



WALTER DEAN MYERS & CHRISTOPHER MYERS

Born in Martinsburg, West Virginia in 1937, Walter Dean Myers is one of the premier authors of books for children. Christopher Myers, his son, was born in New York City in 1974, and is an accomplished children's book author and illustrator.

Walter Dean Myers grew up in Harlem, New York, which would become the setting for many of his books—including *Harlem*, his first collaboration with Christopher. For *Harlem*, they won a Caldecott Honor Award, a Coretta Scott King Honor Award, and a *Boston Globe-Horn Book* Honor Award, to name a few.

Walter and Christopher Myers have come together once again to create **JAZZ**, a vibrant look at the diversity and distinctive styles of jazz music through poetry and paintings. The jazz-inspired poetry captures the soulfulness of the music whether in defining its origins or in reveling in its infectious toe-beating effect. And like an accompanist in a musical duet, Christopher Myers's fluid black-ink-and-acrylic paintings complement his father's glowing lyrics, at various times harmonizing with the text and at others quietly diverging.

Both author and artist combine their talents to create something special in **JAZZ**, as they did in their previous collaboration, *blues journey*. A celebration of the African experience in America, *blues journey* details the long voyage from the Middle Passage to

life today. Christopher's bold and powerful paintings are the perfect complement to Walter's soulful, affecting blues poem. This is a story very close to their hearts—a true labor of love.

In addition to the awards they won together for *Harlem*, Christopher Myers has received a Coretta Scott King Honor Award for *Black Cat*. Christopher is also a fine artist, and his artwork has appeared in a number of shows, including the famed P.S. 1 Contemporary Arts Center, an affiliate of the Museum of Modern Art, in New York City. He took part in the highly selective Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Studio program and is also a clothing designer. Christopher is a graduate of Brown University.

Walter Dean Myers has won two Newbery Honor Awards and five Coretta Scott King Awards. His book *Monster* was the first winner of the Michael L. Printz Award for excellence in literature for young adults. Walter Dean Myers has also received the Margaret A. Edwards Award, given by the American Library Association for his outstanding contribution to the field of young adult literature.

Walter Dean Myers has three grown children and lives with his wife, Constance, in Jersey City, New Jersey—Christopher Myers, the youngest of the three, lives in Brooklyn.

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BLUES JOURNEY

Walter Dean Myers
illustrated by Christopher Myers
ISBN HC: 0-8234-1613-5
PB: 978-0-8234-2079-7

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illustrated by Nina Laden
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Walter Dean Myers
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Walter Dean Myers
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