

# Harlem Renaissance Digital Escape Room

## Teacher Instructions

Thank you for your purchase! Your students are going to love deciphering and solving puzzles in this educational, 360° digital escape room. This activity is designed to work for a laptop, tablet, or smart phone. Students will solve a series of clues based on several pieces of literature from the Harlem Renaissance era as well as some brief background information. They do not need any prior knowledge about the Harlem Renaissance to complete this activity. Please do not share this link with other educators as it is my copyrighted work and against my terms of licensing. You can purchase additional licenses in my [TpT store](#).

Have your students work independently or in teams, it's up to you! Included in this download are teacher instructions, student instructions, the master lock graphic organizer, answer keys, and a reflection sheet. Additionally, a printable copy for clue #2 (which students might find easier to complete on paper) is available if you wish to print paper copies. While using this resource, you must have a wi-fi connection and the ability to access the following sites: kuula.co, Google Forms, youtube.com, and JigsawPlanet.com

## Harlem Renaissance Escape Room

1. Share directions with your students digitally (it includes the link to the escape room) and pass out the Master Lock graphic organizer.
2. Verbally review the rules with your students.
3. Set a timer for 45 minutes using a classroom timer or use an online [free countdown timer](#); make sure students are aware that they are being timed. Timing students is completely optional! You can certainly extend the time beyond 45 minutes as well.
4. Upon entering the room, have your students start by clicking the 1 button. The clues are labeled by numbers. For every clue students figure out, they must record their answers on their master lock graphic organizer. The "Master Lock" (a google form) requires six correct answers from all six clues and is mandatory for students to "escape." They can find the Master Lock located on the door when they are ready to escape.
5. Once the time is up, you can have students fill out a reflection sheet (optional).





# The Master Lock



Clue Number	Answers
Clue #1	
Clue #2	
Clue #3	
Clue #4	
Clue #5	
Clue #6	

## Answer Guide Clue #1

Students will first read a paragraph on the introduction to the Harlem Renaissance. Then, they should answer the following four questions (in the Google Form) that are listed below. The combination of letter answers in order is their clue #1 answer.

**ANSWERS =** [REDACTED]

1. What was the great migration?

[REDACTED]

2. What decade did the Harlem Renaissance bloom?

[REDACTED]

3. The Harlem Renaissance represents the period of time where African Americans had the opportunity to... ?

[REDACTED]

4. Authors like James Weldon Johnson and Langston Hughes, brought specifically black cultural creations into their work, infusing their poems with the rhythms of what?

[REDACTED]

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A	1
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	
I	
J	
K	
L	
M	
N	24
O	5
P	
Q	
R	
S	22
T	
U	
V	
W	16
X	
Y	21
Z	

Clue #2

PREVIEW

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W                      A

\_\_\_\_\_  
16       3       1       15

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

W                      O

\_\_\_\_\_  
15       16       5

W                      O                      S

\_\_\_\_\_  
16       5       19       2       22

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

S                      A

\_\_\_\_\_  
22       15       1       19       15

E                      E                      Y

\_\_\_\_\_  
12       8       12       19       21

PREVIEW

NOT FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

S                      A                      N                      A                      ?

\_\_\_\_\_  
22       15       1       24       9       1



### Answer Guide Clue #3

Students will watch the YouTube Video that narrates the poem "If We Must Die" by Claude McKay. Then students will answer the question prompted at the end of the video.

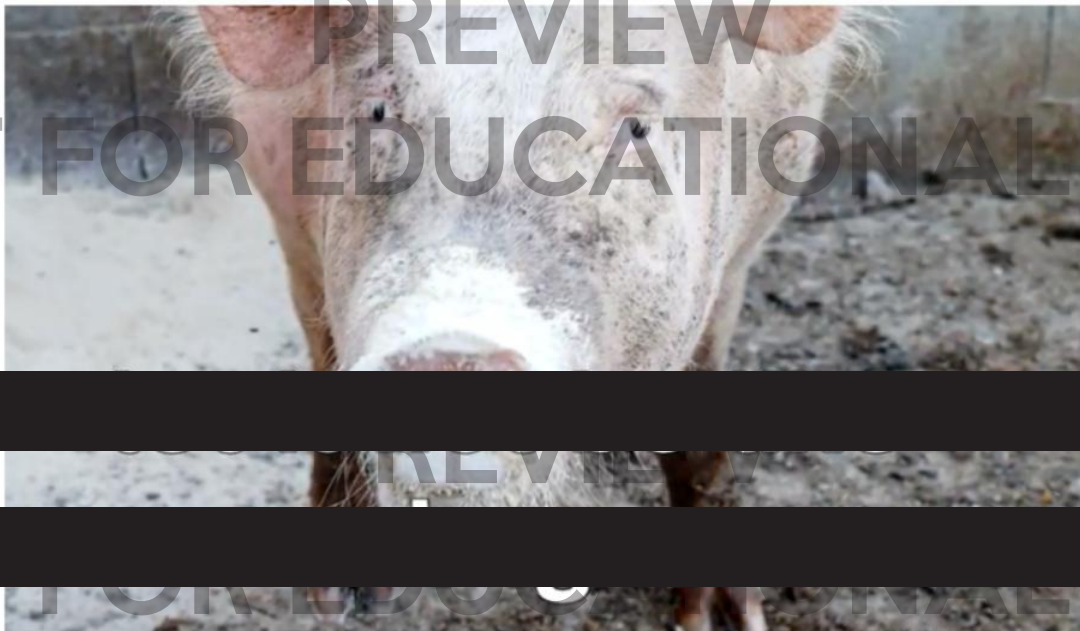
QUESTION: The simile at the start of this poem states... if we must die, let it not be like what?

ANSWER: [REDACTED]

#### Clue #3

The simile at the start of this poem states...

If we must die, let it not be like what?

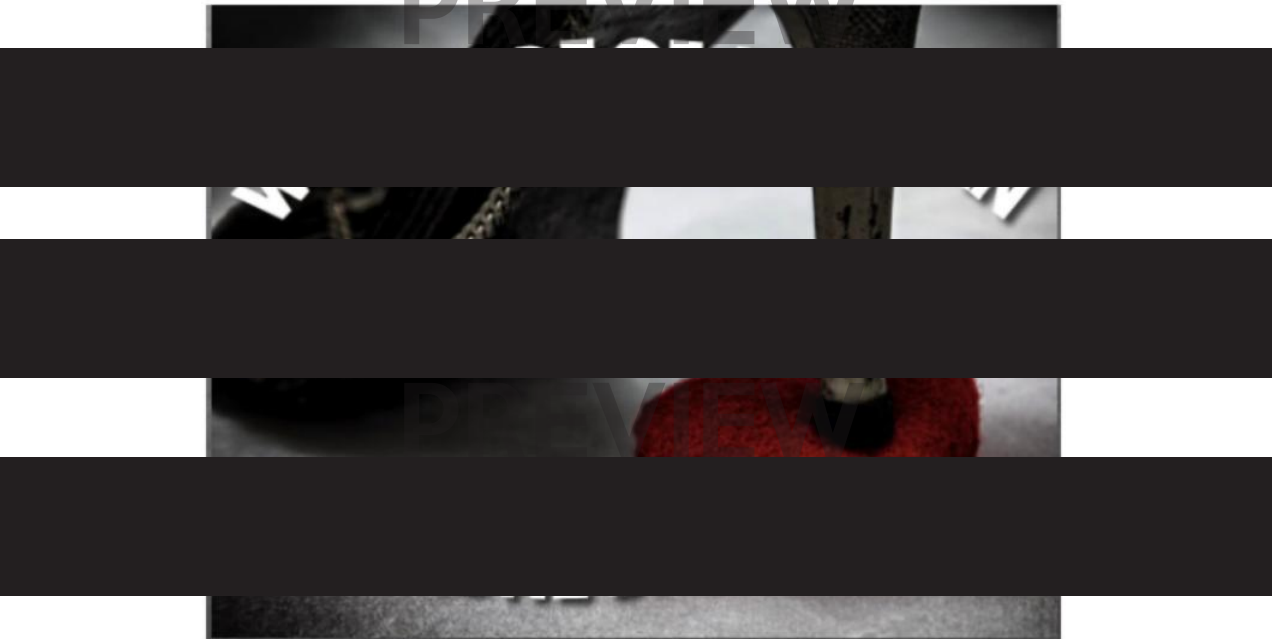


## Answer Guide Clue #4

Students will read the poem "The Heart of a Woman" by Georgia Douglas Johnson. The poem is provided for students, but if you wish to print it, you can find the poem using the following link:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/52494/the-heart-of-a-woman>

Then they will solve the jigsaw puzzle and the puzzle will reveal the question below:



QUESTION:

ANSWER:

## Answer Key Clue #5

Students will read the following excerpt from "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man" by James Weldon Johnson. They will write down every capitalized letter to figure out their clue. The letters spell out a question.

just **W**hen i was beginning to look upon jacksonville as my permanent **H**ome **A**nd was beginning **T**o plan about marrying the young school teacher, raising a family, and **w**orking **I**N a cigar factory the rest of my life, for some reason, which i **D**o **n**o**t** now remember, the **F**actory at which i worked was inde**F**initely shut down. some of the men got work in other **f**ACTories in **T**OWN; some decided to go to key west and tampa, othe**R**s made up their minds to go to new **Y**ork for work. all at once a **D**esire like a fever **s**e**l**ze**D** me to see the north**H** again and i cast my lot with those **E** bound for ne**W** y**O**R**K**.

we steamed up into new yor**K** h**A**rbor la**T**e one afternoon in spring. the last efforts of the sun were **B**Eing put **F**Orth in turning the water**R**s of the bay to glist**E**ning gold; the green **I**slands on ei**T**her side, in spite of their **W**arlike mountings, looked calm and peaceful; the buildings of the town shone out in a reflected light which **g**A**V**e the city an air of enchantment; and, truly, it is an enchanted **S**pot. new york city is the most fatally fascinating thing in america. she **S**its like a great witch at the gate of the country, **s**H**O**wing her alluring white face and hiding her crooked hands and feet **U**nder the folds of her wide garment**S**--constantly enticing thousands from far within, and tempting those who come from across the seas to go no farther. and all these become the victims of her caprice. some she at once crushes beneath her cruel feet; others she **c**on**D**emns to a fate like that **O**f galley slaves; a few she favors and fondles, riding them high on the bubbles of fortune; then **W**ith a sudden breath she blows the bubbles out and laughs mocki**N**gly as she watches them fall.

The question states:

Answer:



## Answer Guide Clue #6

Students will answer questions on a google form that refer to all the works of literature they read in the escape room. The combination of letter answers in order is their clue #6 answer.

**ANSWERS =** 


1. How are the themes similar in the poems "I Look at the World" by Langston Hughes and "If We Must Die" by Claude McKay?



2. The tone of the speaker in "The Heart of a Woman" by Georgia Douglas Johnson can best be described as...



3. The following lines from "The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man" can best be described as what literary device? "The last efforts of the sun were being put forth in turning the waters of the bay to glistening gold; the green islands on either side, in spite of their warlike mountings, looked calm and peaceful; the buildings of the town shone out in a reflected light which gave the city an air of enchantment; and, truly, it is an enchanted spot."



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# Master Lock Guide

This is where students will find the google form to escape. They will type in all their answers from clues 1-6. If they are correct, they will get the screen that says "Congratulations!" (shown below).

## Master Lock Harlem Renaissance Escape Room

Congratulations! You've escaped!!!

[View accuracy](#)

[Submit another response](#)





# The Harlem Renaissance Digital Escape Room Reflection

Name:

Class:

Were you able to escape the room before the time was up?

What was your favorite part about the escape room?

What was one thing you learned about the Harlem Renaissance?

What was one problem you encountered in the escape room?

Was there anything you found too confusing or too difficult to solve?

Would you like to do more escape rooms in the future?

Is there anything you would change about the activity today to enhance your experience?

If you worked in a group, how did all of the group members work together? Did everyone participate? Explain.