Jesse Burns

Mrs. Dale

English 9

15 May 2013

Harlem Summer

Harlem Summer, by Walter Dean Myers, is an excellent fictional story about a boy named Mark. Who lives in Harlem during the 1920’s and is trying to find something to do with his life. Harlem back then is just as bad as it is now.

Mark Purvis, 16, is not a very wealthy kid but his parents try to go along with it. His parents love their son but not as much as they love his brother. Mark’s plan in life is to become a famous saxophone player in a band with his best friend, Henry, who plays bass. Mark and Henry have been best friends since Henry stood up for him in a school yard bullying act.

Mark’s mother wants him to get a job, so his dad and aunt try to help him get one. As Mark gets a job at *The Crisis*, a magazine publishing building in town. Not only is that the only job he gets. Fats Waller, A pianist known around town, offers Mark a job for five dollars. As they meet up for the job, Mark brings Henry along to help him and Fats with the job. Fats also brings a man named Crab Cakes along too. During the job Mark and Henry find out that there transporting liquor. After the job, Mark finds out he wasn’t doing the job for Fats, he was doing it for none other than the famous mobster in Harlem, Dutch Schultz. Mark also finds out that Crab Cakes drove off with the liquor and that Dutch wants him and Henry found to pay for what Crab Cakes did.

Does Mark get out of the hustle? Does Dutch get Mark and Henry and make them pay for something that they didn’t even know about? You just have to read this outstanding book to find out.

Recites

[www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com)

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