

Name:

Class:

Langston Hughes

Part 1: Use the following website to answer the questions below about author Langston Hughes.

<https://www.biography.com/writer/langston-hughes>

1. Where is Langston Hughes from? What year was he born?

2. Who raised Hughes until he was thirteen?

3. Name at least one writer that influenced Hughes.

4. Hughes became a major part of what cultural, social, and artistic movement in the 1920s?

5. What types of topics would Hughes write about?

6. Name at least three titles of his most famous work.

**Part 2: Read the song/poem “Mother to Son” (1922) by Langston Hughes.
Answer the following questions after reading.**

1. What does the speaker mean that life has been no “crystal stair”? Why use the metaphor of a “*crystal stair*”?

2. What is the tone of this poem?

3. What is the speaker referring to when she mentions “boards,” “splinters,” and “tacks”?

4. Considering Hughes’ personal background and historical context, what hardships can you infer the speaker is warning her son about?

5. What is an example of anaphora from the poem? What is its impact?

6. What is an example of dialect from the poem? Why does the author choose to include dialect in this poem?

7. What other evidence is there from the poem that the speaker is engaging informally with her son?

8. What does the speaker imply when she says:

"I'se been a-climbin' on, And reachin' landin's, And turnin' corners, And sometimes goin' in the dark, Where there ain't been no light."

9. What is the speaker's last plea to her son?

10. What are two different universal themes from this poem?