



Suggested Activities

For Middle and High School students

This document can be used along with the Raisin' Cane educational booklet to deepen the connection to the performance. Teachers are encouraged to make copies of the educational booklet and distribute to students in preparation for the performance. Below are suggested activities in three areas of artistic expression during the Harlem Renaissance. These can be used in advance or as a follow up to the performance.

1. Poetry/Literature

- a. Compose a biographical essay on a writer from the Harlem Renaissance and explain why you were inspired to choose this person.
- b. Write an essay or poem about a specific event from the Harlem Renaissance.
- c. Write, or perform, an imaginary conversation between two Harlem Renaissance writers, making sure to capture each writer's specific voice.

2. Visual Arts

- a. Paint, draw or sculpt something reminiscent of the Harlem Renaissance.
- b. Design and/or draw what men and women wore, for work and for leisure, during the Harlem Renaissance.
- c. Research and draw a map of Harlem during the period of the Harlem Renaissance. Include the theaters and music halls, and other important historical landmarks from the period.

3. Music

- a. Write a brief paper describing the style of music during the Harlem Renaissance and how it differs from today's music. Explain how is it similar?
- b. Create a short song which you think might have been composed by a musician from the Harlem Renaissance. You can create melody and/or lyrics.
- c. Write, or perform, an imaginary conversation between Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong during the Harlem Renaissance.

