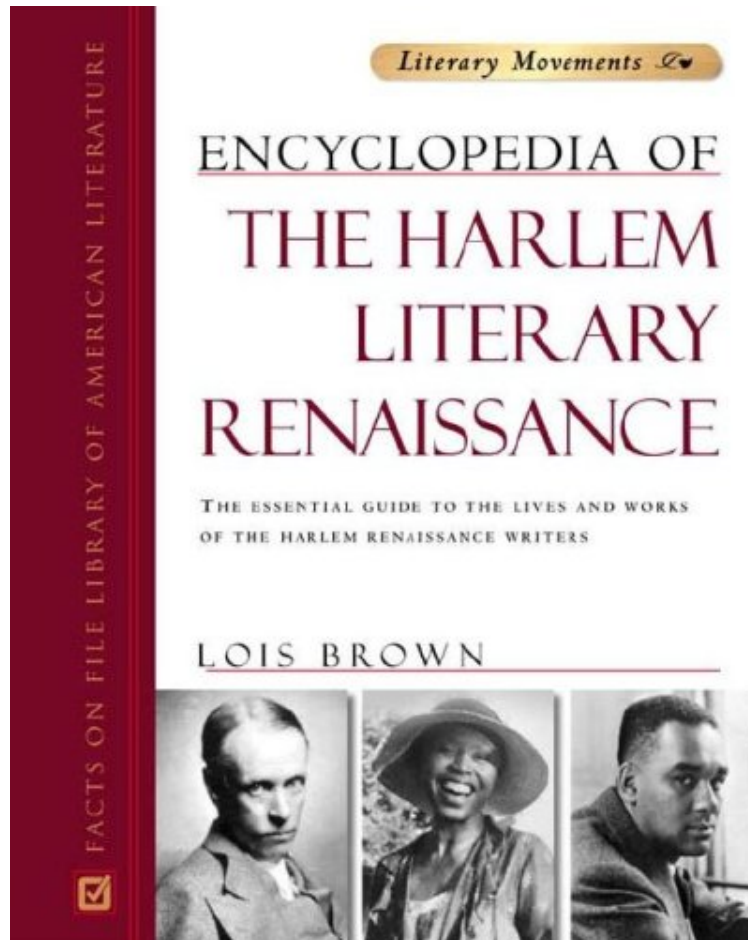


(Download) Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance: The Essential Guide to the Lives and Works of the Harlem Renaissance Writers (Literary Movements)

Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance: The Essential Guide to the Lives and Works of the Harlem Renaissance Writers (Literary Movements)

Assistant Professor of English Lois Brown
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the arts in a vivid spurt of creative growth, and charting the literary movement's works and major players is *Encyclopedia Of The Harlem Literary Renaissance: The Essential Guide To The Lives And Works Of The Harlem Renaissance Writers*. Over six hundred A-Z entries detail the history of the movement and explain how the writer and their works helped influence and change the face of American literary achievement. From historical studies to literary criticism, primary source materials and quotes throughout make the *Encyclopedia Of The Harlem Literary Renaissance* an important mainstay for either high school or college-level literary holdings.

A broad artistic movement of the 1920s and early '30s, the Harlem Renaissance was one of the most productive eras in American literary history. Concentrating on the literary side of the movement - the writers, works, periodicals, editors, publishers, critics, and related topics - *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance* provides authoritative coverage and unique insight into the literature of the Harlem Renaissance. More than 1,000 concise, A-to-Z entries detail the historical relevance of the subject and explain how the writer, work, or idea helped fundamentally reshape American literature. The author draws on historical studies, biographies, literary criticism, and primary materials, including letters and diaries of such Harlem Renaissance figures as Langston Hughes, Jean Toomer, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Zora Neale Hurston.

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More than 600 essays on novelists, poets, playwrights, journalists, publishers, individual works, newspapers, and other publications are included. The volume also has entries for guilds and awards and prizes, as well as venues for literary activity such as the Neighborhood Playhouse and Lincoln Theatre. Writers include well-known figures such as Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes, Countee Cullen, and Claude McKay. Scholars such as Alain Locke and Jessie Redmon Fauset warrant longer entries, along with the critic Arnaud Wendell Bontemps and journalist Dorothy West. Each biographical entry is peppered with cross-references, making it easy to find facets of the writer's life and work discussed elsewhere in the book. Most notably, well-known novels, plays, and poems have their own entries in which the works are analyzed in terms of characters, theme, and critical acclaim. An entry on Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, for example, offers a well-written and thorough examination of the novel. Readers can also view a map of Manhattan, where landmarks such as the Cotton Club and Apollo Theater are labeled; captioned black-and-white photos are used sparingly. This well-documented work includes entry and volume bibliographies as well as a selected bibliography of works by leading figures. A one-volume gem.
Vicki Reutter, Cazenovia High School, NY
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From Booklist
Encyclopedia of the Harlem Literary Renaissance is the latest publication in the *Facts on File Literary Movements* set. (The other four volumes cover gothic literature, science fiction writers, pulp fiction writers, and the Chicago Literary Renaissance). Author Brown is an associate professor of English with a specialty in African American Studies. Her introduction explains the phenomenon of the Harlem Renaissance and describes recent advances in scholarship, including greater access to primary writings and "Harlem Renaissance-related feminist recovery." The volume has more than 800 alphabetically arranged entries, most including a short bibliography of further reading. The entries do not cover writers and their works exclusively. Many of the most interesting entries are for educational institutions, such as Fisk University in Nashville, and African American newspapers and magazines, such as *The Crisis*, 0 edited by W. E. B. DuBois. Brown also includes places (Chicago, Cotton Club, Greenwich Village); organizations and institutions (African Black Brotherhood, New York Public Library, Young Men's Christian Association); events (First World War, Great Depression, Scottsboro trial); and various other topics related to the movement (Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.; Julius Rosenwald Fellowship; Howard University Players). Length ranges from a sentence or two to five for major figures such as DuBois and Jessie Redmon Fauset. The volume is well researched, drawing on letters, diaries, and collected works as well as secondary sources, such as biographies and literary criticism. Following the introduction is a map of Harlem with places of interest noted and numbered. Other features include a selected bibliography of works by leading Harlem Renaissance figures, a chronology, and a bibliography of secondary sources. Although there is overlap with other sources, such as *Encyclopedia of the Harlem Renaissance*, published by Facts On File in 2003, this is a worthwhile purchase for public, high-school, and undergraduate collections. Lisa Johnston
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About the Author
Lois Brown is associate professor of English and director of the Weissman Center for Leadership and the Liberal Arts at Mount Holyoke College. She is editor of "Memoir of James Jackson, The Obedient Scholar Who Died in Boston, October 31, 1833, Aged Six Years and Eleven Months by His Teacher, Miss Susan Paul".