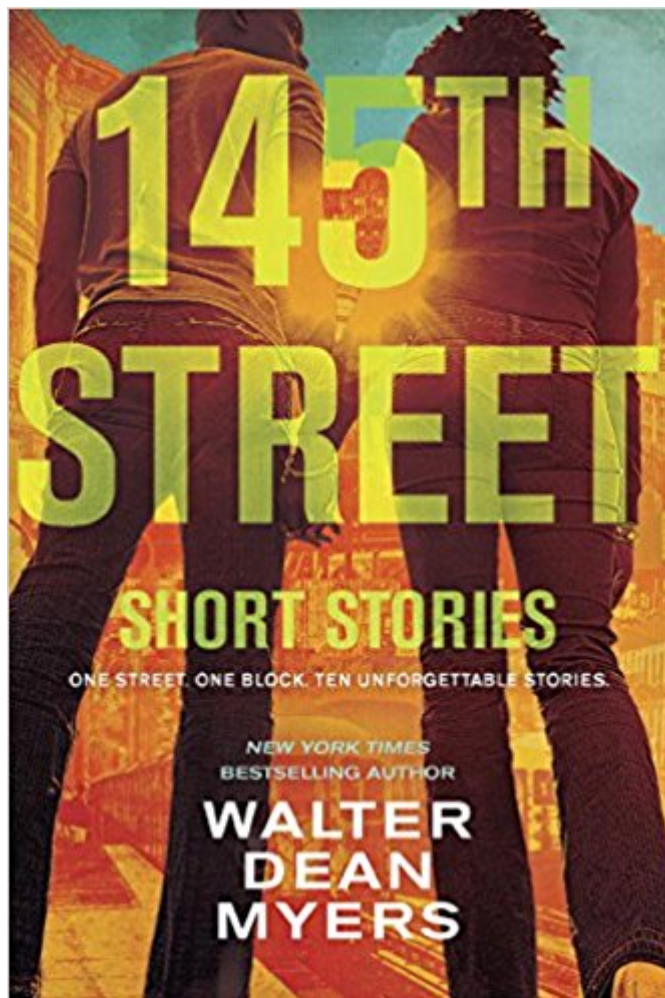


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# 145th Street: Short Stories



## Synopsis

An ALA-YALSA Best Book for Young Adults  
New Bonus Content:-Q&A with Walter Dean Myers-Teaser chapter from On a Clear Day-Excerpt from Hoops  
The first week of his senior year, everything changed. That's when Mack met Kitty. She hadn't finished the sonnet she wrote for him, but she had finished Mack. From that minute on, he was stupid in love. That's just Kitty and Mack. But everybody on the block has a story to tell. A salty, wrenchingly honest collection of stories set on one block of 145th Street. We get to know the oldest resident; the cop on the beat; fine Peaches and her girl, Squeezie; Monkeyman; and Benny, a fighter on the way to a knockout. We meet Angela, who starts having prophetic dreams after her father is killed, and Big Joe, who wants a bang-up funeral while he's still around to enjoy it. Some of these stories are private, and some are the ones behind the headlines. In each one, characters jump off the page and pull readers right into the mix on 1-4-5.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0800 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Ember; Reprint edition (February 14, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307976106

ISBN-13: 978-0307976109

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 38 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #128,253 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Short Stories #314 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

"That's what 145th Street is like. Something funny happens... and then something bad happens. It's almost as if the block is reminding itself that life is hard, and you have to take it seriously." Walter Dean Myers's book of interconnected short stories is a sweet and sour mix of the comedy and tragedy of the human condition, played out against the backdrop of the Harlem neighborhood that is

centered around 145th Street. In this 'hood, teens will become acquainted with the mysterious 12-year-old Angela, whose sad dreams seem to predict the future for an unlucky few, and the fast-talking Jamie Farrell, a smooth basketball player who's praying that his streak of good luck doesn't end before he can ask out Celia Evora, "the finest chick in the school." They will chuckle at the affable Big Joe, who wants to enjoy his funeral party while he's still alive, yet feel their hearts tighten when Big Time Henson senses his drug addiction drawing him closer and closer to an early grave. Myers frankly discusses the consequences of violence, drive-bys and gang war through his articulate characters, but tempers these episodes with such a love of his fictional community that every character shines through with the hope and strength of a survivor. Changing his point of view from teen to adult and back again through each vignette, Myers successfully builds a bridge of understanding between adolescents and adults that will help each group better understand the problems of the other. A worthy and recommended read that beautifully illustrates the good that can come out of a community that stands together. Newbery Honor-winning Myers has written more than 50 books, including *Monster* and *Fallen Angels*. (Ages 12 and older) --Jennifer Hubert --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

In a starred review, PW called this collection of 10 stories set in Harlem, "a kind of literary Rear Window. Myers creates snapshots of a pulsing, vibrant community with diverse ethnic threads, through all of its ups and downs." Ages 12-up. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I was disappointed. It sounded like a bunch of bed time stories. I can see that the author had potential but all the mini stories were a tad whack to me and it appeared rather senseless to make much sense of why he entangled these excerpts. This is not my cup of tea. Thank God, it ended soon.

I bought this book for struggling readers in my college reading classes, many of whom are urban African-Americans. It is difficult to find upbeat, yet gritty literature which features people of color. I like that the stories' viewpoints vary from a cop whose district is Harlem to young people who live in the area to a drug addict, all of whom are given humane treatment. I won't know what my students will think until next Fall, but other instructors have recommended this book. It is also short and we read/respond to a lot of nonfiction, so it will fit in nicely.

Perfect for reluctant secondary-level readers!

LOVED it

Cool read

Great book! And it wasn't expensive :)

GREAT

This can help my daughter when she needs to make work up in school. The school doesn't have many books to hand out this is handy.

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