Barbie debut
1992  Totally Hair Barbie, which will outsell every other Barbie, debuts
2002  Ruth Handler dies, aged 85. Elliot Handler dies 9 years later at the age of 95
2016  Fashionistas line of dolls with four body types (petite, tall, curvy, classic) debuts
2023  The movie *Barbie*, directed by Greta Gerwig, becomes the highest grossing film of 2023