

Featured Author

Walter Dean Myers

Walter Dean Myers was born in West Virginia and moved to Harlem with foster parents after his mother died when he was 2 years old.

Mr. Myers has published dozens of award winning books for children and young adults.

He often collaborates with his son, Christopher Myers, a respected illustrator.



Walter Dean Myers' awards include:

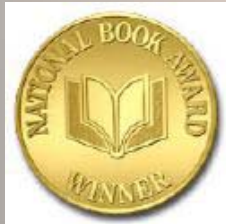


2 Newbery Honor Books



5 Coretta Scott King Awards

4 Coretta Scott King Honor Book Awards



2 National Book Awards



Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence
in Young Adult Literature in 2000

“As a child my life centered around the neighborhood and the church.

The neighborhood protected me and the church guided me.

I resisted as much as I could.”



Walter at 11

“Anyway.... I wrote well in high school and a teacher (bless her!) recognized this and also knew I was going to drop out.

She advised me to keep on writing no matter what happened to me.”

“ ‘It's what you do,’ she said.”



Walter and his brother.

“I didn't know exactly what that meant but,
years later,
working on a construction job in New York,”

“I remembered her words.”



“I began writing at night and eventually began writing about the most difficult period of my own life, the teen years.”

“That's what I do.”

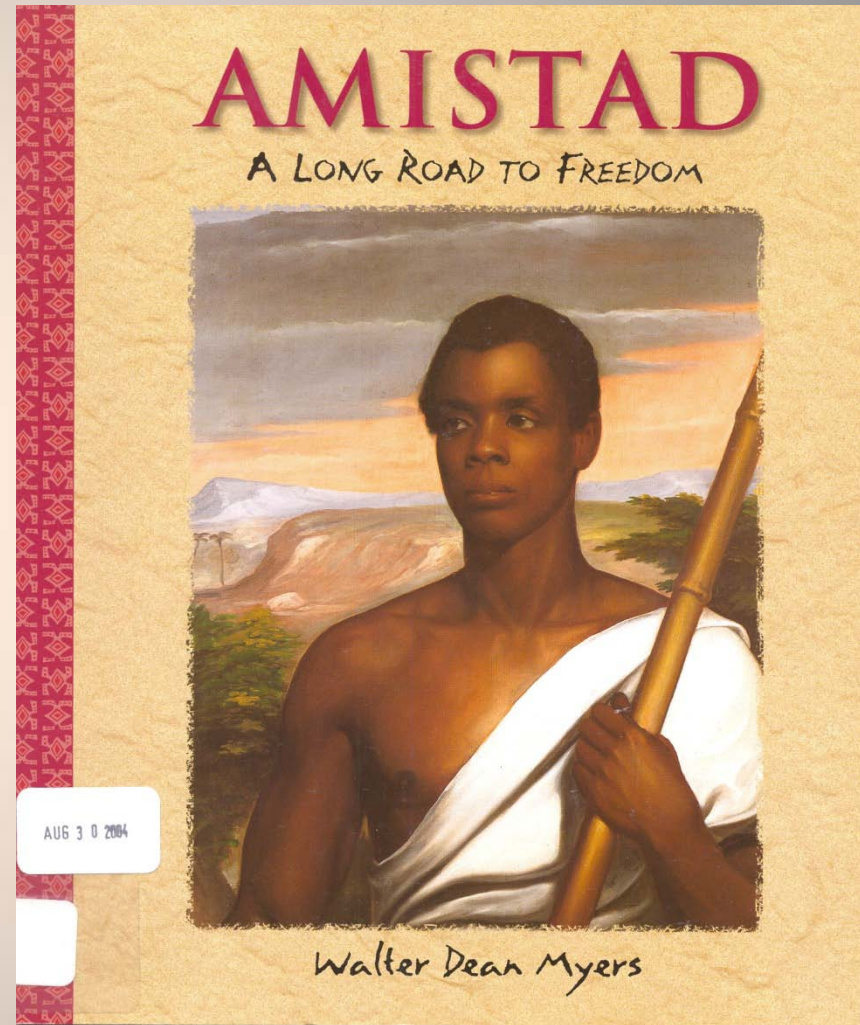
-Walter Dean Myers



He has written over 100 books.

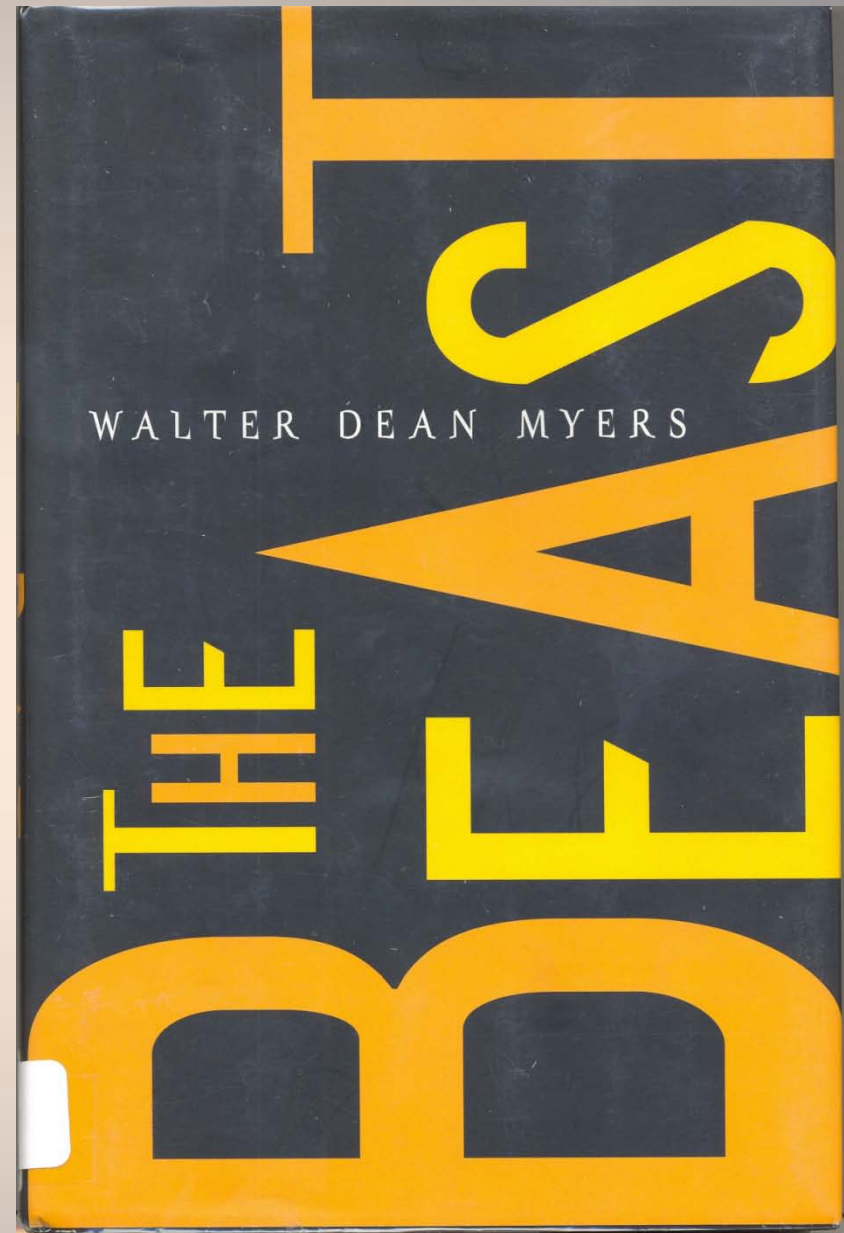
Amistad : A Long Road to Freedom

- *Traces the 1839 revolt of Africans against their Spanish captors aboard the slave ship Amistad, their landing in the United States and arrest for piracy and murder, and trials which ended in their acquittal by the Supreme Court.*



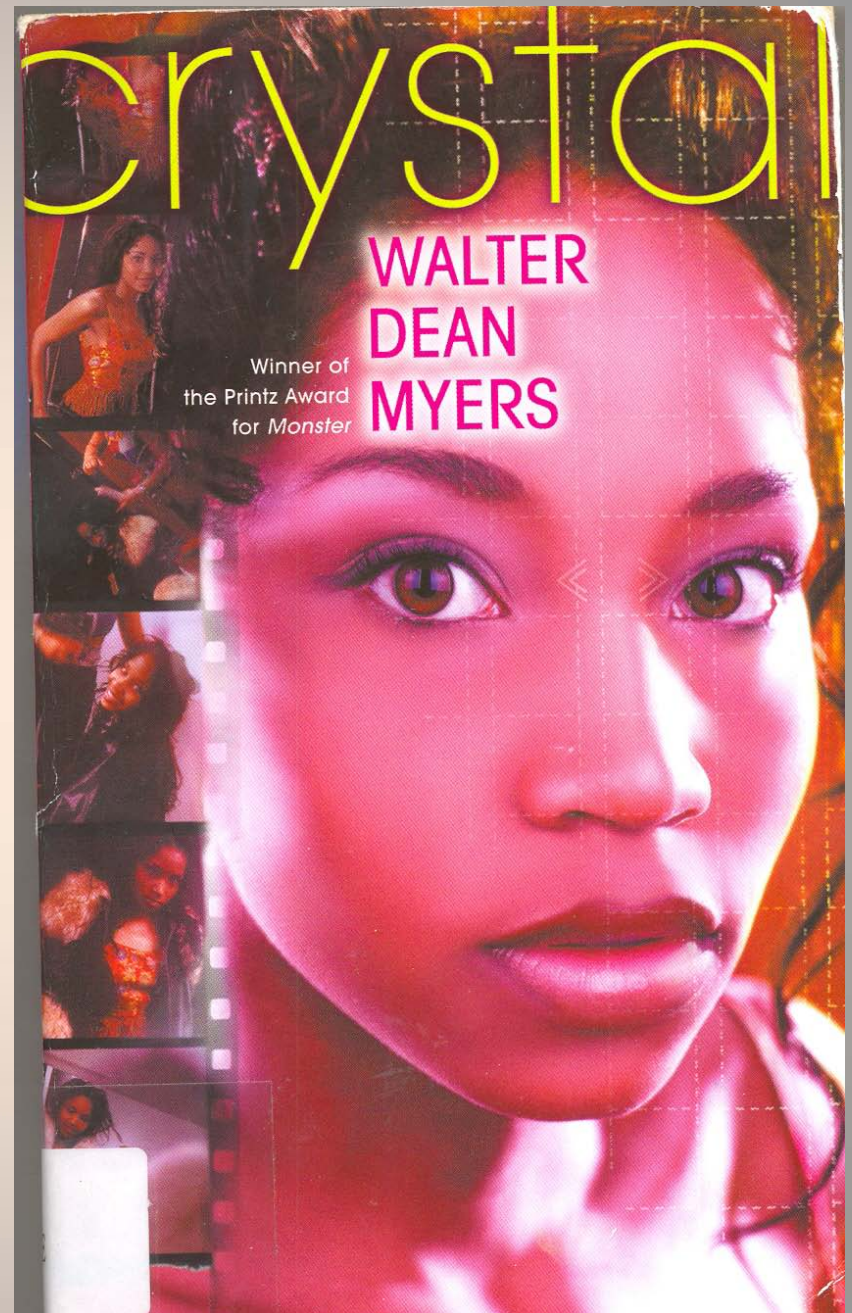
The Beast

• *A visit to his Harlem neighborhood and the discovery that the girl he loves is using drugs, give sixteen-year-old Anthony Witherspoon a new perspective both on his home and on his life at a Connecticut prep school.*



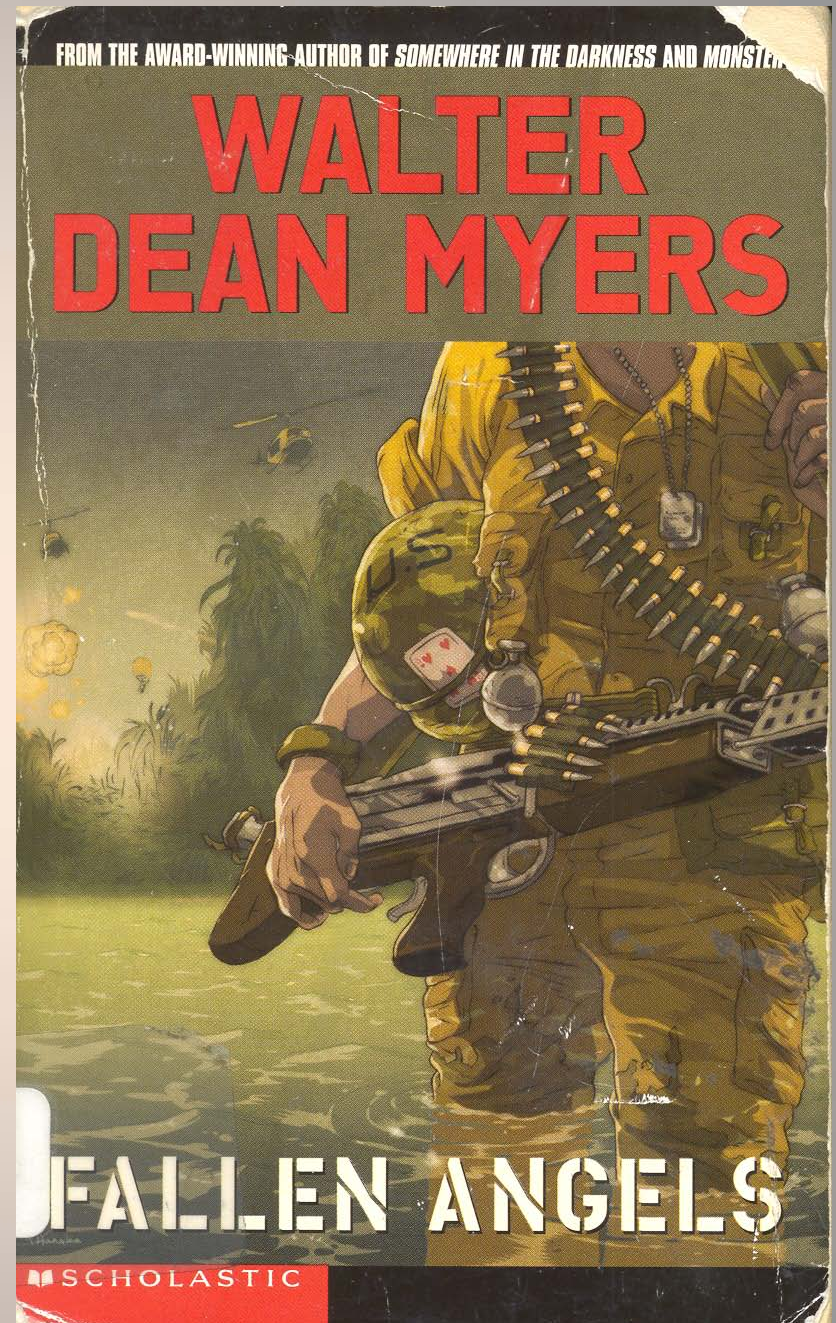
Crystal

- *Fifteen-year-old Crystal has difficulty trying to reconcile her personal and school life with her career as a high-fashion model*



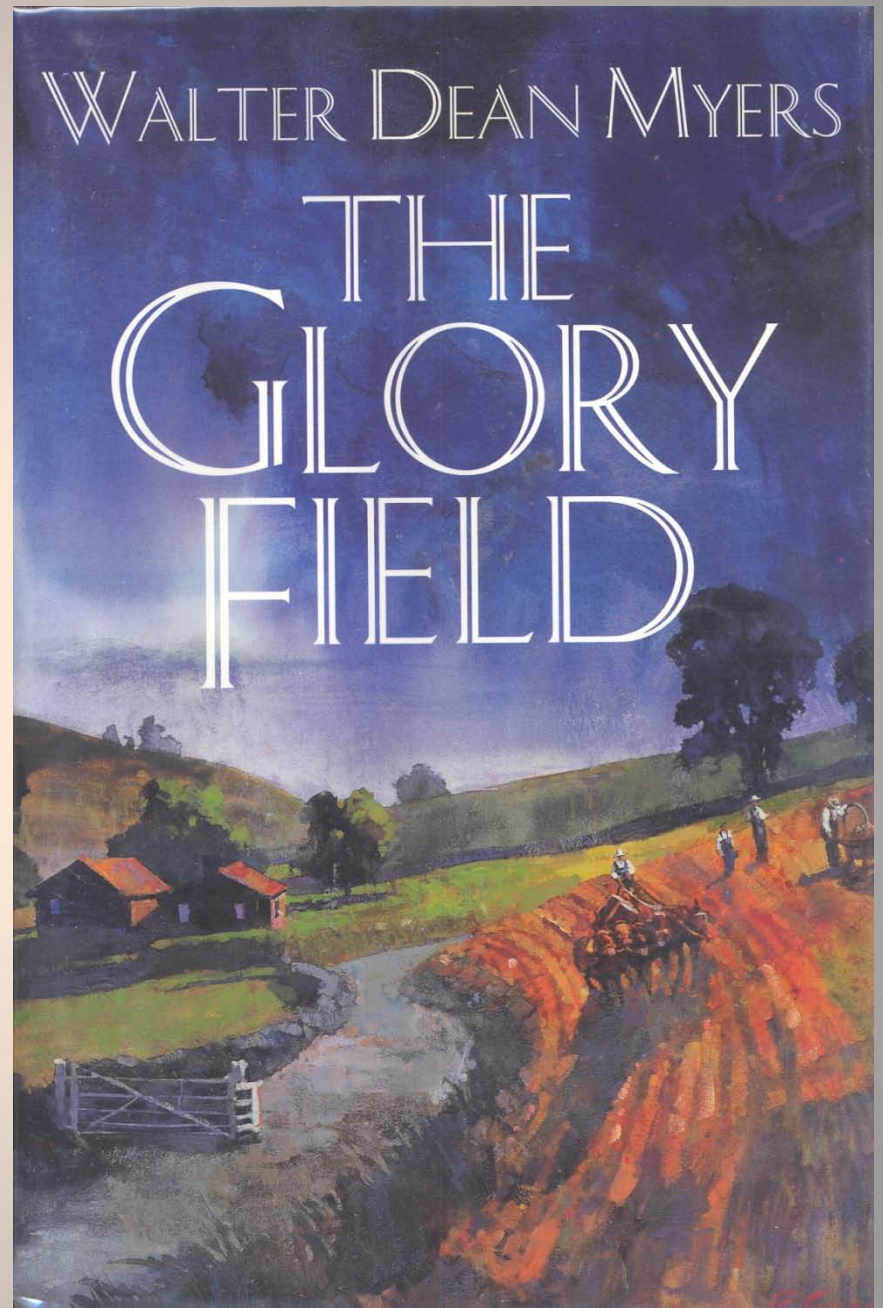
Fallen Angels

- *Coretta Scott King Award*
- *Seventeen-year-old Richie Perry, just out of his Harlem high school, enlists in the Army and spends a year on active duty in Vietnam.*



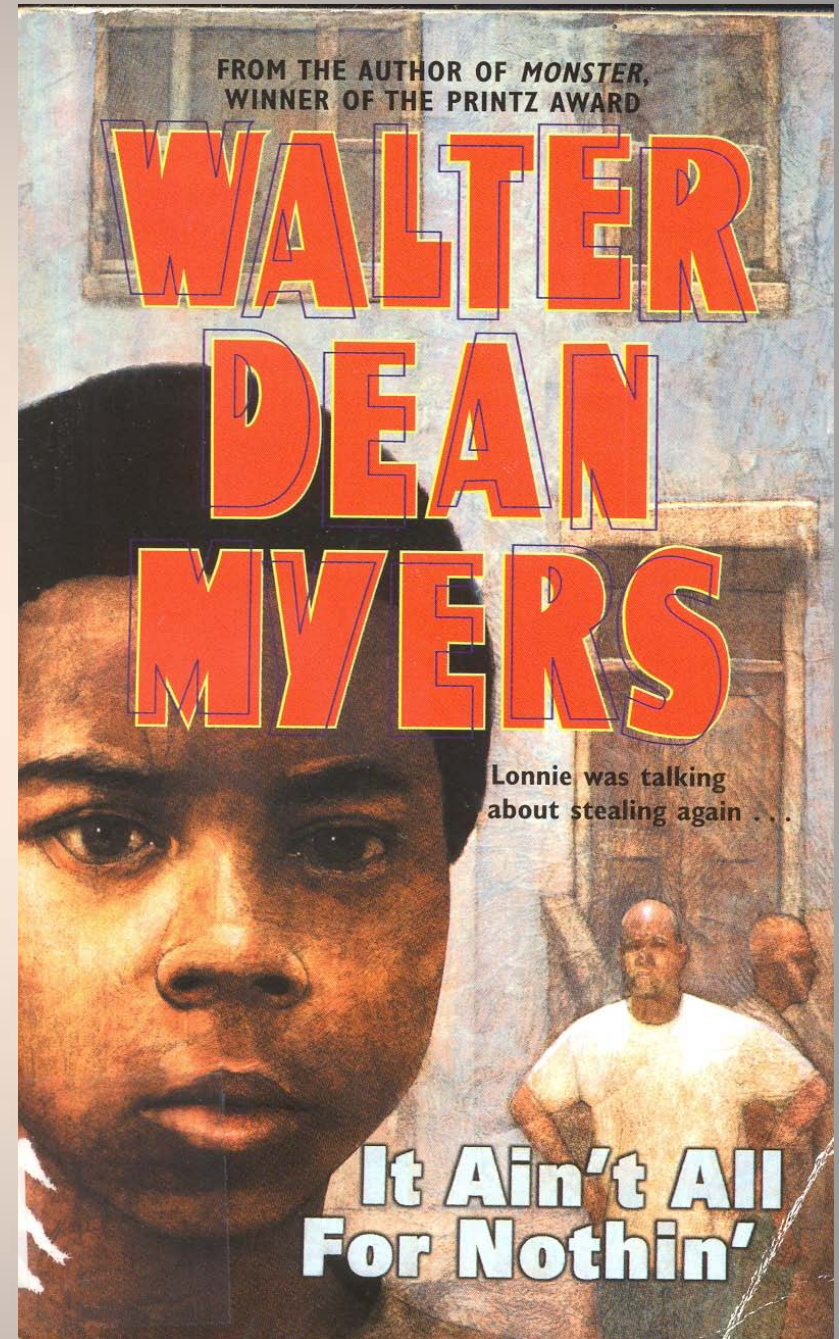
Glory Field

- *Follows a family's two hundred forty-one year history, from the capture of an African boy in the 1750s through the lives of his descendants, as their dreams and circumstances lead them away from and back to the small plot of land in South Carolina that they call the Glory Field.*



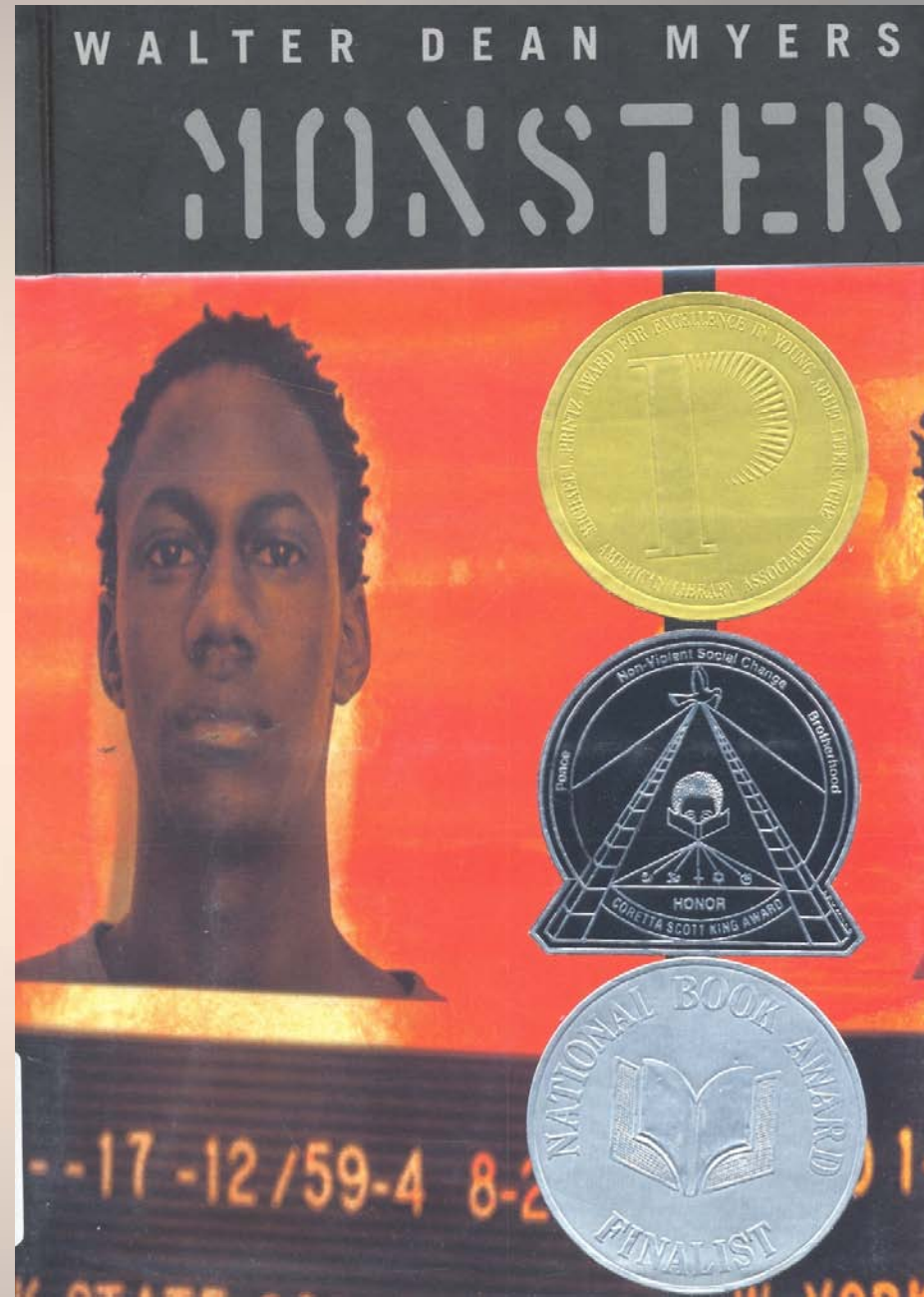
It Ain't All for Nothin'

- *A young black boy must decide whether to go along with his father, who is a thief, or reject his father's way of life and risk losing him.*



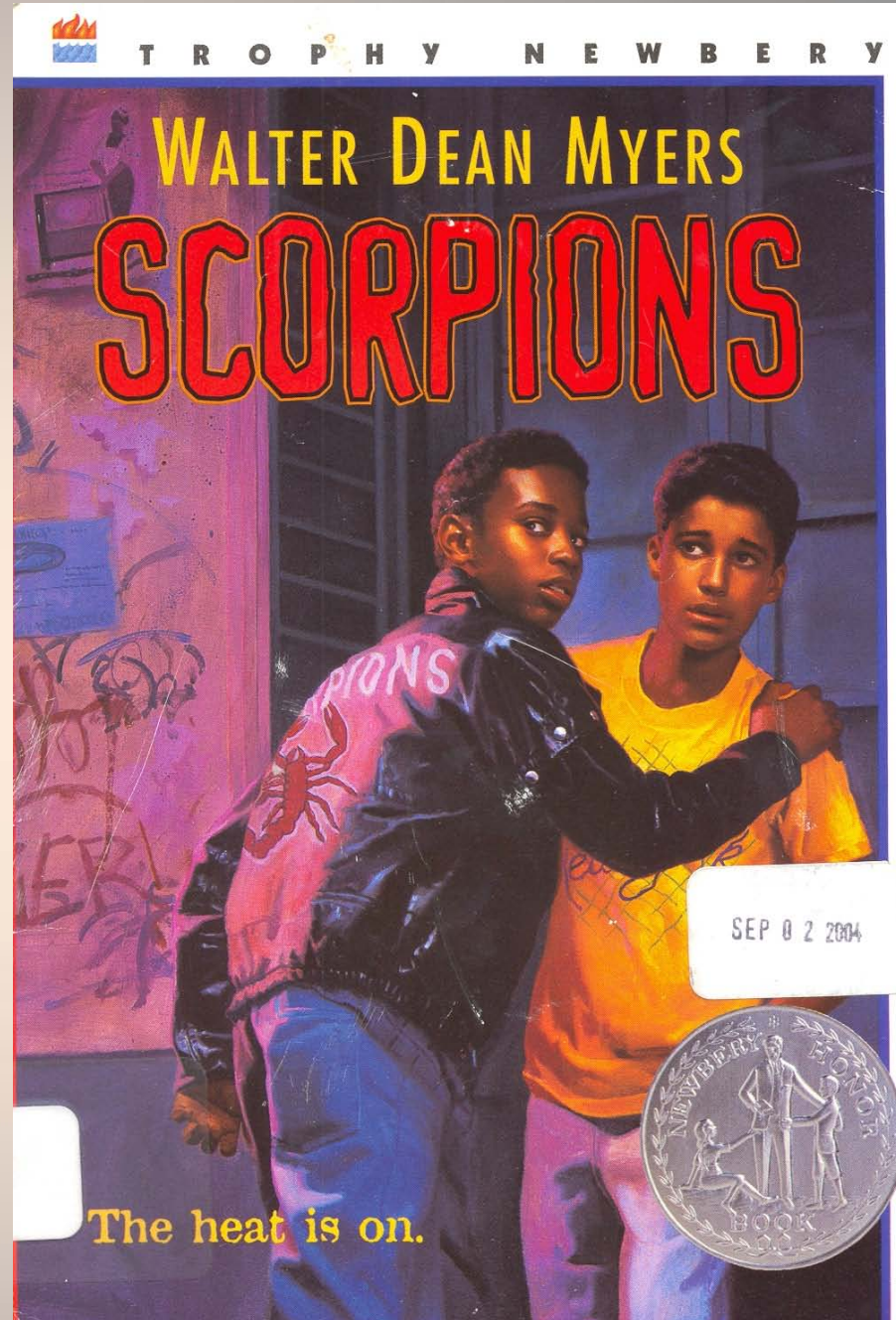
Monster

- *1999 National Book Award Finalist*
- *1999 Coretta Scott King Honor*
- *2000 Michael L. Printz Award*
- *While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-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.*



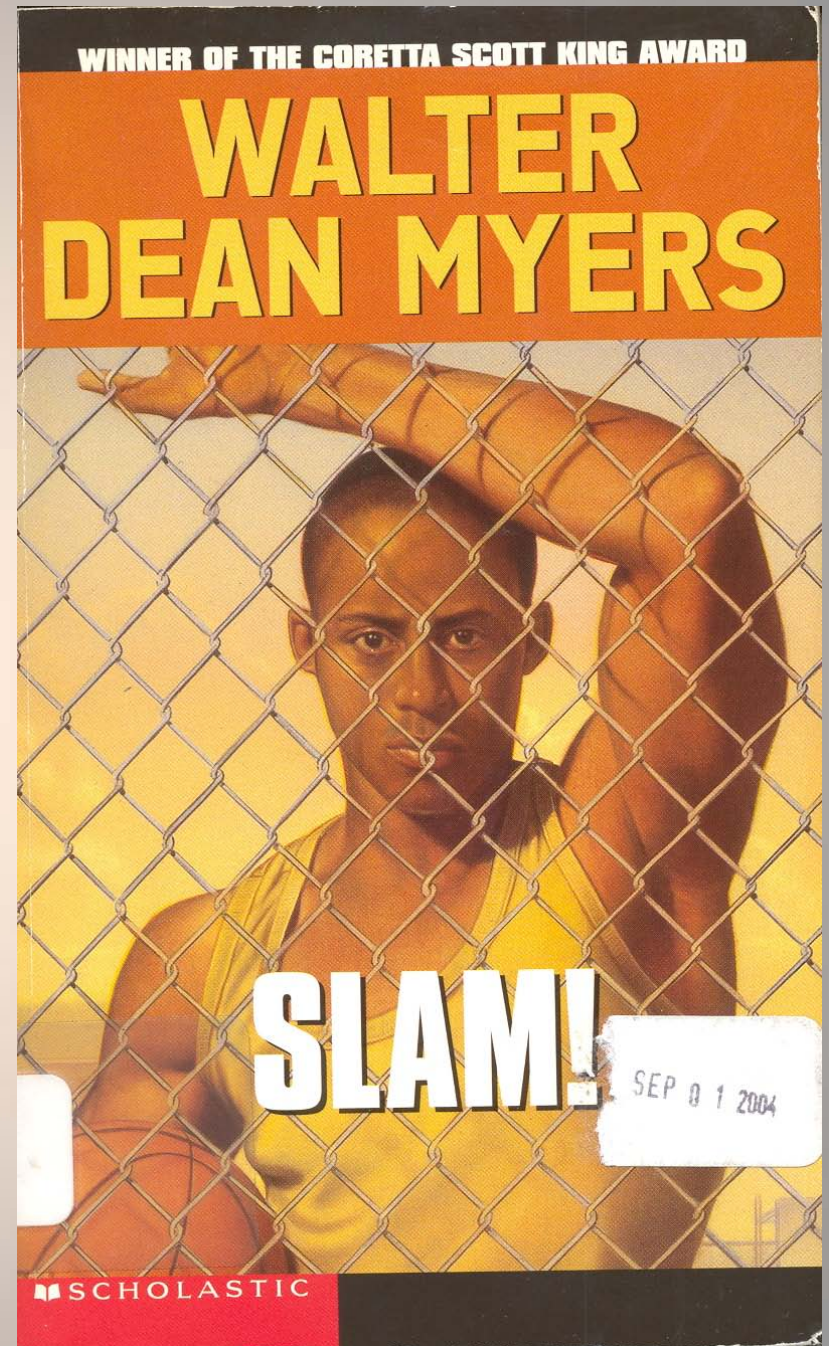
Scorpions

- *1989 Newbery Honor Book*
- *After reluctantly taking on the leadership of the Harlem gang, the Scorpions, Jamal finds that his enemies treat him with respect when he acquires a gun until a tragedy occurs.*



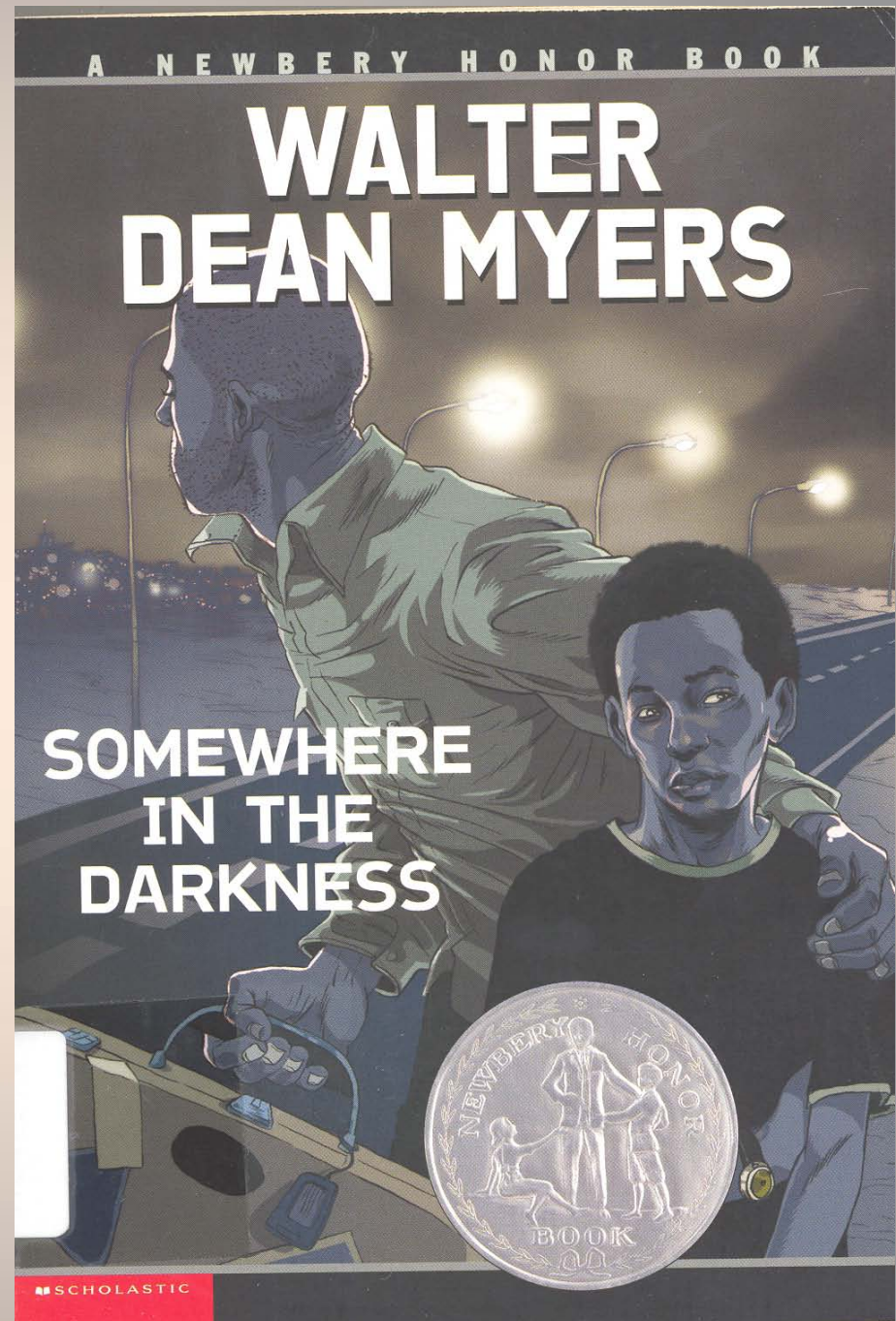
Slam!

- *Coretta Scott King*
- *ALA Best Book for Young Adults*
- *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.*



Somewhere in the Darkness

- *Newbery Honor Book*
- *A teenage boy accompanies his father, who has recently escaped from prison, on a trip that turns out to be a time of, often painful, discovery for them both.*



Street Love

• *This story told in free verse is set against a background of street gangs and poverty in Harlem in which seventeen-year-old African American Damien takes a bold step to ensure that he and his new love will not be separated.*



Walter Dean Myers website:

<http://www.walterdeanmyers.net>