

N.Y.C. IS VERY EXCITING. TODAY WE WILL VISIT THE HARLEM NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WAS THE CENTER OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL MOVEMENT OF THE EARLY 1900s KNOWN AS **THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE**.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE IN NEW YORK CITY. LOOK - THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!

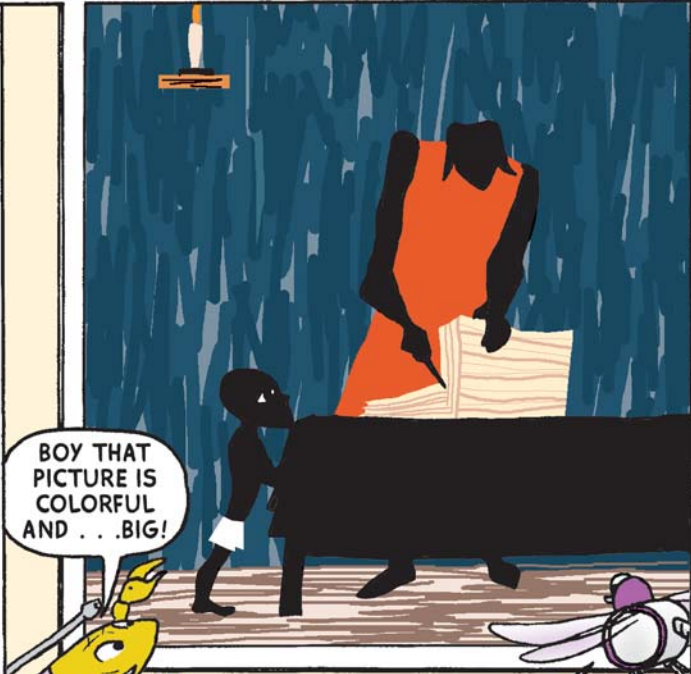
THIS MOVEMENT CELEBRATED THE UNIQUE CULTURE OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN LITERATURE, ART, MUSIC, AND DANCE.

COOL! LET'S CHECK IT OUT!



WHO IS THIS?

JACOB LAWRENCE WAS A FAMOUS HARLEM RENAISSANCE PAINTER. HE STUDIED AT THE HARLEM ART WORKSHOP AND PAINTED WITH SIMPLE AND BRILLIANT GRAPHICS. MANY OF HIS PAINTINGS SHOW THE MIGRATION OF THOUSANDS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS FROM THE SOUTH TO THE NORTH, SUCH AS THIS ONE FROM HIS HARRIET TUBMAN SERIES.



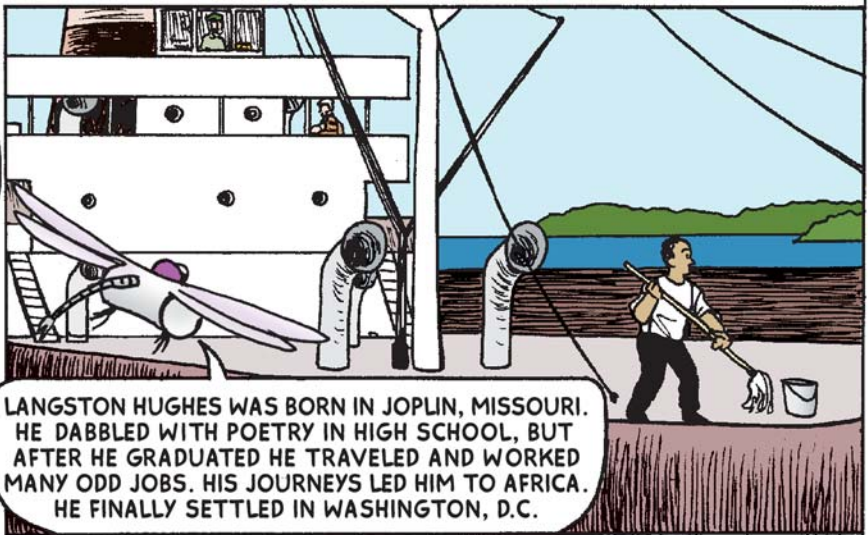
BOY THAT PICTURE IS COLORFUL AND . . . BIG!

JACOB LAWRENCE DIED IN 2000, BUT HE LEFT A LEGACY OF GREAT ART THAT GAVE THE WORLD A GLIMPSE INTO THE LIVES OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AT A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE FOR THEM.

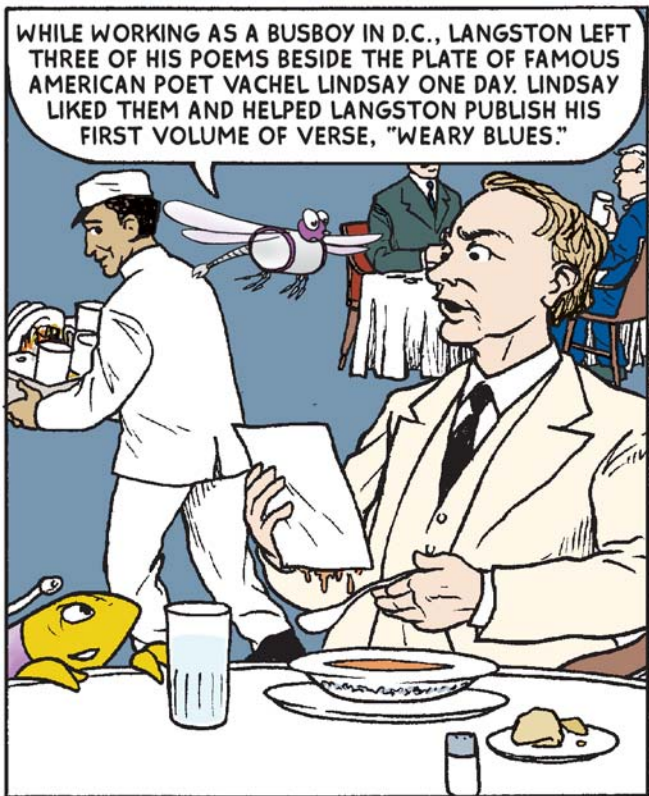


TODAY WE ARE GOING TO VISIT AFRICAN-AMERICAN WRITER LANGSTON HUGHES, WHO WAS A PART OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE.

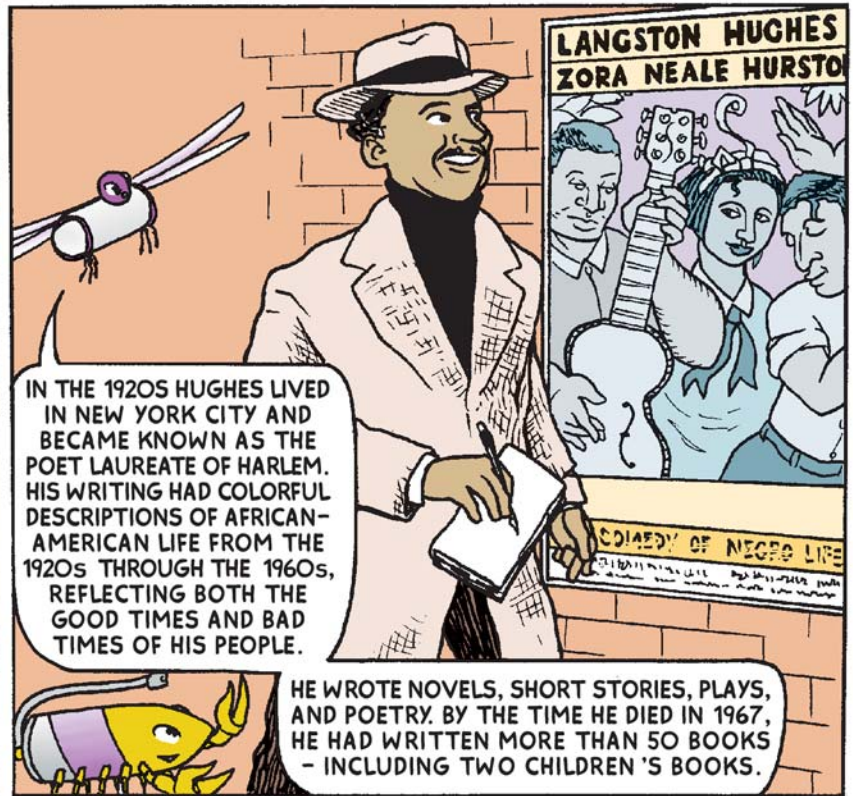
ALRIGHT - BACK TO THE LIBRARY! I LOVE THIS PLACE!



LANGSTON HUGHES WAS BORN IN JOPLIN, MISSOURI. HE DABBLED WITH POETRY IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT AFTER HE GRADUATED HE TRAVELED AND WORKED MANY ODD JOBS. HIS JOURNEYS LED HIM TO AFRICA. HE FINALLY SETTLED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



WHILE WORKING AS A BUSBOY IN D.C., LANGSTON LEFT THREE OF HIS POEMS BESIDE THE PLATE OF FAMOUS AMERICAN POET VACHEL LINDSAY ONE DAY. LINDSAY LIKED THEM AND HELPED LANGSTON PUBLISH HIS FIRST VOLUME OF VERSE, "WEARY BLUES."



IN THE 1920S HUGHES LIVED IN NEW YORK CITY AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE POET LAUREATE OF HARLEM. HIS WRITING HAD COLORFUL DESCRIPTIONS OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN LIFE FROM THE 1920S THROUGH THE 1960S, REFLECTING BOTH THE GOOD TIMES AND BAD TIMES OF HIS PEOPLE.

HE WROTE NOVELS, SHORT STORIES, PLAYS, AND POETRY. BY THE TIME HE DIED IN 1967, HE HAD WRITTEN MORE THAN 50 BOOKS - INCLUDING TWO CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

WOW - I CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE IT TO CARNEGIE HALL!

HERE WE WILL LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER GREAT AFRICAN-AMERICAN THAT WAS PART OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE: **DUKE ELLINGTON!**

HE WAS BORN EDWARD KENNEDY ELLINGTON IN WASHINGTON, D.C., IN 1899. HE GOT THE NICKNAME "DUKE" BECAUSE HE HAD SUCH GOOD MANNERS AND ALWAYS DRESSED SO WELL. BY THE TIME HE WAS A TEENAGER HE WAS PLAYING RAGTIME PIANO MUSIC.

I LOVE A GOOD PIANO RAG!




IN 1923 HE MOVED TO NEW YORK CITY AND BEGAN TO PERFORM AT THE COTTON CLUB, THE MOST FAMOUS NIGHTCLUB IN HARLEM. HIS MUSIC HERE WAS PLAYED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY!

IN 1931 ELLINGTON TOOK HIS BAND ON ITS FIRST TOUR OF THE UNITED STATES. DURING HIS CAREER DUKE AND HIS BAND LOGGED MORE THAN 10 MILLION MILES OF TRAVEL AND PERFORMED MORE THAN 20,000 CONCERTS IN THE U.S. AND 65 OTHER NATIONS!

DUKE ELLINGTON DIED IN 1974 BUT IS STILL CONSIDERED ONE OF AMERICA'S GREATEST MUSIC COMPOSERS.



A cartoon illustration of a street scene in New Orleans. Louis Armstrong, wearing a white shirt and suspenders, is talking to a man in a green vest. In the background, there are buildings with balconies, a streetcar, and people. Musical notes are floating in the air.

HEY, WHY ARE WE BACK IN NEW ORLEANS INSTEAD OF HARLEM?

THIS IS WHERE FAMOUS MUSICIAN **LOUIS ARMSTRONG** WAS BORN IN 1901. HE GREW UP VERY POOR AND DID NOT ATTEND SCHOOL PAST FIFTH GRADE. AS A BOY, LOUIS JOINED A VOCAL QUARTET AND LEARNED ABOUT HARMONY AND HOW TO BLEND SEVERAL VOICES TO MAKE ONE FULL SOUND.

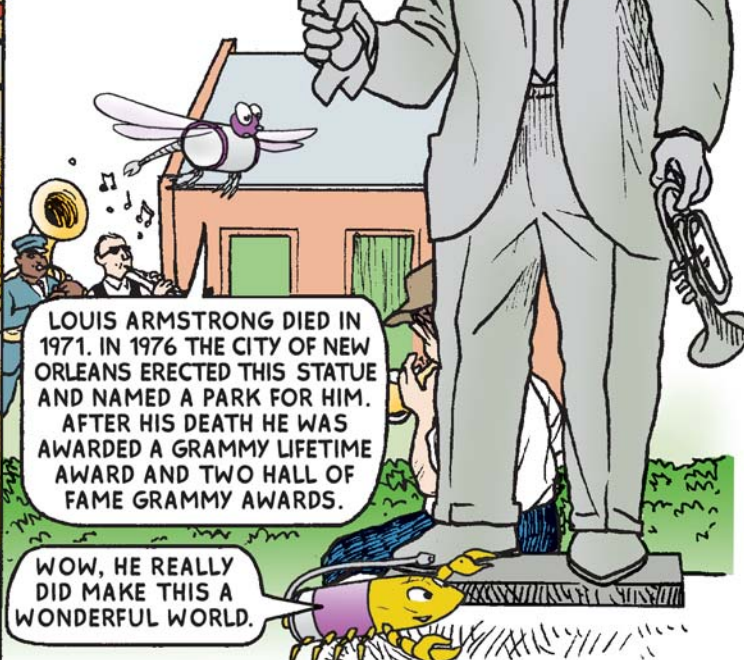


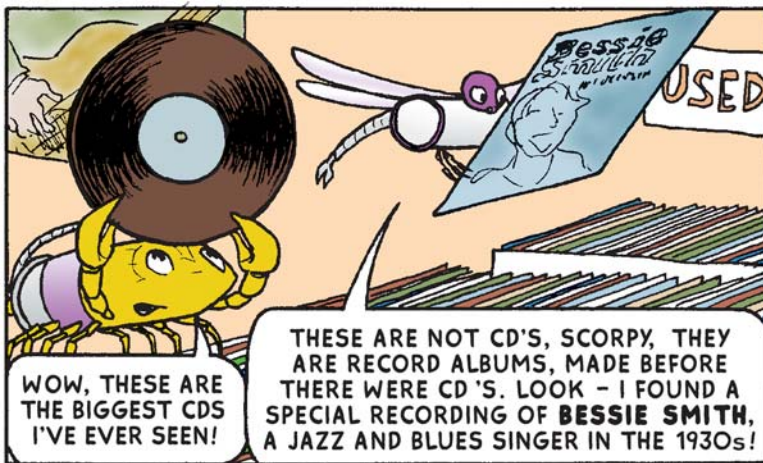
WHILE IN REFORM SCHOOL AS A TEEN, ARMSTRONG LEARNED TO PLAY THE CORNET. HE DECIDED TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL JAZZ MUSICIAN. KING OLIVER, A FAMOUS CORNET PLAYER, DISCOVERED LOUIS AND TOOK HIM TO CHICAGO TO MAKE HIS FIRST RECORDINGS.

A close-up cartoon illustration of Louis Armstrong playing a trumpet. He is wearing a white shirt and has a ring on his finger. A yellow and purple insect is flying near him. Musical notes are floating in the background.

HEY - DID ARMSTRONG SWITCH INSTRUMENTS?

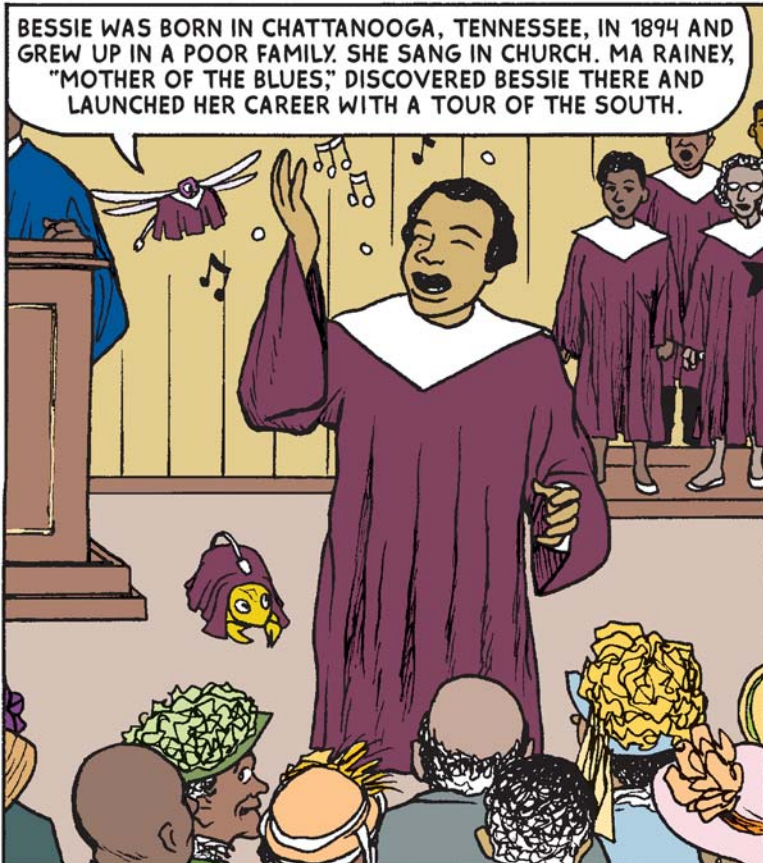
IN NEW YORK HE SWITCHED TO TRUMPET AND BECAME FAMOUS FOR WRITING AND PERFORMING MANY SONGS WE STILL HEAR TODAY, SUCH AS "HELLO, DOLLY," "MACK THE KNIFE," AND "WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD."





THESE ARE NOT CD'S, SCORPY, THEY ARE RECORD ALBUMS, MADE BEFORE THERE WERE CD'S. LOOK - I FOUND A SPECIAL RECORDING OF **BESSIE SMITH**, A JAZZ AND BLUES SINGER IN THE 1930s!

WOW, THESE ARE THE BIGGEST CDS I'VE EVER SEEN!



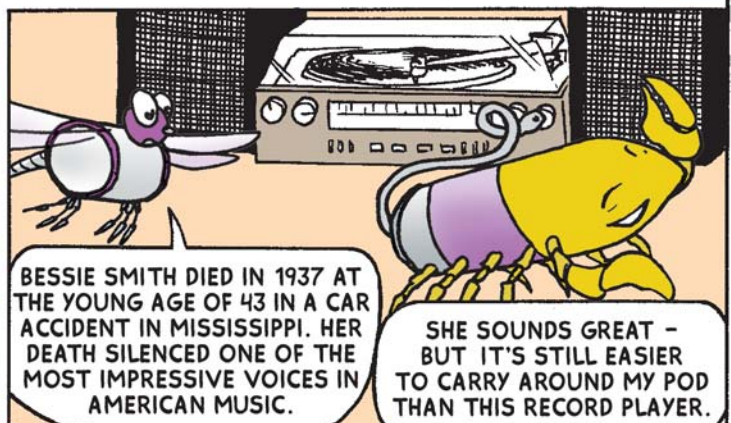
BESSIE WAS BORN IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE, IN 1894 AND GREW UP IN A POOR FAMILY. SHE SANG IN CHURCH. MA RAINEY, "MOTHER OF THE BLUES," DISCOVERED BESSIE THERE AND LAUNCHED HER CAREER WITH A TOUR OF THE SOUTH.



I lived a life
But nothing I've gained
Each day I'm full of
Sorrow and pain
No one seems enough
for poor me...



IN NEW YORK CITY, BESSIE MADE RECORDINGS WITH MUSICIANS SUCH AS LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND BENNY GOODMAN. HER DEEP, EXPRESSIVE VOICE WAS UNIQUE. SHE WAS KNOWN AS "THE EMPRESS OF THE BLUES."



BESSIE SMITH DIED IN 1937 AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 43 IN A CAR ACCIDENT IN MISSISSIPPI. HER DEATH SILENCED ONE OF THE MOST IMPRESSIVE VOICES IN AMERICAN MUSIC.

SHE SOUNDS GREAT - BUT IT'S STILL EASIER TO CARRY AROUND MY POD THAN THIS RECORD PLAYER.