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[Title]: [Subtitle]

James Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues" is a heart wrenching story of two brothers that grew up in Harlem, New York. As we look at the story, we can see that it is obvious that both brothers took two completely paths in life, one who became an algebra teacher and the other who chose the life of drugs and crime. There are many symbolisms in the story that speak to the human heart, especially for those in an urban community. We see things like poverty, Family drama, hurts and a amazing redemption story. Baldwin's story takes place in Harlem in the 1950s and centers itself around African American lifestyle and the tribulations that they may face. In this paper, I will be exploring the relationships between the two brothers, how the course of life affected their lives and also the redemption story that is so prevalent in their lives, and how it relates to the African American culture.

When we look at the opening of the story, the narrator it's on the train and reading the paper on his way to work and he sees an article on a heroin bust and it is his brother that got arrested. The narrator could not believe what is going on because this is his baby brother and spends the whole day thinking about his brother. To better understand how they took to separate courses on life we must first understand their childhood. They grew up in the ghetto with a father and mother In a poverty stricken neighborhood. The father was a loving father, but he was a drunk and was verbally abusive to sonny. Sonny hanged around the wrong group of kids and got

in to trouble and that was the beginning of his problems. The narrator went to the army and got married.



Works Cited

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