Jacob Lawrence was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1917. He grew up in Pennsylvania and moved to New York City after his parents split up in 1924. Lawrence was thirteen when his family moved to New York City. Jacob Lawrence's exuberant artwork guides readers through a bustling city, complete with builders rat-a-tatting and children playing in the streets. This busy city is full of life and activity, and the narrative follows Lawrence's journey from his childhood in Atlantic City to his famous work in Harlem at the height of the Great Migration.

One of the most widely acclaimed African American artists of the 20th century, Jacob Lawrence was inspired to paint the everyday life he saw around him as well as to tell epic stories of American history. His Migration Series, a set of 60 paintings, chronicles the Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North. Through his artwork, Lawrence aimed to demonstrate the importance of African American history and heritage.

Lawrence's work reflects his commitment to depicting the resilience and strength of African American communities. His paintings often feature scenes of daily life, such as farmers working in the fields or families gathered in their homes. He was known for his vivid colors and dynamic compositions, which brought the stories of African American history to life.

Lawrence's influence extends beyond his lifetime. His work continues to inspire artists and educators, and his Migration Series remains one of the most significant expressions of African American history. His legacy reminds us of the importance of storytelling and the power of art in shaping our understanding of the past and present.

Jacob Lawrence's art has had a profound impact on American culture and continues to inspire new generations of artists and scholars. His work serves as a testament to the enduring struggles and triumphs of African American communities, and it challenges us to remember the past while envisioning a more just future.