



Harlem Summer

By Walter Dean Myers

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Walter Dean Myers delivers a humorous, action-packed historical novel set during the Harlem Renaissance.

It's 1925 and Mark Purvis is a 16-year-old with a summer to kill. He'd rather jam with his jazz band (they need the practice), but is urged by his parents to get a job. As an assistant at *THE CRISIS*, a magazine for the "new Negro," Mark rubs shoulders with Langston Hughes and Countee Cullen. He's invited to a party at Alfred Knopf's place. He's making money, but not enough, and when piano player Fats Waller entices him and his buddies to make some fast cash, Mark finds himself crossing the gangster Dutch Schultz.

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Harlem Summer By Walter Dean Myers Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6–9—Sixteen-year-old musician Mark Purvis longs to break into the jazz scene of 1925 Harlem, but when he becomes embroiled in a bootlegging scheme with real-life jazzman Fats Waller, he has to find a way to pay off an angry mob boss for losing the liquor. Mark has a job at *The Crisis*, a magazine headed up by W. E. B. DuBois and published by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. As expected, his lovably carefree and occasionally clueless personality gets him into an insurmountable pile of trouble, yet it energizes both the plot and era with a contemporary vitality that today's hip-hop and pop-culture fans will appreciate. In this quickly paced and laugh-out-loud narrative, Myers brings Mark face-to-face with a dazzling host of Harlem Renaissance A-listers, including Marian Anderson, Langston Hughes, and Countee Cullen. Their swift, red-carpetlike entrances and exits ignite the hot New York City summer setting with the electricity of creativity and reform. As the story progresses, Mark's awareness of his surroundings and contributions to the cause grow stronger and stronger, and no doubt that's exactly what Myers hopes his readers will realize for themselves as Mark's story unfolds.—*Hillias J. Martin, New York Public Library*

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From [Booklist](#)

It's the summer of 1925, and it is "hotter than a two-dollar pistol" in Harlem. It's particularly uncomfortable for 16-year-old Mark Purvis when the boat that he has been hired to unload turns out to contain bootleg whiskey. Before you can say *Prohibition*, the booze vanishes, and Mark finds himself in serious trouble with its owner, mobster Dutch Schultz. In the meantime, Mark finds a job working for W. E. B. DuBois' magazine, the *Crisis*. There he meets leading figures of the Harlem Renaissance--writers such as Countee Cullen and Langston Hughes, who, he is told, are exemplars of the "New Negro." Mark doesn't care if he's a New Negro or an old one as long as he can make music like his friend Fats Waller--but the rapidly changing world of the Roaring Twenties keeps getting in his way. Myers has a wonderful time poking affectionately satirical fun at the legends and legendary figures of a revolutionary decade that Zelig-like Mark keeps encountering. Readers will be delighted to accompany the teen on his action-packed adventures. *Michael Cart*

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Review

Praise for *Harlem Summer*

"Peppered with hilarious dialogue and serving up an exuberant meld of fact and fiction, this works equally well as a stellar addition to the Harlem Renaissance curriculum and a just-for-fun read." - *Kirkus Reviews*

"Myers's humorous coming-of-age story reflects the paradoxically playful yet dangerous atmosphere of the 1920s." - *Publishers Weekly*

"Myers has a wonderful time poking affectionately satirical fun at the legends and legendary figures of a revolutionary decade." - *Booklist*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Scott Smith:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their particular spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book titled Harlem Summer? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have some other opinion?

Barbara Norwood:

Reading a book to become new life style in this 12 months; every people loves to learn a book. When you learn a book you can get a wide range of benefit. When you read publications, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information in it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you wish to get information about your examine, you can read education books, but if you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, these kinds of us novel, comics, as well as soon. The Harlem Summer offer you a new experience in reading through a book.

Rose Taylor:

Many people spending their time frame by playing outside with friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to enjoy your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, you think reading a book will surely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It okay you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Smart phone. Like Harlem Summer which is having the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's notice.

Catherine Gober:

That book can make you to feel relax. This book Harlem Summer was colourful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Harlem Summer has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until teenagers. For example Naruto or Private investigator Conan you can read and believe you are the character on there. So , not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it makes you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book for you personally and try to like reading in which.

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