

The effect music has on people can be for the better, especially if someone wants to express their true selves through it or if they need an escape from something harmful. There are popular types of music from the 1950s; there’s one that helped someone get away from a powerful addiction. In the short story “Sonny’s Blues” by James Baldwin is about the narrator’s brother escape from reality. Born and raised in Harlem, African American boys weren’t seen as useful or can achieve something high, so most of them end up doing drugs as a sort of comfort. But for Sonny it’s something more, he lost his family and all he has left is his brother, who doesn’t support the fact that he’s into music. To escape his drug addiction, he signs up to join the army, he comes back and goes to jail for doing heroin. When Sonny is released, he turns to music and starts to express what he thought he couldn’t do with words through melodies. He invites his brother to one of his concerts with a few friends that are from the band with him. Through Sonny’s music, his brother understands him, felt what Sonny was feeling. Music saved Sonny’s life, as it may do for others.