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| **The Treasure of Lemon Brown**  Data: times viewed761|times printed0|times sent to friend7 |
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| The Treasure of Lemon Brown by Walter Dean Myers    http://t2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRfLYNKlpSxn1whUML0kJIME1CQ9IKFocrO4cHFd198U3vV72TN    Walter Dean Myers  - is a writer of children's and young adult literature .He was born in 1937 in West Virginia. His mother died while giving  birth to his brother . Walter was  raised by his foster  parents  Herbert who was African American and his wife Florence who was German and native American. They both loved him very much. He spent most of his childhood and young adult life in Harlem. Suffering with a speech impediment, he cultivated a habit of writing poetry and short stories and acquired an early love of reading.  Walter describes his childhood :" As a child my life centered around the neighborhood and the church. The neighborhood protected me and the church guided me. I was smart but didn't do well in school. I dropped out of high school and joined the army on my 17th birthday. ….I wrote well in high school and the teacher recognized this and advised me to keep on writing no matter what happened to me. 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".    Main characters  Lemon Brown- a poor, homeless  old African American. He lives alone since his wife is dead and his son was killed in the war. Lemon once sang the Blues until he did so well that he couldn't sing about how bad things were. He lives in an abandoned apartment in the ghetto.  Greg Ridley- a teenager who loves playing basketball. He lives in the ghetto. He doesn't do well in school and his father is very concerned about it. He steps into the deserted apartment to escape the rain.  Setting  **Place**:The story takes place in a tenement, an old abandoned rundown apartment in Harlem ghetto.  **Time**: On a dark, cold and rainy evening.  Plot and Message  The story starts off on Greg's porch thinking about what happened two days before. He recalled his father scolding him about his bad grades in school. He complained that Greg was not reaching his full potential and that when he was one year younger that Greg, he had to quit school to work full time. Greg went away into the streets and saw an abandoned building open. He went inside because of the sudden rain and met Lemon Brown.Some thugs tried to steal Lemon's treasure but he'd rather die.Greg and Lemon were able to avoid the thugs  when Greg made a frightening noise - like a howl.  The thugs got scared and ran out of the building. Lemon told Greg about his treasure. It was a harmonica, that Lemon used to play when he was a famous Blues singer, and a couple of old newspaper clippings about his past success. Lemon gave these to his son, as a legacy, when he went to war, but after his son was killed, Lemon got them back. Greg then realized how important the "treasure" was to Lemon. Through Lemon Brown's tragic story, Greg understood how important family was and that, in fact,  his father wanted only the best for him. He said good bye to Lemon Brown and returned home, smiling and relieved. This is Gre's lesson and the message of the story.    Theme  Everybody has a treasure. A man's treasure may not seem much to somebody else but it is still worth a lot to him. |

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