

Darius & Twig

Walter Dean Myers

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After Darius' father left, his family was having financial struggles. Darius is a smart black teen, but he had to start spending his time taking care of his brother and helping his mom, which made his grades drop. Darius needs to get a scholarship because his family is financially struggling, and he wants to get away from Harlem. To escape from his daily struggles Darius dreams of being a peregrine falcon and preying on other animals. Meanwhile Darius' best friend Twig is an athletic and talented runner, whose uncle wants him to give up running to work with him and take over his job when he dies. Twig wants to prove to his uncle that running was worthwhile and Darius helps him do that. All the characters show amazing development throughout the story, and almost everything in the story is a learning experience for the main characters.

Walter Dean Myers' book Darius & Twig was a book about development and the friendship between the main characters, Darius and Twig. This book portrayed the difficulties of a financially struggling young black teen in Harlem. Walter Dean Myers tried to make this book as realistic as possible and it shows, this realistic fiction book is mostly realistic with a few improbably scenarios. The main character accepts the reality that he may not be able to get a scholarship, but he still tries his best and does what he can.

I would personally place this book in the Young Adults (YA) section because it has scenes where people get shot and they spend a decent amount of time talking about how the main character doesn't want to get into the drug business but how he may have no choice, and he is petrified about the thought of becoming like one of the people who stand on the streets of his neighborhood and making deliveries. There is also bullying and scenes where characters fight and in one scene the bully punched an old lady. I think this book would have a good affect on teens because they would see how the main characters worked to achieve their dream and see how rewarding hard work can be.

Recommended Titles:

Dear Martin by Nick Stone

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

We Were Liars by E. Lockheart