The Harlem Renaissance

* The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural movement that spanned the 1920s and 1930s.
* The Harlem Renaissance opened up the world of art and literature to black Americans.
* The word renaissance means rebirth.
* This renaissance forced people of many cultures to look at prejudice and racial bias. While this movement may not have made improvements in the day to day life of many black people, the long lasting effects are still found in the music, art and literature of our times.
* Many writers found fame during the Harlem Renaissance including Langston Hughes. Langston Hughes authored plays, essays, children’s books and poetry and through all of these works promoted equality and denounced prejudice. His works continue to influence literature in America today.
* Many of those who participated in the Harlem Renaissance were considered radicals. W.E.B. DuBois was a well-known scholar and author by the beginning of the renaissance.
* Many of the issues that African Americans dealt with in their lives were brought to the forefront by the use of literature, music, art and drama.
* It was a time when African Americans were able to showcase their many talents while differentiating themselves from their white counterparts. There was pride in being black and that pride was apparent in the cultural flavor of what was produced during this era.
* A new way of playing the piano called the Harlem Stride Style was created during the Harlem Renaissance, and helped highlight the lines between the poor Negros and socially elite Negros. The traditional jazz band was composed primarily of brass instruments and was considered a symbol of the south.

Langston Hughes

* Langston Hughes is the most popular figure from the Harlem Renaissance Era. He was a well Known Author and poet.
* He wrote popular poem collections including :

The Weary Blues (1926)

The Negro Mother

Dramatic Recitations (1931)

The Dream Keeper

Shakespeare In Harlem (1942)