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  *Harlem Summer*

*Harlem Summer* is a very good book when it comes to advice giving and lessons to be learned. It lets young people like me know that it’s okay to be different; you don’t have to fit in and to be yourself. Like my main character in *Harlem Summer*, he felt like he couldn’t fit in. He also felt that he had to be involved because he felt that he as not treated like his older brother. He wanted to go off and play music. On the other hand his brother was book smart and got accepted into a college. Mark made a couple of bad decisions during this time period that some teens make today. He was trying to fit in and did something’s he shouldn’t have done. The author Walter Dean Myers was relating to himself in this book. Walter was raised in Harlem by a random man. As he grew up he got interested in music. He wanted to be a saxophonist and go play with the big music groups, just as Mark did in *Harlem Summer*. But after hanging around with the wrong group of people he started doing illegal activity. He started unloading trucks that held illegal liquor and he stayed out all night hustling. Mark ended up in jail by the end of the book. As Walter Dean Myers said, he would go visit in the jails near him and tell the boys what he went through and give advice and let them read his books. He was letting them know being in jail wasn’t the place to be. As Myers stopped hanging with the wrong crowd, he went to the army at the age of 17. Myers served in the army for 3 years until his discharge in 1957. *Harlem Summer* is a great book to read when you need advice on how you can change your life around.