

The Great Migration and Contributions of African Americans

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By: Alayna Brito



The Harlem Renaissance was the development of the Harlem neighborhood in New York City as a Black cultural mecca in the early 20th Century and the subsequent social and artistic explosion that resulted. Lasting roughly from the 1910s through the mid-1930s, the period is considered a golden age in African American culture, manifesting in literature, music, stage performance and art.



Moving away from the slave narrative tradition, authors began to explore issues that had evolved out of the social consequences of slavery. Authors addressed the topics of racism, poverty, lack of identity and family structure through prose that evoked realism and immediacy. Langston Hughes's *Simple* stories addressed poverty. Zora Neale Hurston celebrated African American heritage and culture. Dorothy West wrote about social and financial security. Richard Wright wrote powerfully about anger, frustration and violence.



Langston Hughes

James Langston Hughes was an American Poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist . Most people don't know that Hughes was considered to be a leader of the Harlem Renaissance.

His poetry and fiction portrayed the lives of the working-class Blacks in America. He also portrayed lives as full of struggle, joy, laughter and of course filled with music.

Hughes confronted racial stereotypes, protested social conditions, and expanded African Americans image. In doing this, he sought to educate the audience on Blackness. In today's culture we often hear quotes like "Black is beautiful", I think this would make Hughes proud.



Alice Ball

Alice Augusta Ball was an American chemist who developed the “Ball Method”. The “Ball Method” was the most effective treatment for leprosy during the early 20th century by using Chaulmoogra oil. Ball was the first African American and Woman to receive a master’s degree from the university of Hawaii.

These two different individuals are a representation of Excellence and Black Excellence. These are the foundations that were set before us today. This movement after the great migration speaks of strength, intellect, and power.

All the while, I can't help but to think of how far and advanced Black Americans could've been if it weren't for the constant suppression and oppression they had to face?