

Mr. Roets – American Lit.

Harlem Renaissance Poetry – Langston Hughes

For the equivalent of an “essay” grade, you will deliver an oral explication of a Langston Hughes poem written during the decade of 1921-1931. Everyone must choose a different poem – **no repeats**.

Expectations:

- 1) Poem will be read aloud to class.
- 2) An initial understanding of the poem will be explained (what were your first thoughts? Why did you choose this poem?)
- 3) A deeper understanding of the poem will be explained, including:
 - a) biographical context of the poem
 - b) historical context of the poem
 - c) a connotative exploration of word choice and how meaning is constructed
 - d) an examination of syntax and grammar and how they influence meaning
 - e) a judgment – Good poem? Bad poem? Doggerel? Philosophical? Memorable? Valuable? Instructive?

Total presentation must be **no more than 10 minutes** long. It can be shorter as long as expectations are met. No notes need be turned in – this is an oral presentation. No “rewrites” possible.

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Write a one page response to any ONE of the poems covered by your classmates. Double space or space and a half..

Expectations:

- 1) An initial understanding of the poem will be explained (what were your first thoughts? Why did you choose this poem?)
- 2) A deeper understanding of the poem will be explained, including:
 - a) a connotative exploration of word choice and how meaning is constructed
 - b) compare/contrast with your classmate’s reading
 - c) an examination of syntax and grammar and how they influence meaning
 - d) a judgment – Good poem? Bad poem? Doggerel? Philosophical? Memorable? Valuable? Instructive?