

PART 1 : The Harlem Renaissance

Definition : Throughout the 1920s , Harlem experienced a cultural and intellectual explosion that became known as the Harlem Renaissance.



Doc 1: Culture boom in Harlem. Video Time.

Brainstorming : Describe the photo

- Watch the video and say when and why Harlem became an African-American cultural centre.
- Explain what the Harlem Renaissance was about and make a list of the types of intellectuals, artists and musicians who were key parts of the movement.
- Find out what the Harlem Renaissance artists fought against and talk about this evolution.

Doc 2: Nightlife, Archibald Motley, Jr., 1943

- Look at the document and identify where the scene takes place.
- Describe movements and colors and comment on the atmosphere.
- Explain how the painting *Nightlife* represents the Harlem Renaissance.
- What was the artist's aim ?



Doc 3: I, Too, Langston Hughes, 1926

- Read the poem. Identify the speaker and the main theme.
- Observe the tense of the verbs from l.1 to l.7. When is this tense used ?
- Identify who « they » refers to (l.3) and explain the relationship between « I » and « they ». How does this relation evolve in the poem ?
- Comment on the last verse.
- Listen to the poem on the blog and practise reciting it, paying attention to rhythm and intonation.



Langston Hughes,
working as a waiter.

I, Too

Langston Hughes - 1902-1967

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow,
I'll be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed—

I, too, am America.