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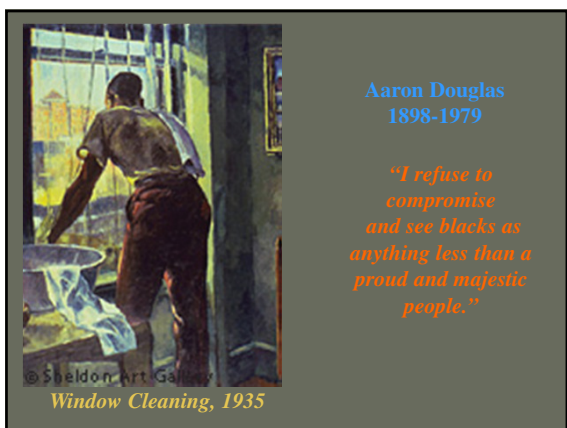
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I. What was the Harlem Renaissance?  
A. In the early 1920s, African American artists, writers, musicians, and performers were part of a great cultural movement known as the Harlem Renaissance.  
B. Doctors, singers, students, musicians, shopkeepers, painters, and writers, congregated, forming a vibrant center of cultural pride and inspiration.

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II. What led up to the Harlem Renaissance?  
A. Great Migration: the huge migration to the North after World War I brought African Americans of all ages and walks of life to the thriving New York City neighborhood called Harlem.



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- B. Response to the “culture clash” of black migrants:
  - 1. The notion of "twoness," a divided awareness of one's identity, was introduced by W.E.B. DuBois, one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and the author of the influential book *The Souls of Black Folks* (1903); "One ever feels his two-ness - an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled stirrings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder."

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- C. “Back to Africa” movement led by Marcus Garvey: revival of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century movement to return to the homeland of Africa, or to re-connect with African roots
- D. Racial integration: post-Civil War laws that integrated the North
- E. Increasing popularity of music in the North, particularly jazz, spirituals and blues.
- F. Increasing wealth in the 1920s

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### III. Themes and characteristics

A. Common themes:

1. alienation
2. marginality
3. Racism and violence
4. Loss of identity/culture
5. the problems of writing for an elite audience

B. Characteristics:

1. celebration of culture, roots, race, strong leaders
2. distinct vernacular (way of speaking, writing, etc.)
3. social commentary on racism and social injustice
4. Africa as source of inspiration
5. African-American history

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### Art from the Harlem Renaissance



Street Life, Harlem, by William H. Johnson

Jeunesse by Palmer Hayden



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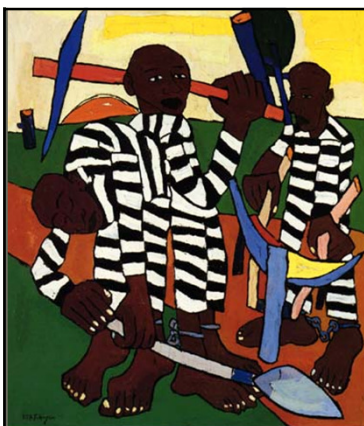
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William H. Johnson  
1901-1970  
Chain Gang, 1939

Johnson arrived in Harlem when the Renaissance was in the making. While there he created several paintings that dealt with political and social Harlem. *Chain Gang* is one example.

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#### Literature:

**Zora Neale Hurston** was remarkable in that she was the most widely published black woman of her day. She authored more than fifty articles and short stories as well as four novels, two books on folklore, an autobiography, and some plays. At the height of her success she was known as the "Queen of the Harlem Renaissance."



Zora Neale Hurston  
1891-1960  
American writer

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**Music**

In 1925, at the height of the jazz era in Paris, the sensational cast of musicians and dancers from Harlem, assembled as La Revue Negre, exploded on the stage of the Theatre des Champs Elysees. Its talented young star, **Josephine Baker (1906-1975)**, captivated audiences with a wild new dance called the Charleston.



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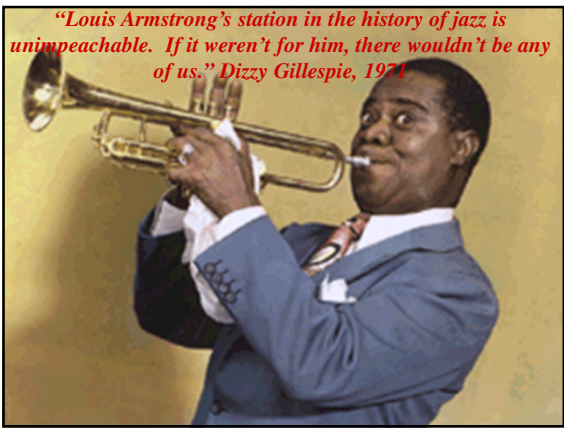
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