

## **Paris Noir: Race and Jazz in Post-War Paris**

### Essential Questions:

- Why was Paris a jazz capital after World War II?
- Why did black Americans (particularly writers and jazz musicians) live in Paris after World War II during decolonization?
- What were the push and pull factors of African American migration to post-World War II Paris?
- How did Sidney Bechet link New Orleans jazz to Paris?
- What influence did Paris have on bop?
- How are jazz and jazz people naturally transnational?
- How do you listen to jazz?
  - The importance of listening
  - Obtaining a jazz vocabulary
  - Understanding and appreciating major movements in jazz
  - Understanding and appreciating the life and sounds of jazz innovators
  - Historical context of jazz

### Objectives:

- Explain how Paris became the center of African American culture after World War II despite France's decolonization policy.
- Determine the factors that transformed Jazz into a transnational and interracial music.
- Assess the relevancy of the post-World War II African American writers .

### Historical Context Based On:

- \*Paris Noir: African Americans in the City of Light* by Tyler Stovall
- \*Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music and Migration in Post-World War II Paris* by Rashida K. Bragg
- \*France and Its Empire Since 1870* by Alice L. Conklin, Sarah Fishman, Robert Zaretsky
- Year Zero: A History of 1945* by Ian Burma

Historical context presented by Marcie Hutchinson

Paris: A New Black Community

- Who- African American Writers, Artists Musicians
- What- African American expatriate community
- Where- Left Bank (Latin Quarter and Saint-Germain-des-Prés)
- When- 1945-1960
- Why-
  - Push and Pull factors of another African American migration
  - Literary and artistic center of post-World War II Paris

Post-World War II France

- Deep scars of Nazi occupation- material, political, moral
  - Material
    - 74 of 90 departments damaged
    - 2.6 million buildings destroyed
    - 1 million homeless
    - Coastal, manufacturing and mining regions hardest hit
    - 50,000 farms destroyed
    - 60,000 businesses destroyed
    - Bread rationing 300 grams in 1946, reduced to 200 grams by late 1947
    - Rationing lasts until 1949
    - Inflation- prices rise 39%
    - Black market economy
  - Political- Restore the Republic, Preserve the Empire
    - Many political parties
    - DeGaulle assumes leadership above party
  - Moral-
    - Fewer people killed than WWI, but more civilians
    - "Settling of scores"- 10,000 killed in executions during the Liberation

- French collaboration with the Nazis during occupation
      - “horizontal collaboration” – unpatriotic, threat to bourgeois morals, women bear the disgrace and punishment
      - Official collaboration
        - Vichy government under Pétain
- French feminism- *The Second Sex* by Simone Beauvoir
- Problems for the Fourth Republic (1946-1958)
  - Europe no longer center. Relevancy of France as a world player.
  - Cold War- Two new hostile superpowers. Had Nazism been replaced by a new danger?
  - Preserve the Empire- Assimilation NOT Decolonization
  - Rapid escalation of conflict with the United States
- French government’s “universal” approach YET Refuses Decolonization (Like U.S. advocating democracy in the world while denying the fights of African Americans) **Based on the book *France and Its Empire Since 1870* by Alice Conklin, Sarah Fishman, and Robert Zaretsky and *Year Zero: A History of 1945* by Ian Buruma**
  - Oppressive and deadly treatment of its own people of color
  - Colonial battles for independence
    - Vietnam – 1945-1954
      - Independence movement starts in 1939 led by Ho Chi Minh
      - Ho Chi Minh created Provisional Government in August 1945
      - Ho Chi Minh declared national independence on September 2, 1945 in Hanoi
        - Extremely volatile situation in Saigon. French are attacked, murdered. Thousands of Vietnamese tortured, imprisoned, sentenced to death in retaliation.
      - Order restored by November
        - Ho and Viet Minh control the north
        - Allies reinstate French in southern half
      - November 1946- French bomb Haiphong killing 6,000 civilians, Viet Minh- armed resistance
        - Fought by career military, colonial troops, Foreign Legion
        - Massive French aerial bombings of towns
        - Viet Minh control countryside- guerilla warfare
      - Dien Bien Phu (1954)
        - Viet Minh two-month siege led by General Giap
        - 3,000 French troops killed; 4,000 wounded; 10,000 taken prisoner
        - 20,000-30,000 Viet Minh casualties
      - Geneva Accords- July 20, 1954
        - Two new independent nations: Laos and Cambodia
        - Vietnam divided at 17<sup>th</sup> parallel
        - North- Ho Chi Minh in authority
        - South- Ngo Dinh Diem
        - Elections set for 1956
        - Mass migration of Catholics to the South and Viet Minh to the North
      - 92,000 French troops died 1946-1954
      - 300,000 Vietnamese died in the war
    - Algeria – 1962
      - Sétif, Algeria- May 8, 1945
        - Famine-stricken area (drought and diversion of food for military operations)
        - Celebration of liberation gone bad-
          - Official parade, nationalist flags, anti-colonial slogans- French civilians fire submachine guns into the crowd; 20-40 people killed
        - Next 5 days- 80-100 French settlers massacred, 100 wounded
        - French crackdown:
          - 10,000 troops (Moroccans, West Africans, Foreign Legion *and Algerian* soldiers fresh from France!) to restore order and avenge deaths of French citizens
          - French settlers form militia units
          - Ringleaders rounded up and killed

- Bombing and shelling of Algerian villages-
      - 10,000-15,000 Algerians killed (French military)
      - 30,000-45,000 killed (Algerians)
    - Official silence
  - Failure of Fourth Republic to address Algerian famine, poverty, and nationalism
  - French defeat at Dien Bien Phu led to new group – FLN (National Liberation Front)
  - FLN launched brutal and bloody campaign against settlers and uncommitted Algerians
  - Battle of Algiers (January-October 1957)
    - French win, but enormous costs in morale and public support
    - Torture used against FLN and civilian population- major public debate considering Nazi use of torture during the war
    - Anti-war sentiments grow
  - October 17, 1961- Massive deaths of Arabs in streets of Paris after police chief orders attack on 30,000 marchers. Bodies thrown in the Seine. Historian Jean-Luc Einaudi claims over 200 killed. Government acknowledges two deaths
    - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris\\_massacre\\_of\\_1961](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_massacre_of_1961)
    - <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/oct/17/france-remembers-algerian-massacre>
    - [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/monitoring/media\\_reports/1604970.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/monitoring/media_reports/1604970.stm)
    - <http://www.voxeurop.eu/en/content/article/1066201-long-history-forgotten-massacre>
    - <http://www.france24.com/en/20121017-paris-massacre-algeria-october-17-1961-51-years-anniversary-historian-einaudi>
- African-Americans torn
  - Some Americans return-
    - not willing to support prejudice of other people of African descent- Maya Angelou
    - March on Washington, James Baldwin
  - Many remain
    - Josephine Baker- “J’ai deux amours” (“I have two loves”)
  - African American jazz musicians
    - Use music to prompt integration through collaboration
    - Articulate dissent through performance and interviews

## Existentialism

- Philosophy based in the analysis of human existence
- Emphasized isolated desperate conditions of individual existence and necessity for humans to struggle ceaselessly maybe hopelessly to master their own destiny
- Became increasingly interested in decolonization and third-world struggles
- French intellectuals Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir
  - <http://www.iep.utm.edu/sartre-ex/>
  - <http://www.iep.utm.edu/beauvoir/>
  - “Jazz in America” by Jean-Paul Sartre in *Reading Jazz: A Gathering of Autobiography, Reporting, and Criticism from 1919 to Now* edited by Robert Gottlieb 710-712
- Neighborhood of Saint-Germain-des-Prés the intellectual center
  - Intellectuals move here by end of the war- cheap hotels and plentiful cafés
- Views of America: A Love-Hate Relationship
  - Admire Americans- Liberators, youthful optimism, material prosperity
  - Critical of American use of atomic weapons, view America as the greatest danger to world peace
  - Opposition to racism in U.S. fueled by anti-Americanism of the French Left and association of racism with fascism
  - Yet, Existentialists embrace American culture, particularly African American culture
    - American clothing, haircuts, detective novels, consumer products
    - Existentialists champion jazz and black writers such as Richard Wright and Chester Himes
  - Jazz- the best of America; racism the worst
- Discovered in jazz “a vitality and depth that at times could make the pains and disappointments of the nuclear era seem very far away.”

## Establishing a New African American Community in Paris: “Words by Richard Wright and Music by Sidney Bechet”

- African Americans soldiers play a major role in the liberation of France
  - 700,000 African Americans in the U.S. Army
  - Many African Americans served as laborers
    - D-Day Invasions- port battalions upload war materials from supply ships under enemy fire and bombardment
    - Truck drivers (Red Ball Express) supply U.S. forces August-November 1944
  - Military Operations-
    - 452<sup>nd</sup> Anti-Aircraft Battalion- in Normandy by June 23, 1944
    - 333<sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery Group- in northern France by June 29, 1944, push back Germans
    - 761<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion (Black Panthers)
- Victory: African Americans in Paris
  - Paris- Military center for rest and relaxation, redeployment or transfer back to U.S.
  - African American war correspondents (Chicago Defender and Pittsburgh Courier) report on African Americans in Paris, first to settle in Paris- Edward Toles, Roi Ottley

## Post-War America

- Despite victory against fascism, continued second-class citizenship for African Americans
  - *To Secure These Rights* (1947)
  - Jackie Robinson breaks MLB color barrier with the Brooklyn Dodgers (1947)
  - CORE Freedom Rides (1947)
  - Dixiecrats (1948)
  - Only 10% of eligible southern blacks vote
  - McCarthyism (1950-1954)
  - Brown vs. Board of Education (1954)
  - Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955)
  - Emmett Till Murder (1955)
  - Alabama outlaws NAACP (1956)
  - Little Rock (1957)
  - Sit-ins Greensboro, Nashville, Atlanta (1960)
  - Freedom Rides (1961)
  - Albany Movement (1962)
- African American Writers escape from the U.S.
  - Reasons: American racism, McCarthyism, Post-war Existentialism, cheap hotels
  - Café Culture in Paris- workplaces and social centers, a sense of community
  - Leading Individuals
    - Richard Wright
      - Writer and political activist in Chicago- Communist party member
      - Literature is politics
      - Subject of FBI and government investigations
      - Left U.S. for Paris in 1947 after publication of *Native Son*, internationally acclaimed author
      - Linked American racism with struggle for independence of colonial peoples in Asia and Africa
      - Color line as global phenomenon
      - Center of African American community in Paris
    - James Baldwin
      - Achieved literary stardom after experiencing Paris (Hemingway)
      - Went to Paris to escape bigotry of NYC and find inspiration
      - Experienced alienation and inadequacy in Paris
      - Major rift with Richard Wright after criticizing *Native Son*
      - Wrote *Go Tell It on the Mountain* and *Giovanni's Room* in Paris to national acclaim
      - Returned to U.S. to commit himself to the civil rights struggle in the 1960s
    - Chester Himes
      - Learned to write in prison

- Ohio Writers Project
- Received fellowship from the Julius Rosenwald Foundation in 1944
- *The Lonely Crusade* (1947) won the praise of French Critics
- Loss of family and American racism led to migration to Paris
- Writer of very popular detective stories published in France: *If He Hollers Let Him Go*, *The Five Cornered Square*, *Cotton Comes to Harlem*, *Blind Man with a Pistol*

### Cartoon Analysis Activity (Marcie)

- Cartoonist Oliver Harrington
  - Black Press cartoonist
  - “Bootsie” comic strip in *Chicago Defender* and *Pittsburgh Courier*
  - Used art as a weapon against fascism and racism
  - Left McCarthy-era U.S. in 1951
  - Chose to remain in East Berlin 1961-1991
  - <https://oregonhistoryproject.org/articles/historical-records/bootsie-cartoon/#.WHeJ8pLerV0>
  - <http://www.aacvr-germany.org/index.php/images-7/oliver-harrington>
- GI Bill
  - Benefits used at government approved schools and universities overseas
  - 500 African American veterans pursue studies in Paris
  - Black artists use GI benefits to study art- Herbert Gentry, Romare Bearden, Robert Colescott, Harold Cousins
    - <https://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/interviews/oral-history-interview-herbert-gentry-11493>
    - <http://blackartinamerica.com/profiles/blogs/mary-ann-rose-and-herbert-gentry>
    - [http://www.theartstory.org/artist-bearden-romare-artworks.htm#pnt\\_1](http://www.theartstory.org/artist-bearden-romare-artworks.htm#pnt_1)
    - <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1428038>
    - <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/10/arts/design/10colescott.html>
    - <http://www.ealymaysartworks.com/historical-repository/history-of-african-american-art/harold-cousins>
- Josephine Baker
  - Heroine of the French Resistance (spent war years in North Africa for Free France cause)
  - Returned to France in 1944.
  - Highly acclaimed tour of Europe and U.S. after the war
  - Spoke out against segregation and racism in U.S.
  - Family of Man project
  - [http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/17/travel/josephine-baker-paris-france.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/17/travel/josephine-baker-paris-france.html?_r=0)
- African American Enterprises
  - Tom’s Barbecue became the Blue Note
  - Leroy Haynes- Haynes Restaurant in Montmartre- European soul food restaurant- key establishment
  - Inez Cavanaugh- Chez Inez, restaurant and jazz hang-out in the Latin Quarter

### Jazz on the Left Bank

- An integral part of African American life in post-World War II Paris  
(See French jazz critic Charles Delaunay’s 1940 article in *Downbeat*, “From Somewhere in France” in *Keeping Time: Readings in Jazz History* edited by Robert Walser)
- Jazz embedded in French cultural life
  - Jazz did not disappear during wartime occupation
    - Nazi eradication of American jazz
    - “Frenchification” of jazz
    - Wartime concerts, festivals- French musicians
  - Bebop
    - Complicated melodies
    - Subtle rhythms
    - Complex, abstract
    - A jazz rebellion against swing and commercial big band music

- Urban- centered in Manhattan (52<sup>nd</sup> St.)
  - Hip, new style of jazz
  - Cool, detached pose
  - Dizzy Gillespie and Charlie Parker- the icons of bebop
  - Bebop an element of existentialist culture
  - A “Golden Age” in 1950s
- “The Caves”
  - Basement nightclubs
  - Saint-Germain-Des-Prés clubs- Tabou Club and its imitators
- Role of Boris Vian
  - Creative genius- 10 novels, 7 plays, 42 short stories, 400 songs, 50 articles
  - Affinity for African American culture
  - Black culture a “powerful new way of looking at the world.”
  - “French James Dean”- symbol of postwar rebellious youth
  - Loved jazz (Duke Ellington inspired), trumpet player, festival organizer, guidebook
  - “It is annoying for the Americans to owe to blacks the only contribution that the Unitedstatesians have been able to make to our old Europe.” (1953)
- Reasons for the French Post-World War II Jazz Revival
  - Hot Club of France existed during the war
  - *Hot Discography*- complete guide to jazz recordings (1946)
  - Radio- Sim Copan’s “Panorama of American Jazz”
  - French musicians- Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli, Claude Luter
  - American musicians return- Don Redman, Don Byas, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington
- Two Key Events- Black Jazz is Back!
  - Dizzy Gillespie Concert at the Pleyel Theater on February 21, 1948
    - 1948 Gillespie tour of Europe introduced the continent to bebop- HUGE!
    - Cuban and Latin rhythms of the Caribbean influence his music
    - “With Dizzy Gillespie, be-bop, latest stage of jazz music, has conquered Paris.” Boris Vian
    - Bebop became the music of Saint-Germaine-Des-Prés
    - Created schism in the Hot Club of France between boppers and traditionalists
    - Charles Delaunay (bebop) vs. Hugues Panassié (New Orleans style)
  - International Paris Jazz Festival, May 8-15, 1949
    - Organized by Charles Delaunay
    - Two stars- Sidney Bechet and Charlie Parker
    - American musicians including Kenny Clarke and Miles Davis
    - French and European Musicians
    - Concerts, jam sessions, large crowds
  - Impacts
    - Introduced the French to bebop
    - Introduced African American musicians to employment opportunities
    - Some Americans will stay- Sidney Bechet and Kenny Clarke
    - Performed jazz to express the condition of life.
    - Jazz as a tool to survive and create new opportunities
      - Post-war jazz scene- rowdy, joyful, interracial, international
      - African American migration to Paris-
        - Escape racial inequality in U.S.
        - Possibility of interracial interactions and collaborations
        - Job opportunities
- Sidney Bechet
  - Amazing Bechet images! <http://www.gettyimages.com/search/more-like-this/90431613?excludenudity=true&family=editorial&mediatype=photography&sort=mostpopular>
  - “Bechet and Jazz Visit Europe, 1919 by Ernst-Alexandre Ansermet in *Reading Jazz: A Gathering of Autobiography, Reporting, and Criticism from 1919 to Now* edited by Robert Gottlieb pp. 741-746
  - “The King of Jazz” in Paris

- Celebrated international jazz performer
- Premier jazz soprano saxophonist
- New Orleans-based, Revue Nègre to Paris in 1925, Montmartre regular performer, member of Noble Sissle's big band, NY based during war
- Returned to France in 1949
- Enthusiastic welcome leads to residence in France by October 1949
- Collaborator: The Duality of Sidney Bechet
  - French last name, Creole heritage, learned French
  - Played at Vieux Colombier with Claude Luter until death in 1959
  - Recorded *Les Oignons* and other important French recordings with Luter
  - Believed in French jazz
  - Worked with younger French musicians
  - Learned from the French, incorporated into his music
  - Welcomed American musicians to Paris
  - Based in New Orleans jazz, but his style evolved
  - A traditionalist who appreciated bop for the way it brought a new audience to jazz
  - Managed by Delaunay, Bechet became a bridge between traditionalists and beboppers
  - "It's the music and it's the people that made what I've got to say in this world worthwhile."
- Kenny Clarke
  - One of the best drummers in jazz
  - Pittsburgh-born, 1914
  - Moved to NYC, 1936
  - Met Dizzy Gillespie at Savoy Ballroom
  - Jammed with Gillespie, Monk, Coleman Hawkins, and Lester Young
  - Rapid-fire style of drumming
  - After service in WWII- joined Gillespie's band and toured with him in 1948
  - Formed Modern Jazz Quartet with John Lewis, Percy Heath and Milt Jackson
  - Migration to France
    - Disgusted with white control of black music in U.S.
    - Post-war racism
    - Invited to Paris by composer Michel Legrand
  - "A Free Man in Paris"
    - Bandleader, performed at concerts and jazz festivals, recorded and played music for French TV shows and movies
    - Freedom to work and develop on his terms
- Miles Davis
  - Visited much, but did not settle in Paris
  - 1949 Jazz Festival performer
  - Met with Sartre and Picasso
  - Positive professional and personal experiences in Paris, but chose reluctantly to remain in the U.S.
  - Played at Club Saint-Germain with Kenny Clarke and Pierre Michelot
  - Wrote musical score for the film, *L'Ascenseur pour l'Echafau*

#### Two Types of Jazz Diaspora (Rashida Braggs in *Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music and Migration in Post-World War II Paris*)

- Those who thrive and shape individual identities through musical collaboration outside of their homeland
  - Sidney Bechet
  - Inez Cavanaugh
- The music travels and through its interactions alters who performs, represents and claims the music.
  - Frenchmen Claude Luter and René Urtreger with African American musicians
  - Kenny Clarke as connector of jazz as "black" and "universal" music

#### Transnational and Interracial Nature of Jazz after World War II (Rashida Braggs in *Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music, and Migration in Post-World War II Paris*)

- First originated and primarily developed by African Americans

- Cultural interrelationships
- Like jazz's melding of African, Caribbean and European elements
- An expanded notion of black, American, and jazz cultures connected to Americans of African descent and America
- Post-World War II
  - A refashioning of jazz's identity (French and universal)
  - Refashioning of musicians' identities (global citizens, transnational negotiators, exiled rather than American)
- Music of the "black Atlantic"- a music hybrid and evolving!
- Jazz musicians as case studies
  - Collaborations and relationships forged with non-African Americans
  - How the bonds affected the musicians *and* jazz
  - African Americans and their interracial and international interactions
- Jazz and Jazz people are inherently transnational
  - James Baldwin (Michelle Wright)
  - African American intellectuals in Europe- William Wells Brown, Du Bois, global consciousness
- **Paris a recurring hot spot- site of debate, formation and articulation of transnational black consciousness**
  - Intellectual meeting place
  - French leaders, writers, artists of African Descent would meet and dialogue
  - Black solidarity- campaigns, propaganda, literary initiatives
  - Pan-Africanism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century
  - African literary journals- interwar period
  - International Congress for Black Writers and Artists in 1956

### Listening Activity: Gypsy Jazz to Bop (Rodney)

Sidney Bechet- influences on French Jazz

[http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist\\_id\\_bechet\\_sidney.htm](http://www.pbs.org/jazz/biography/artist_id_bechet_sidney.htm)

Django Reinhart (1910-1954)

Bio

- Born in Belgium
- Gypsy
- Caravan fire severely burned his fretting hand when he was 18
- Success at the Hot Club before the war
- Survived WWII- German Luftwaffe officer admired his music
- Worked with Duke Ellington

Contributions

- First European artist to influence American musicians
- Melodic improvisation

Characteristics of Gypsy Jazz

- Primarily string oriented, guitar and violin, no drums
- Utilizing a swing 4/4 feel
- Sometimes an accordion used instead of a piano
- Ensemble performs many waltzes, European standards and typical Gypsy standards
- Highly influenced by New Orleans Jazz and Sidney Bechet

Musical Selections

- "Tiger Rag" (1934)
- "Nuages" (1940)

Resources

"The Fabulous Gypsy" by Gilbert S. McKean in *Reading Jazz: A Gathering of Autobiography, Reporting, and Criticism from 1919 to Now* edited by Robert Gottlieb pp.537-544

Pierre Michelot

Characteristics of Bebop Jazz

- Fast Tempos



- Complex Chord Progressions
- Complex Melodies
- Instrumental Virtuosity

#### Musical Selections

- “Half Nelson”
- “Una Noche Con Francis”

#### Resources

“The Unreal Jazz” by Hugues Panassié in *Reading Jazz: A Gathering of Autobiography, Reporting, and Criticism from 1919 to Now* edited by Robert Gottlieb pp. 792-797

### Literature of the City- Pam Baack (website only)

#### High School

- “Letter to My Nephew” James Baldwin
- “Between the World and Me” Richard Wright

#### Elementary/Jr. High

- The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker
- Travels with Louis

### Music Review Explanatory Essay- Rachel Collay

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

### Non-Fiction Resources- History

- \**Paris Noir: African Americans in the City of Light* by Tyler Stovall
- \**Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music and Migration in Post-World War II Paris* by Rashida K. Bragg
- \**France and Its Empire Since 1870* by Alice L. Conklin, Sarah Fishman, Robert Zaretsky
- *Year Zero: A History of 1945* by Ian Burma

### Non-Fiction Resources- Social Issues

- *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin
- *The Fire This Time: A New Generation Speaks About Race* edited by Jesmyn Ward
- Reviewed by the *New York Times* in “Books of the Times”
- [https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/17/books/review-the-fire-this-time-stoked-by-baldwins-legacy.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/17/books/review-the-fire-this-time-stoked-by-baldwins-legacy.html?_r=0)
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2015 National Book Award Winner)
- Reviewed by Michelle Alexander in the *New York Times* “Sunday Book Review”
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/17/books/review/ta-nehisi-coates-between-the-world-and-me.html>

### Non-Fiction Resources- Music

- *Django: The Lie and Music of a Gypsy Legend* by Michael Dregni
- *How to Listen to Jazz* by Ted Gioia

### Young Readers

- *Little Melba and Her Big Trombone* by Katheryn Russell-Brown (Melba Lister biography 4.7 grade level)
- *Before John Was a Jazz Giant: A Song of John Coltrane* by Carole Boston Weatherford (2.3 grade level)
- *Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker* by Patricia Hruby Powell, Christian Robinson (6-12)

### Young Adult Fiction

- *Travels with Louis* by Mick Carlon

### Movies

• *Round Midnight!* Dexter Gordon as a brilliant African American musician in Paris in the 1950s. Academy Award winning score by Herbie Hancock. French jazz fan saves a sax legend from alcoholism, allowing the legend to create and record more original compositions in Paris. Cameo performances by Martin Scorsese and Wynton Marsalis. Beautiful music. Dexter Gordon in an authentic portrayal of an aging jazz genius based on the life of Bud Powell from the memoir *Dance of the Infidels* by Francis Paudras. Enjoy! Rated-R (1986)

### *Days of Glory (Indigènes)*

The story of the North African and Black African (indigenous colonial) troops that liberated France and marched into Germany. Discrimination, second-class treatment, yet courage under fire. Algerian nominee for the Academy Award's best foreign language film. Special ensemble acting award presented at the Cannes Film Festival. Rated-R (2007)

*New York Times* "Critics' Pick"- "Yes, Soldiers of France, in All but Name"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/12/06/movies/06glor.html>

### **African American Writers in Paris**

Richard Wright

*Native Son*

*Black Boy*

*The Outsider*

*The Long Dream*

*White Man, Listen!*

*Black Power*

James Baldwin

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*Giovanni's Room*

Chester Himes

*The Lonely Crusade*

*The Five Cornered Square*

*Cotton Comes to Harlem*

*Blind Man with a Pistol*

*The Quality of Hurt: The Early Years, the Autobiography of Chester Himes*

*My Life of Absurdity: The Autobiography of Chester Himes*

William Gardner Smith

*The Stone Face*- African American journalist's novel set during the October 1961 massacre of Arabs in Paris (published in U.S. NOT France) one of few writings on the event available!

### **Boris Vian**

<http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/whimsy-war-boris-vian-two-minds>

### **World War II Fiction**

*Half Blood Blues* by Esi Edugyan

*The Paris Architect* by Charles Belfoure

*All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr

*The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

*The Street Sweeper* by Elliott Perlman

### **Recommended Recordings**

Django Reinhardt- *Django Reinhardt, 1944-1946, Classics*

Django Reinhardt and the Quintet of the Hot Club of France (with Stephane Grappelli)- *Djangology 49* (1949)

