

monster walter dean myers

monster walter dean myers is a critically acclaimed novel that explores the complexities of identity, justice, and perception through the riveting story of Steve Harmon, a young African-American teenager on trial for murder. Written by the celebrated author Walter Dean Myers, "Monster" has become a staple in young adult literature, praised for its innovative narrative style and powerful themes. This comprehensive article delves into the background of the novel and its author, analyzes key themes and characters, discusses its impact on readers and society, examines the unique narrative techniques, and provides insights for educators, students, and literature enthusiasts. Discover why "Monster" remains an essential read and how Walter Dean Myers's work continues to shape discussions around race, the criminal justice system, and the coming-of-age experience.

- Background of "Monster" by Walter Dean Myers
- Author Profile: Walter Dean Myers
- Plot Overview and Structure
- Major Themes in "Monster"
- Character Analysis
- Narrative Style and Literary Techniques
- Reception and Awards
- Educational Impact and Classroom Use
- Cultural Significance and Social Commentary

Background of "Monster" by Walter Dean Myers

"Monster" is a groundbreaking novel published in 1999 by Walter Dean Myers. The story is centered on Steve Harmon, a sixteen-year-old boy who stands accused of being an accomplice in a robbery that resulted in a murder. The novel is notable for its genre-defying format, blending a screenplay written by Steve with diary entries that reflect his inner turmoil and fear. The book's title refers both to the label placed on Steve by prosecutors and to the internal struggle he faces as he questions his own identity. "Monster" quickly gained recognition for its realistic portrayal of the legal system, its gripping plot, and its ability to address complex social issues in a way that resonates with young adults and adult readers alike.

The setting, primarily in a New York City courtroom and jail, provides an authentic backdrop

for the exploration of race, justice, and personal responsibility. Myers's novel stands out for its accessibility, emotional intensity, and its ability to provoke thoughtful discussion about morality and the consequences of one's actions.

Author Profile: Walter Dean Myers

Walter Dean Myers was a prolific and influential writer in the realm of young adult literature. Over his career, he published more than a hundred books, including novels, nonfiction, and poetry. Myers was known for tackling challenging subjects such as urban life, violence, identity, and systemic inequality, often drawing on his own experiences growing up in Harlem. His writing style is direct, raw, and empathetic, making his works relatable and impactful for readers from diverse backgrounds.

Myers received numerous awards and honors, including the Coretta Scott King Award, the Michael L. Printz Award, and became the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. His commitment to representing marginalized voices and addressing social issues has cemented his legacy as an essential figure in American literature. "Monster" is considered one of his most important works due to its lasting influence and relevance.

Plot Overview and Structure

Summary of the Storyline

"Monster" follows the harrowing journey of Steve Harmon as he faces trial for his alleged involvement in a robbery that turns deadly. The prosecution paints Steve as a "monster," suggesting he masterminded the crime. Throughout the proceedings, Steve grapples with fear, guilt, and uncertainty about his own nature and future. The novel skillfully builds suspense, leaving readers questioning Steve's innocence and the reliability of the justice system.

Innovative Narrative Format

One of the novel's most distinctive features is its format. Myers presents the story as a screenplay written by Steve himself, interspersed with diary entries. This unique structure allows readers to experience the events through Steve's perspective, emphasizing the emotional intensity and the blurred lines between reality and perception. The use of screenplay techniques, such as stage directions and camera angles, adds cinematic depth and draws readers into the courtroom drama.

Major Themes in "Monster"

Identity and Self-Perception

The theme of identity is central to "Monster." Steve's struggle to define himself against the accusations and societal labels is a recurring motif. The novel probes the question: Can one's actions or circumstances redefine who they truly are? Steve's introspection and the reactions of those around him highlight the complexities of self-perception, especially when faced with adversity.

Justice and the Legal System

"Monster" offers a critical look at the criminal justice system, emphasizing its flaws, biases, and the impact it has on young people of color. Through the trial and interactions with lawyers, judges, and other inmates, Myers exposes the challenges of seeking fairness and truth within a system that often presumes guilt based on race or socioeconomic status.

Fear, Guilt, and Morality

The emotional landscape of the novel is shaped by Steve's fear and guilt. Myers explores how these emotions influence decision-making, relationships, and personal growth. The story raises important moral questions about responsibility, complicity, and redemption, encouraging readers to reflect on the consequences of their choices.

- Questions of innocence and guilt
- The impact of societal labels
- Family dynamics and support
- Peer pressure and influence

Character Analysis

Steve Harmon

Steve is the protagonist and narrator, whose inner conflict forms the heart of the story. His vulnerability, creativity, and quest for identity make him a relatable figure for readers. Myers crafts Steve as a multi-dimensional character, torn between fear and hope, and struggling to assert his humanity in an unforgiving environment.

Other Key Characters

The supporting cast in "Monster" adds depth to the narrative:

- Kathy O'Brien – Steve's defense attorney, portrayed as compassionate but realistic.
- James King – The co-defendant, whose fate is closely tied to Steve's and who represents the complexities of peer relationships.
- Mr. Harmon and Mrs. Harmon – Steve's parents, who provide emotional support and highlight familial tensions.
- Judge and Prosecutor Petrocelli – Represent institutional authority and societal judgment.

Narrative Style and Literary Techniques

Screenplay Format

Myers's choice to tell the story in a screenplay format is both innovative and effective. This approach allows for a direct, visual depiction of courtroom drama, making the tension palpable. It also serves as a metaphor for Steve's desire to distance himself from the reality of his situation, framing his life as something to be watched rather than experienced.

Diary Entries and Inner Monologue

The interspersed diary entries provide intimate access to Steve's thoughts and emotions. This narrative technique deepens the reader's understanding of his psychological state, fears, and hopes. The juxtaposition of the screenplay with the diary entries creates a layered storytelling experience that enhances the novel's emotional resonance.

Reception and Awards

"Monster" was met with widespread acclaim upon its release. Critics praised its authenticity, narrative innovation, and its ability to engage readers in discussions about justice and identity. The novel received several prestigious awards, including the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature and was a finalist for the National Book Award. Its inclusion in reading lists and school curricula is testament to its enduring relevance and educational value.

Educators and librarians have highlighted "Monster" for its appeal to reluctant readers and its capacity to foster critical thinking. The book is often cited in scholarly discussions about diversity in literature and the importance of representation.

Educational Impact and Classroom Use

Teaching Strategies

"Monster" is frequently used in classrooms to encourage discussion about social justice, ethics, and personal responsibility. Teachers leverage the novel's format and themes to engage students in creative writing, role-play, and debates. The screenplay structure is particularly effective for group readings and performance-based activities.

Discussion Topics

- How does the format influence the reader's understanding of Steve's experience?
- What role does race play in the prosecution and perception of Steve?
- How do family and community impact Steve's journey?
- What are the broader social implications of the story?

Cultural Significance and Social Commentary

"Monster" by Walter Dean Myers remains a powerful commentary on contemporary society. Its exploration of race, justice, and identity continues to resonate with readers of all ages. The novel challenges stereotypes and prompts reflection on the ways in which young people, particularly African-Americans, are perceived and treated by institutions. Myers's work encourages empathy and understanding, contributing to ongoing dialogues about reform and equity in the justice system.

The impact of "Monster" extends beyond literature. It has inspired adaptations in film and theater and has sparked community conversations about the intersection of youth, crime, and societal expectations. The novel's legacy underscores the importance of diverse voices in storytelling and the need for honest portrayals of difficult realities.

Trending Questions and Answers about Monster Walter Dean Myers

Q: What is the main message of "Monster" by Walter

Dean Myers?

A: The main message of "Monster" is to challenge perceptions of identity, highlight the flaws in the criminal justice system, and encourage readers to reflect on morality, responsibility, and the impact of societal labels.

Q: Why does Walter Dean Myers use a screenplay format in "Monster"?

A: Myers uses a screenplay format to immerse readers in Steve Harmon's perspective, create cinematic tension, and illustrate how Steve sees his own life as a performance shaped by outside judgment.

Q: Who is Steve Harmon in "Monster"?

A: Steve Harmon is the novel's protagonist, a sixteen-year-old African-American teenager on trial for murder, whose internal struggle and search for identity drive the story.

Q: What awards has "Monster" by Walter Dean Myers won?

A: "Monster" has received the Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature and was a finalist for the National Book Award, among other honors.

Q: What are the major themes in "Monster"?

A: Major themes include identity, justice, morality, fear, guilt, and the impact of societal labeling on individuals.

Q: How does "Monster" address issues of race and justice?

A: "Monster" critically examines racial bias within the justice system and how race influences perceptions, prosecution, and the outcome of legal proceedings.

Q: Is "Monster" based on a true story?

A: "Monster" is a work of fiction, though it draws on real-life experiences and societal issues to create an authentic and relatable narrative.

Q: Why is "Monster" important in young adult

literature?

A: "Monster" is important because it tackles difficult social issues in an accessible format, promotes empathy, and encourages critical thinking among young readers.

Q: Can "Monster" be used in the classroom?

A: Yes, "Monster" is widely used in educational settings to teach themes of justice, identity, and social responsibility, and to engage students in creative and analytical activities.

Q: What impact has "Monster" had on readers and society?

A: "Monster" has influenced discussions about race, justice, and youth, inspired adaptations, and helped foster greater understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities.

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Monster: Walter Dean Myers - A Deep Dive into a Literary Masterpiece

Introduction:

Have you ever encountered a book that stays with you long after you've turned the final page? Walter Dean Myers' *Monster* is one such novel. This powerful young adult novel tackles complex themes of identity, justice, and the corrosive effects of prejudice, all through the eyes of a sixteen-year-old boy on trial for murder. This post will delve deep into the literary brilliance of *Monster*, exploring its narrative structure, compelling characters, thematic depth, and lasting impact. We'll examine why it remains a crucial text in classrooms and for readers of all ages seeking a powerful and thought-provoking read. Prepare to explore the multifaceted layers of this award-winning story and understand why it deserves its place as a modern classic.

The Narrative Structure: A Trial Within a Story

Monster masterfully employs a unique narrative structure. The story unfolds primarily through Steve Harmon's journal entries, offering the reader an intimate glimpse into his thoughts and feelings as he navigates the terrifying reality of a murder trial. This first-person perspective immediately engages the reader, fostering empathy and understanding for Steve, even as his culpability remains ambiguous. The novel also incorporates screenplay-style chapters depicting scenes from the trial itself. This dual perspective allows Myers to skillfully contrast Steve's internal struggles with the external pressures of the legal system. The juxtaposition of these two narrative voices creates a powerful tension, forcing the reader to question their own assumptions and biases.

Steve Harmon: A Complex Protagonist

Steve's character is far from simplistic. He's a young man grappling with his identity, torn between his aspirations as a filmmaker and the harsh realities of his life in a predominantly Black community. The trial exposes him to the stark realities of racial prejudice within the justice system, forcing him to confront not only his potential guilt but also the systemic inequalities that disproportionately affect young Black men. He's not a purely innocent victim, nor is he a hardened criminal. This ambiguity is central to the novel's power; it compels readers to engage with his story on a human level, understanding his vulnerabilities and the pressures that have shaped his life.

The Supporting Cast: A Panorama of Human Experience

The supporting characters in Monster are equally compelling. From Mr. Sawicki, Steve's dedicated and supportive film teacher, to the other characters involved in the trial – the lawyers, witnesses, and fellow defendants – each brings a unique perspective and adds depth to the narrative. These characters represent a microcosm of society, highlighting the complexities of human relationships and the impact of societal forces on individual lives. The characters' actions and motivations are not always clear-cut, reflecting the gray areas of morality and justice.

Thematic Depth: Exploring Justice, Identity, and Prejudice

Monster tackles weighty themes with remarkable sensitivity and nuance. Justice, in its various forms, is a central theme. The novel forces readers to confront the flaws inherent in the justice system, highlighting its potential for bias and injustice, particularly when race and socioeconomic status come into play. The exploration of identity is equally profound. Steve's journey is one of self-

discovery as he struggles to understand his own actions and their consequences within the context of his community and the larger societal structures that shape his life. The insidious nature of prejudice, particularly racial prejudice, is subtly woven throughout the narrative, underscoring its pervasive influence on all aspects of Steve's life and the trial itself.

The Power of Perspective: Multiple Voices, Multiple Truths

Myers masterfully uses multiple perspectives to underscore the theme of truth and perception. The novel presents multiple versions of events, highlighting the subjective nature of reality and the challenges of determining absolute truth. This subjective truth is what makes the book so engaging; it forces the reader to question their assumptions and biases and come to their own conclusion about Steve's guilt or innocence.

The Lasting Impact: A Must-Read for Generations

Monster is more than just a compelling story; it's a vital text for young adults, particularly those from marginalized communities. It offers a powerful exploration of identity, justice, and the challenges of navigating a system that often works against them. The novel's enduring popularity and inclusion in classrooms around the world attest to its relevance and enduring impact. It sparks crucial conversations about race, justice, and the responsibility of each individual in shaping a more just and equitable world.

Conclusion:

Walter Dean Myers' *Monster* is a masterpiece of young adult literature. Its innovative narrative structure, complex characters, and exploration of profound thematic concerns make it a powerful and unforgettable read. The novel's lasting impact stems from its ability to engage readers emotionally and intellectually, encouraging critical thinking about justice, identity, and the pervasive effects of prejudice. It is a book that stays with you, prompting reflection and encouraging a deeper understanding of the world around us.

FAQs:

1. Is *Monster* appropriate for all ages? While targeted at young adults, the novel's mature themes might require discussion and guidance for younger readers.
2. What makes *Monster*'s narrative structure so unique? The dual narrative structure, using both journal entries and screenplay format, allows for a deep exploration of Steve's internal and external experiences.
3. How does *Monster* address the issue of racial prejudice? The novel subtly and powerfully illustrates the pervasive impact of racial bias within the justice system and broader society.

4. What is the significance of Steve Harmon's aspirations as a filmmaker? His filmmaking ambitions represent a hope for a better future, contrasting with the harsh reality of his current situation.
5. Why is *Monster* considered a significant work of young adult literature? Its exploration of complex themes, engaging narrative, and commitment to social justice makes it a critical and influential text.

monster walter dean myers: Monster Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 This New York Times bestselling novel from acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers tells the story of Steve Harmon, a teenage boy in juvenile detention and on trial. Presented as a screenplay of Steve's own imagination, and peppered with journal entries, the book shows how one single decision can change our whole lives. *Monster* is a multi-award-winning, provocative coming-of-age story that was the first-ever Michael L. Printz Award recipient, an ALA Best Book, a Coretta Scott King Honor selection, and a National Book Award finalist. *Monster* is now a major motion picture called *All Rise* and starring Jennifer Hudson, Kelvin Harrison, Jr., Nas, and A\$AP Rocky. The late Walter Dean Myers was a National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, who was known for his commitment to realistically depicting kids from his hometown of Harlem.

monster walter dean myers: Monster: A Graphic Novel Walter Dean Myers, Guy A. Sims, 2015-10-20 A stunning graphic novel adaptation of Walter Dean Myers's New York Times bestseller *Monster*. *Monster* is a multi-award-winning, provocative coming-of-age story about Steve Harmon, a teenager awaiting trial for a murder and robbery. As Steve acclimates to juvenile detention and goes to trial, he envisions how his ordeal would play out on the big screen. Guy A. Sims, the acclaimed author of the *Brotherman* series of comic books, collaborated with his brother, the illustrator Dawud Anyabwile, in this thrilling black-and-white graphic novel adaption of *Monster*. *Monster* was the first-ever Michael L. Printz Award recipient, an ALA Best Book, a Coretta Scott King Honor selection, and a National Book Award finalist. *Monster* is also now a major motion picture called *All Rise* starring Jennifer Hudson, Kelvin Harrison, Jr., Nas, and A\$AP Rocky. Fans of *Monster* and of the work of Walter Dean Myers—and even kids who think they don't like to read—will devour this graphic adaptation.

monster walter dean myers: Monster Walter Dean Myers, 2004-12-14 While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, 16-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script, as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

monster walter dean myers: The Get Over Walter Dean Myers, 2013-05-07 From beloved author Walter Dean Myers, this original 20-page short story serves as a prequel to his award-winning novel *Monster*, which has been read and loved by millions of readers. Word on the street is that a robbery is about to go down in Harlem, and Steve Harmon is right in the middle of it. Everyone is trying to prove who's the toughest. Steve gets caught up in the talk and wonders about the difference between right and wrong. Should he turn these guys in? Stay quiet? What choice will Steve make? Walter Dean Myers was the New York Times bestselling author of *Monster*, the winner of the first Michael L. Printz Award; a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature; and an inaugural NYC Literary Honoree. Myers received every single major award in the field of children's literature. He was the author of two Newbery Honor Books and six Coretta Scott King Awardees. He was the recipient of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults, a three-time National Book Award Finalist, as well as the first-ever recipient of the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. Epic Reads Impulse is a digital imprint with new releases each month.

monster walter dean myers: Love Matt de la Peña, 2018-01-09 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER [A] poetic reckoning of the importance of love in a child's life . . . eloquent and moving.—People Everything that can be called love -- from shared joy to comfort in the darkness -- is gathered in the pages of this reassuring, refreshingly honest picture book.—The New York Times Book Review, Editors' Choice / Staff Picks From the Book Review "Lyrical and sensitive, 'Love' is the

sort of book likely to leave readers of all ages a little tremulous, and brimming with feeling.”—The Wall Street Journal From Newbery Medal-winning author Matt de la Peña and bestselling illustrator Loren Long comes a story about the strongest bond there is and the diverse and powerful ways it connects us all. In the beginning there is light and two wide-eyed figures standing near the foot of your bed and the sound of their voices is love. ... A cab driver plays love softly on his radio while you bounce in back with the bumps of the city and everything smells new, and it smells like life. In this heartfelt celebration of love, Newbery Medal-winning author Matt de la Peña and bestselling illustrator Loren Long depict the many ways we experience this universal bond, which carries us from the day we are born throughout the years of our childhood and beyond. With a lyrical text that's soothing and inspiring, this tender tale is a needed comfort and a new classic that will resonate with readers of every age.

monster walter dean myers: *Somewhere in the Darkness* Walter Dean Myers, 1992 Jimmy hasn't seen his father in nine years.

monster walter dean myers: *Slam!* Walter Dean Myers, 1996 Sixteen-year-old Slam Harris is counting on his noteworthy basketball talents to get him out of the inner city and give him a chance to succeed in life, but his coach sees things differently.

monster walter dean myers: *Trapped at the Bottom of the Sea* Frank E. Peretti, 2004-07 Dr. Jake Cooper, his son Jay, and adventurer-journalist Meaghan Flaherty evade angry terrorists and cannibal tribes as they desperately search for Lila Cooper after her plane is hijacked in a remote corner of the Pacific.

monster walter dean myers: *Shooter* Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 The groundbreaking and widely praised novel about a school shooting, from the acclaimed author of *Monster*. Multiple narratives, a personal journal, and newspaper and police reports add perspective and pull readers into the story. Questions of guilt and innocence drive the plot and stay with the reader, said Hazel Rochman in a starred Booklist review. Highly readable. A haunting story that uncovers the pain of several high school students, according to Teenreads.com. It explores the tragedies of school violence and how the result of bullying can go to the most dramatic extreme. Myers has a gift for expressing the voices of his characters. *Shooter* is not a light read, but it will leave you reeling.

monster walter dean myers: *A Study Guide for Walter Dean Myers's "Monster"* Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Walter Dean Myers's *Monster*, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed *Novels for Students*. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust *Novels for Students* for all of your research needs.

monster walter dean myers: *Fallen Angels* Walter Dean Myers, 2013-11-07 *Fallen Angels* by Walter Dean Myers is a young adult novel about seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, a Harlem teenager who volunteers for the Army when unable to afford college and is sent to fight in the Vietnam War. Perry and his platoon—Peewee, Lobel, Johnson, and Brunner—come face-to-face with the Vietcong, the harsh realities of war, and some dark truths about themselves. A thoughtful young man with a gift for writing and love of basketball, Perry learns to navigate among fellow soldiers under tremendous stress and struggles with his own fear as he sees things he'll never forget: the filling of body bags, the deaths of civilians and soldier friends, the effects of claymore mines, the fires of Napalm, and jungle diseases like Nam Rot. Available as an e-book for the first time on the 25th anniversary of its publication, *Fallen Angels* has been called one of the best Vietnam War books ever and one of the great coming-of-age Vietnam War stories. Filled with unforgettable characters, not least Peewee Gates of Chicago who copes with war by relying on wisecracks and dark humor, *Fallen Angels* “reaches deep into the minds of soldiers” and makes “readers feel they are there, deep in the heart of war.” *Fallen Angels* has won numerous awards and honors, including the Coretta Scott King Award, an ALA Best Book for Young Adults, a Booklist Editors Choice, and a School Library Journal Best Book. *Fallen Angels* was #16 on the American Library Association's list of the most frequently challenged books of 1990–2000 for its realistic depiction of war and those who fight in wars.

monster walter dean myers: *Crystal* Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 Sixteen-year-old Crystal

knows she's blessed. She is drop-dead gorgeous and in the beginning stages of a glamorous career as a model in New York City. At first, modeling is exciting. But soon, her life becomes less and less about her, and more and more about her body. Crystal wonders if her new life is worth giving up everything -- her friends, her beliefs, and her self-respect.

monster walter dean myers: A Step from Heaven An Na, 2016-07-26 Originally published: Alpine, Texas: Front Street Press, 2001.

monster walter dean myers: *Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Stuff* Walter Dean Myers, 1988-04-01 Stuff doesn't know anyone when he first moves to 116th Street. But all of that changes when he meets Fast Sam, Cool Clyde, and Gloria. Stuff and the gang grow close that eventful year, and nothing is ever like it again. That's the year modern science gets them all in jail; Stuff falls in love and is unfaithful; and Cool Clyde and Fast Sam win the dance contest-almost.

monster walter dean myers: *Anna Hibiscus* Atinuke, 2022-04-05 From acclaimed Nigerian storyteller Atinuke, the first in a series of chapter books set in contemporary West Africa introduces a little girl who has enchanted young readers. Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa, amazing Africa, with her mother and father, her twin baby brothers (Double and Trouble), and lots of extended family in a big white house with a beautiful garden in a compound in a city. Anna is never lonely—there are always cousins to play and fight with, aunties and uncles laughing and shouting, and parents and grandparents close by. Readers will happily follow as she goes on a seaside vacation, helps plan a party for Auntie Comfort from Canada (will she remember her Nigerian ways?), learns firsthand what it's really like to be a child selling oranges outside the gate, and longs to see sweet snow. Nigerian storyteller Atinuke's debut book for children and its sequels, with their charming (and abundant) gray-scale drawings by Lauren Tobia, are newly published in the US by Candlewick Press, joining other celebrated Atinuke stories in captivating young readers.

monster walter dean myers: *Tags* Walter Dean Myers, 2013-03-05 From Walter Dean Myers, the New York Times bestselling author of *Monster*, comes this 20-page one-act play. *Tags* is a look at life and death in New York City, complete with a shocking end. Four New York City teens are shot down in the prime of life. They move through limbo, re-creating their distinctive tags in a Harlem walk-up so that they can live forever. But what's the point? How can you think of living forever if you're already dead? Walter Dean Myers was the New York Times bestselling author of *Monster*, the winner of the first Michael L. Printz Award; a former National Ambassador for Young People's Literature; and an inaugural NYC Literary Honoree. Myers received every single major award in the field of children's literature. He was the author of two Newbery Honor Books and six Coretta Scott King Awardees. He was the recipient of the Margaret A. Edwards Award for lifetime achievement in writing for young adults, a three-time National Book Award Finalist, as well as the first-ever recipient of the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement. Epic Reads Impulse is a digital imprint with new releases each month.

monster walter dean myers: *On a Clear Day* Walter Dean Myers, 2015-10-13 Visionary. This book should be in every reader's hands. –JACQUELINE WOODSON, National Book Award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* Young heroes decide that they are not too young or too powerless to change their world in this gripping, futuristic young adult novel by the New York Times bestselling author of the Printz Award-winning *Monster*. It is 2035. Teens, armed only with their ideals, must wage war on the power elite. Dahlia is a Low Gater: a sheep in a storm, struggling to survive completely on her own. The Gaters live in closed safe communities, protected from the Sturmers, mercenary thugs. And the C-8, a consortium of giant companies, control global access to finance, media, food, water, and energy resources—and they are only getting bigger and even more cutthroat. Dahlia, a computer whiz, joins forces with an ex-rocker, an ex-con, a chess prodigy, an ex-athlete, and a soldier wannabe. Their goal: to sabotage the C-8. But how will Sayeed, warlord and terrorist, fit into the equation? AWARDS FOR WALTER DEAN MYERS: New York Times Bestselling Author 3-Time National Book Award Finalist Michael L. Printz Award 5 Coretta Scott King Awards 2 Newbery Honors National Ambassador for Young People's Literature (2012-2013) Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement Children's Literature Legacy Award Praise for ON A

CLEAR DAY: "Walter Dean Myers was such a visionary. On a Clear Day is at once historical and futuristic, thoughtful and thought-provoking. It should be in every reader's hands. It's a book for anyone who has ever given thought to our own future and the futures of those coming behind us. Stunning." -JACQUELINE WOODSON, National Book Award-winning author of *Brown Girl Dreaming*
*A clarion call from a beloved, much-missed master. -Kirkus Reviews, Starred In his last book, Myers has turned his thoughtful attention to matters of pressing global importance and issued an implicit challenge to his teen readers to become involved and make a difference. It makes for a stirring valedictory. -Booklist Published posthumously, this is an angry story, demonstrating again Myers's acute social conscience. -Horn Book Worth serious YA consideration. -The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

monster walter dean myers: Rise Up! Chris Jones, 2018-11-15 Penned by one of America's best-known daily theatre critics and organized chronologically, this lively and readable book tells the story of Broadway's renaissance from the darkest days of the AIDS crisis, via the disaster that was *Spiderman: Turn off the Dark* through the unparalleled financial, artistic and political success of Lin-Manuel Miranda's *Hamilton*. It is the story of the embrace of risk and substance. In so doing, Chris Jones makes the point that the theatre thrived by finally figuring out how to embrace the bold statement and insert itself into the national conversation - only to find out in 2016 that a hefty sector of the American public had not been listening to what it had to say. Chris Jones was in the theatres when and where it mattered. He takes readers from the moment when Tony Kushner's angel crashed (quite literally) through the ceiling of prejudice and religious intolerance to the triumph of *Hamilton*, with the coda of the Broadway cast addressing a new Republican vice-president from the stage. That complex performance - at once indicative of the theatre's new clout and its inability to fully change American society for the better - is the final scene of the book.

monster walter dean myers: Scorpions Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 The Scorpions are a gun-toting Harlem gang, and Jamal Hicks is about to become tragically involved with them in this authentic tale of the sacrifice of innocence and the struggle to steer clear of violence. This Newbery Honor Book will challenge young men to consider their own decisions as they come of age in a complex and often frustrating society. Pushed by a bully to fight and nagged by his principal, Jamal is having a difficult time staying in school. His home life is not much better, with his mother working her fingers to the bone to try to earn the money for an appeal for Jamal's jailed older brother, Randy. Jamal wants to do the right thing and help earn the money to free his brother by working, but he's afraid to go against the Scorpions. Jamal eventually pulls free of the gang's bad influence, but only through the narrowest of escapes. Walter Dean Myers, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, sensitively explores the loyalty and love between friends faced with hard choices. *Scorpions* is 25 years old, but the issues of poverty and violence make it a timeless powerful read—sadly as relevant as ever.

monster walter dean myers: Out of a Jar Deborah Marcero, 2022-02-08 This highly anticipated follow-up to the critically acclaimed and bestselling picture book *In a Jar* stars one little bunny dealing with some very big feelings. Llewellyn does not like to feel afraid or sad, angry, lonely, or embarrassed. And so he comes up with a brilliant plan: he tucks each of his feelings into jars and hides them away where they won't bother him anymore. But when he gets in trouble in class, Llewellyn finds he needs to put away excitement too. And when joy is quickly followed by disappointment, he decides to get rid of joy as well. After a while, Llewellyn walks around not feeling much of anything at all. And what happens when his emotions refuse to be bottled up any longer? In this richly illustrated and universally relatable picture book, Llewellyn soon discovers that life is more colorful when he sets his emotions free. And only then, by facing and embracing each of his feelings, is he finally able to let them go.

monster walter dean myers: Dear Student Elly Swartz, 2022-02-15 When Autumn becomes the secret voice of the advice column in her middle school newspaper she is faced with a dilemma--can she give fair advice to everyone, including her friends, while keeping her identity a secret? Starting Middle School is rough for Autumn after her one and only BFF moves to California. Uncertain and

anxious, she struggles to connect with her new classmates. The two potential friends she meets could not be more different: bold Logan who has big ideas and quiet Cooper who's a bit mysterious. But Autumn has a dilemma: what do you do when the new friends you make don't like each other? When Autumn is picked to be the secret voice of the Dear Student letters in the Hillview newspaper, she finds herself smack in the middle of a problem with Logan and Cooper on opposite sides. But before Autumn can figure out what to do, the unthinkable happens. Her secret identity as Dear Student is threatened. Now, it's time for Autumn to find her voice, her courage, and follow her heart, even when it's divided.

monster walter dean myers: Dope Sick Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 A powerful novel of drugs, violence—and second chances. *Dope Sick*, from two-time Newbery Honor winner and five-time Coretta Scott King Award winner Walter Dean Myers, belongs on reading lists beside *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds and *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone. A drug deal goes south and a cop has been shot. Lil J's on the run. And he's starting to get dope sick. He'd do anything to change the last twenty-four hours, and when he stumbles into an abandoned building, it actually might be possible. . . Elements of magical realism intensify this harrowing story about drug use, violence, perceptions of reality, and second chances. This ALA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers earned multiple starred reviews and was described as vivid, nuanced, and intriguing. Booklist said: "Myers' narrative strategy is so inherently dramatic that it captures his readers' attentions and imaginations, inviting not only empathy but also thoughtful discussion." Walter Dean Myers was a New York Times bestselling author, Printz Award winner, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, two-time Newbery Honor recipient, and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Maria Russo, writing in the New York Times, called Myers one of the greats and a champion of diversity in children's books well before the cause got mainstream attention.

monster walter dean myers: All the Right Stuff Walter Dean Myers, 2012-04-24 New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers tackles the social contract from a teen's perspective in his novel *All the Right Stuff*. In one of his most thought-provoking novels to date, Myers weaves together political philosophy, basketball, and making soup in Harlem, with the depth that defines his writing career. After his father is shot and killed, Paul Dupree finds a summer job at a Harlem soup kitchen. Elijah, the soup man, questions Paul about tough life choices, even though Paul would rather be playing basketball. Over the summer, Paul begins to understand the importance of taking control of your life. *All the Right Stuff* includes a Q&A between Walter Dean Myers and Ross Workman, coauthor of *Kick*.

monster walter dean myers: Monster theory [electronic resource] Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, 1996-11-15 The contributors to *Monster Theory* consider beasts, demons, freaks and fiends as symbolic expressions of cultural unease that pervade a society and shape its collective behavior. Through a historical sampling of monsters, these essays argue that our fascination for the monstrous testifies to our continued desire to explore difference and prohibition.

monster walter dean myers: Autobiography of My Dead Brother Walter Dean Myers, 2010-10-26 A powerful National Book Award Finalist from the acclaimed, bestselling author of *Monster*. This novel is like photorealism; it paints a vivid and genuine portrait of life that will have a palpable effect on its readers. (School Library Journal starred review) With Harlem as its backdrop, *Autobiography of My Dead Brother* follows the diverging paths of best friends Rise and Jesse. When Rise becomes engulfed in gang activity and starts dealing drugs, Jesse, a budding artist, tries to make sense of the complexities of friendship, loyalty, and loss in a neighborhood plagued by drive-by shootings, vicious gangs, and an indifferent juvenile justice system. The innovative first-person storytelling, along with cartoons and photos, pulls in readers and makes *Autobiography of My Dead Brother* a strong and thought-provoking choice for sharing in a classroom or at home. Though the story is starkly realistic, there is always hope in the gifts of Jesse the artist and C. J. the musician, of schools and churches and of caring parents. (Kirkus) Touching and impactful, *Autobiography* cannot fail to intrigue, and hopefully influence youngsters with its poignant statement of two roads taken. (Judges' Citation, National Book Award)

monster walter dean myers: Boyz 'r' Us Scott Monk, 2011-02-01 It's a long, mad ride from Summer Bay! Chicks, babes, cars and music; bored kids and shouting mothers; fathers that suck on a bottle to put themselves to sleep; and TV sets blaring mindlessly. Race tensions are hotting up in Marrickville and the media want a gang war so badly that they nearly start one. As Mitch looks back on his time as former leader of the Tunderjets, he tells the searing story of a scene that in some ways, no matter how hard you try, you can never leave.

monster walter dean myers: Burn My Heart Beverley Naidoo, 2007-07-05 The Mau Mau - the name of a secret society that once struck terror into the hearts of British settlers in Kenya. An episode in history that ended in a State of Emergency, with violent and brutal acts dividing a nation. This is an intensely personal and vivid story of two boys: one black, one white. Once they were friends even though their circumstances are very different. But in a country driven by fear and prejudice, even the best of friends can betray one another . . . Internationally acclaimed and award-winning author Beverley Naidoo explores new territory in this beautifully realized and moving story set in Britain's colonial past.

monster walter dean myers: Who Was Babe Ruth? Joan Holub, Who HQ, 2012-01-05 Just in time for baseball season! Babe Ruth came from a poor Baltimore family and, as a kid, he was a handful. It was at a reform school that Babe discovered his talent for baseball, and by the age of nineteen, he was on his way to becoming a sports legend. Babe was often out of shape and even more often out on the town, but he had a big heart and an even bigger swing! Kids will learn all about the Home Run King in this rags-to-riches sports biography. With black-and-white illustrations throughout, a true sports legend is brought to life.

monster walter dean myers: Game Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 This thrilling basketball story from New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers is a strong choice for independent reading and sharing in the classroom. Thought-provoking and packed with court action, *Game* is a winner. Drew Lawson knows basketball is taking him places. It has to, because his grades certainly aren't. But lately his plan has run squarely into a pick. Coach has handed the ball to another player—Tomas, a new guy from Europe—and Drew won't let anyone disrespect his game. Just as his team makes the playoffs, Drew must come up with something big to save his fading college prospects. It's all up to Drew to find out just how deep his game really is. There's plenty of basketball here, but, as in any good sports novel, more is going on than the sport; life is the game, and this is a sensitive portrait of a likable young man, his family, city and dreams. (Kirkus starred review) In this story of a teen who dreams of making it big in the NBA, Myers returns to the theme that has dominated much of his serious fiction: How can young black urban males negotiate the often-harsh landscape of their lives to establish a sense of identity and self-worth? As always, Myers eschews easy answers. (School Library Journal) Walter Dean Myers was a New York Times bestselling author, Printz Award winner, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, two-time Newbery Honor recipient, and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Maria Russo, writing in the New York Times, called Myers one of the greats and a champion of diversity in children's books well before the cause got mainstream attention.

monster walter dean myers: Street Love Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 This groundbreaking novel in verse from Walter Dean Myers—two-time Newbery Honor winner and five-time Coretta Scott King Award winner—is a modern-day Romeo and Juliet story set in Harlem. Share this one with readers taken with books by Jason Reynolds, Nic Stone, and Elizabeth Acevedo. Whether read at home or in the classroom, and alongside the original inspiration or on its own. *Street Love* is sure to spark opinions and conversations. This verse novel, in which entire poems dazzle readers with rhyme and rhythm and voice, finds Damien, a straight-A student, headed for Brown University. But he falls in love with Junice, a girl whose mother has just been incarcerated for selling drugs, and his direction could change. Readers enjoy multiple perspectives on this romance and the decision Damien makes. (Kirkus starred review) Hip-hop fans, readers of poetry, and hopeless romantics will respond to the emotional vibrancy of this powerful work. (VOYA) Your first love is totally wrong for you. Do you follow your heart? Or do you run away? Walter Dean Myers was a New York Times

bestselling author, Printz Award winner, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, two-time Newbery Honor recipient, and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Maria Russo, writing in the New York Times, called Myers one of the greats and a champion of diversity in children's books well before the cause got mainstream attention.

monster walter dean myers: *Where Does the Day Go?* Walter Dean Myers, 1969 Several children tell what they think happens to the day when night arrives.

monster walter dean myers: *Monster*, 2003

monster walter dean myers: *Juba (South Sudan)*,

monster walter dean myers: *Hello, Earth!* Joyce Sidman, 2021 Poems addressed to the earth itself explore scientific concepts including plate tectonics, water cycles, and the creation of tides--

monster walter dean myers: *Monster* Sanyika Shakur, 2007-12-01 The classic memoir of life as a Crip, written in solitary confinement: "A shockingly raw, frightening portrait of gang life in South Central Los Angeles." —Michiko Kakutani, The New York Times After pumping eight blasts from a sawed-off shotgun at a group of rival gang members, twelve-year-old Kody Scott was initiated into the L.A. gang the Crips. He quickly matured into one of the most formidable Crip combat soldiers, earning the name "Monster" for committing acts of brutal violence that repulsed even his fellow gang members. When the inevitable jail term confined him to a maximum-security cell, a complete political and personal transformation followed: from Monster to Sanyika Shakur, black nationalist, member of the New Afrikan Independence Movement, and crusader against the causes of gangsterism. In a work that has been compared to The Autobiography of Malcolm X and Eldridge Cleaver's Soul on Ice, Shakur makes palpable the despair and decay of America's inner cities and gives eloquent voice to one aspect of the black ghetto experience.

monster walter dean myers: *Bad Boy* Walter Dean Myers, 2009-10-06 A classic memoir that's gripping, funny, and ultimately unforgettable from the bestselling former National Ambassador of Books for Young People. A strong choice for summer reading—an engaging and powerful autobiographical exploration of growing up a so-called bad boy in Harlem in the 1940s. As a boy, Myers was quick-tempered and physically strong, always ready for a fight. He also read voraciously—he would check out books from the library and carry them home, hidden in brown paper bags in order to avoid other boys' teasing. He aspired to be a writer (and he eventually succeeded). But as his hope for a successful future diminished, the values he had been taught at home, in school, and in his community seemed worthless, and he turned to the streets and to his books for comfort. Don't miss this memoir by New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers, one of the most important voices of our time.

monster walter dean myers: *Lockdown* Walter Dean Myers, 2010-02-02 Lockdown is the powerful tale of fourteen-year-old Reese Anderson, who has spent 22 months in a tiny cell at a "progress center." Living in fear and isolation, Reese begins looking within himself to find a way out of the prison system. Acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers offers an honest story about finding a way to make it without getting lost in the shuffle. Told with compassion and truth, Lockdown is also a compelling first-person read that could resonate with teens on a dangerous path.* When I first got to Progress, it freaked me out to be locked in a room and unable to get out. But after a while, when you got to thinking about it, you knew nobody could get in, either. It seems as if the only progress that's going on at Progress juvenile facility is moving from juvy jail to real jail. Reese wants out early, but is he supposed to just sit back and let his friend Toon get jumped? Then Reese gets a second chance when he's picked for the work program at a senior citizens' home. He doesn't mean to keep messing up, but it's not so easy, at Progress or in life. One of the residents, Mr. Hooft, gives him a particularly hard time. If he can convince Mr. Hooft that he's a decent person, not a criminal, maybe he'll be able to convince himself. Walter Dean Myers was a New York Times bestselling author, Printz Award winner, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, two-time Newbery Honor recipient, and the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Maria Russo, writing in the New York Times, called Myers one of the greats and a champion of diversity in children's books well before the cause got mainstream attention. *Kirkus

monster walter dean myers: From Hinton to Hamlet Sarah K. Herz, Donald R. Gallo, 1996
Connecting the best YA literature and the classics, this fine, practical guide challenges
condescending stereotypes about YA literature and shows how it can be used in the English
classroom, across the curriculum, and in the library to open students to the pleasure of reading...
Booklist

monster walter dean myers: How It Went Down Kekla Magoon, 2014-10-21 A 2015 Coretta
Scott King Author Honor Book When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson dies from two gunshot wounds,
his community is thrown into an uproar. Tariq was black. The shooter, Jack Franklin, is white. In the
aftermath of Tariq's death, everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events line up.
Day by day, new twists further obscure the truth. Tariq's friends, family, and community struggle to
make sense of the tragedy, and to cope with the hole left behind when a life is cut short. In their own
words, they grapple for a way to say with certainty: This is how it went down. This title has Common
Core connections.

monster walter dean myers: Kick Walter Dean Myers, Ross Workman, 2011-02-01 For the
very first time in his decades-long career writing for teens, acclaimed and beloved author Walter
Dean Myers writes with a teen, Ross Workman. Kevin Johnson is thirteen years old. And heading for
juvie. He's a good kid, a great friend, and a star striker for his Highland, New Jersey, soccer team.
His team is competing for the State Cup, and he wants to prove he has more than just star-player
potential. Kevin's never been in any serious trouble . . . until the night he ends up in jail. Enter
Sergeant Brown, a cop assigned to be Kevin's mentor. If Kevin and Brown can learn to trust each
other, they might be able to turn things around before it's too late.

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