

Potential Questions for Harlem Renaissance Socratic Seminar

- For each poem: How does the poet use figurative language? What is the tone? What is the theme? How does this poem demonstrate characteristics of Modernism in general and the Harlem Renaissance in particular?
- For each poet: How did the poet's life affect his work? How does the poet see American society and the place of African Americans in that society?
- How do the arts communicate historical data and perspective?
- What historical, social, and cultural forces shaped the Harlem Renaissance?
- Why was Harlem the center of the renaissance of African American arts in the 1920s and 1930s?
- What similarities and differences of theme, imagery, tone, and style are demonstrated in the works of these authors?
- How do these literary works reflect the music of the era?
- How did the creative expression of African Americans in the 1920s and 1930s lead to a new black cultural identity?
- How did the Harlem Renaissance help Americans to understand the history and culture of African Americans?
- How did the Harlem Renaissance impact American society during the 1920s and beyond?