

ENGL 4372: Major African American Authors through the Harlem Renaissance
Black Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance was a period of literary and artistic vibrancy for African Americans. It is marked by the outpouring of work by and about black folks. In 1925, Alain Locke coined the term the New Negro as a way to discuss and understand the emergence of a new black urban consciousness. The Harlem Renaissance is often referred to as the New Negro movement. In this course we will explore how black women writers engaged with the Harlem Renaissance. How did they respond to not only being black but being a woman? Were their concerns different than their male counterparts? Remember, Zora Neale Hurston claims that “de nigger woman is the de mule of the world.”

Tentative Reading List:

Jonah's Gourd Vine—Zora Neale Hurston

Their Eyes Were Watching God—Zora Neale Hurston

Plum Bun—Jessie Fauset

There is Confusion—Jessie Fauset

Passing—Nella Larsen

Quicksand—Nella Larsen