

Monster book study guide answers



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Monster is a drama for young adults written by Walter Dean Myers. Myers, who spent much of his life in the Harlem neighborhood of New York, relied on his personal and proximal experience to portray the story of Steve Harmon, an African-American teenager awaiting trial for murder. Myers compares two different storytelling methods to weave Steve's story together. Pairing a remote, third-person script with an emotional, first-person diary account, Myers encourages the reader to contemplate the value of perspective in relation to crime. In the interview, Myers explained the research methods he used to create the novel. During a meeting with various inmates in prisons throughout the New York Metropolitan Area, Myers was forced to create a composite character whose history could be based on themes of accountability, innocence and the impact of racism on a particular urban community. The ambiguity of the novel is a demonstration of the ambiguous nature of the crimes and sentencing. There is no definitive answer as to whether Steve Harmon was involved in the murder of Alginaldo Nesbitt. However, this ambivalence encourages the reader to examine the situational and individual factors that led to the narrator's arrest. After the novel was published in 1999, Monster received critical acclaim. In 2000, Monster was nominated for the National Book Award for Youth Literature. In addition, the novel received the Michael L. Printz Award and received an honorary mention of the Coretta Scott King Award. As for the novel's unique style, Myers says: In interviews with inmates, I noticed a tendency for inmates to try to separate their self-esteem from their crimes. In Monster, I have Steve talk about himself first person in his diary, but when he gets to court and crime, he distances himself through the use of the script. In 2018, the novel was adapted into a film by American director Anthony Mandler. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2018.

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