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Harlem Summer a book that will keep you locked in and wanting to read more. Walter Dean Myers is connecting this book with real life problems that happened in Harlem, even though this book is fictional, Walter still uses real people and places to make the book more realistic. Mark, a young teen searching for a job to help his family while trying to start a career by playing on the saxophone. What Mark doesn’t know is that this job could cost him his life.

As mark walked into the apartment he overheard his parents talking “Benny this is terrible.” His mother said “what are we going to do?” The family had just been informed that they had lost the land they owned in Currie due to back taxes. Mark knew that he had to step up and help his family because his older brother, Matt, was the big deal of the family and never did anything. Marks mother told him to go to the corner store and call Uncle Cephus. He owned House of Palms Funeral Home; he believed that losing the land was Gods way of telling Matt to do something else with his life. Mark had other plans than working at the funeral home. He started working at The Crisis going through the advertising and compares it to the invoices from the previous month. Edie, marks friend, mentioned that her brother was looking for two guys to help him load trucks in New Jersey. Mark and his friend Henry Brown would bring a load of cologne from Union City, New Jersey, over to Harlem, but what Mark and Henry don’t know is that they are actually bootlegging liquor, but things are just now starting to go bad when crab cakes steals Dutch Schultz truck that had the liquor in it now Dutch is out to kill whoever was involved in it.