



# Harlem Summer

*By Walter Dean Myers*

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## Harlem Summer By Walter Dean Myers

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:

**Daniel Miller:**

The book Harlem Summer gives you the sense of being enjoy for your spare time. You need to use to make your capable much more increase. Book can to become your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem with the subject. If you can make reading a book Harlem Summer to be your habit, you can get far more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. You may know everything if you like wide open and read a e-book Harlem Summer. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or other individuals. So , how do you think about this reserve?

**Eugene Flowers:**

As people who live in the modest era should be change about what going on or info even knowledge to make them keep up with the era that is certainly always change and advance. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This Harlem Summer is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

**Cami Raley:**

The reason why? Because this Harlem Summer is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap it but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This unique book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking way. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

**Calvin Copher:**

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