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STUDENT HANDOUT

GREEN LEVEL
MORE SUPPORT

Reading the Renaissance

Grades 5–8 • ELA

ADMIT ONE

NAME

DATE

CLASS

The Harlem Renaissance (c. 1920–1935) was an extraordinary flowering of Black music, literature, and art in Harlem, New York. It grew from the Great Migration — when over one million Black Americans moved north to escape Jim Crow laws and find better lives. The artists, musicians, and writers who gathered in Harlem changed American culture forever.

ACTIVITY 1 • LITERARY TERMS WARM-UP

01

Tools of the Writer

Match each literary term to its definition:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| ☐ Imagery | • | • A — words that imitate sounds (buzz, crash, whisper) |
| ☐ Metaphor | • | • B — language that appeals to the senses (sight, sound, touch) |
| ☐ Onomatopoeia | • | • C — saying one thing IS another (life is a jazz song) |
| ☐ Repetition | • | • D — repeating words or phrases for emphasis or rhythm |

ACTIVITY 2 • HARLEM IN WORDS WORKSHOP

02

Write Your Own Poem

Using the **Harlem in Words** word bank (in the exhibition), choose **6–8 words** from at least 3 different categories and arrange them into a short poem. Your poem does not need to rhyme. Focus on image and feeling.

DREAMS

NATURE

MUSIC

EMOTION

ACTION

HARLEM

Categories I used: _____

MY POEM

Write your poem here — each line on a new line

One literary technique I used: _____

The feeling I wanted to create: _____

MINI MUSEUM CONNECTION

Option 1 — Visit the exhibition: If the Harlem Renaissance exhibition is available at your school, visit the Mini Museum to experience the phonograph, Jazz Lab, Great Migration Map, and more. Ask your librarian to arrange a class visit.

Option 2 – Virtual visit: Explore the full exhibition at minimuseumproject.org/exhibitions/harlem-renaissance

SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY

Read your poem aloud to someone at home. Ask them: *“What feeling did you get from it? What image stayed with you?”*