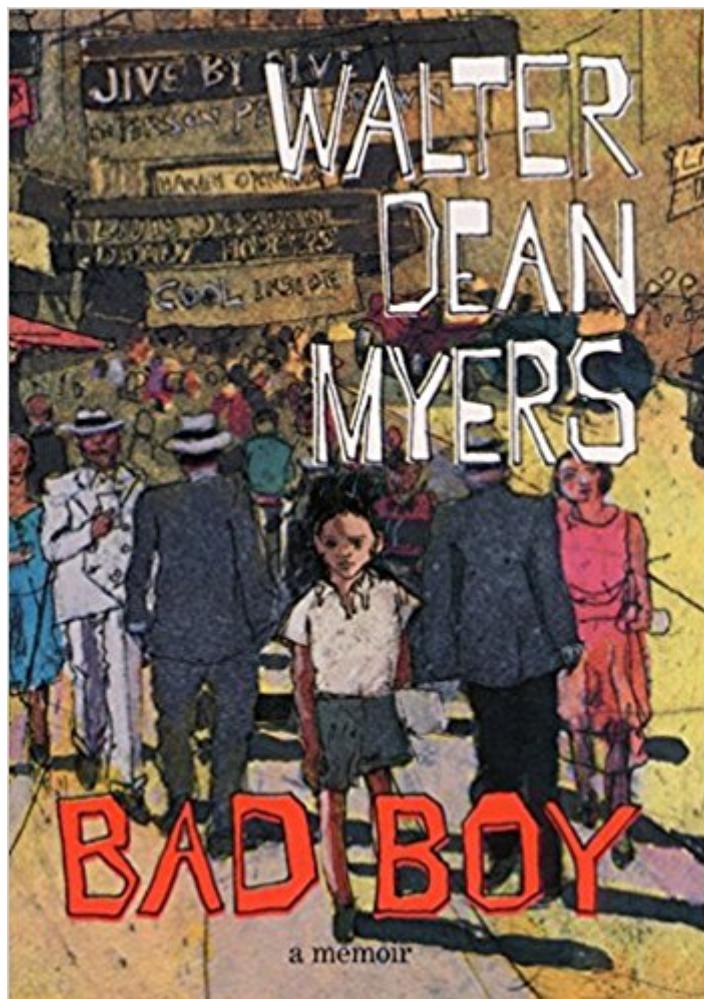


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## Bad Boy: A Memoir



## **Synopsis**

New York Times bestselling author Walter Dean Myers traveled back to his roots in this memoir that is gripping, funny, and ultimately unforgettable. Don't miss this memoir by a former National Ambassador of Books for Young People! 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. Here, in his own words, is the story of one of the most important voices of our time.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Amistad; Reprint edition (May 7, 2002)

Language: English

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 203 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #12,255 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Literary #1 in Books > Teens > Social Issues > Peer Pressure #6 in Books > Teens > Biographies > Cultural Heritage

## **Customer Reviews**

Myers paints a fascinating picture of his childhood growing up in Harlem in the 1940s, with an adult's benefit of hindsight, wrote PW. What emerges is a clear sense of how one young man's gifts separate him from his peers, causing him to stir up trouble in order to belong. Ages 13-up. (May)

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Grade 7 Up-This superb memoir begins simply with an account of Myers's family history and his boyhood. Vivid detail makes the Harlem of the '40s come alive, from the music and children's games to the everyday struggle for survival. As Myers grows older, however, his story also grows in complexity. Soon readers are caught up in his turbulent adolescence and his slow, painful

development as a writer. Even while performing poorly in school, the teen endlessly devoured great works of literature, often in secret. He also wrote, sometimes quitting out of discouragement but always beginning again. Eventually he attended school less and less often, sometimes fighting roaming gang members or delivering "packages" for drug dealers. After dropping out of high school, he enlisted in the army. Sadness and bewilderment infuse these last chapters as Myers faces a bleak future. Intellectually, he's left his family and friends far behind, but his race and circumstances seem to give him few choices. After years of menial jobs, Myers remembered a teacher's advice—"Whatever you do, don't stop writing"—and in time his persistence paid off. This memoir is never preachy; instead, it is a story full of funny anecdotes, lofty ideals, and tender moments. The author's growing awareness of racism and of his own identity as a black man make up one of the most interesting threads. Young writers will find inspiration here, while others may read the book as a straightforward account of a colorful, unforgettable childhood. *Miranda Doyle, San Francisco Public Library Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This contemporary autobiography deals with many issues young people in urban communities are familiar with: social and emotional challenges, discomfort with school situations, and searching for meaning in difficult circumstances. The book also teaches students an important lesson: they (like Walter Dean Myers) can overcome challenges in their lives and find their own unique talents in the process. Readers will enjoy the culturally unique setting (Harlem) and vivid character descriptions in this literary non-fiction book. Walter Dean Myers has written many other books so reading one can lead to reading another - his work is particularly appealing to middle-school and early high school aged readers.

Great book

## GOOD READ FOR SCHOOL

This book is a good read for teens. It flows well. It examines all of the insecurities that young people experience while learning to think for themselves. The story, which covers Myer's early life, shows how a young man can make the most of his strengths, in spite of setbacks. I would recommend this book for teens who are seeking answers to the challenges in their lives.

I enjoyed the book story. Greatly designed. Happy and sad moments. How it felt to live in

Harlem.great good book.

Needed for school as school does not provide individual books to students. It is so helpful.

I love this book started it on Friday and Im don't with the book this is wroth the money and the reading

I am only like 50 pages in, but this book is great so far. I get to see the inside of a youths life back before I was born and look at the dynamics of how families were built like the Brady Bunch. Its good so far!

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