

POETRY SEARCH AND EVALUATION

Staple this sheet to the printed poem.

	<p>Title and Author of the Poem "Mother to Son" by Langston Hughes</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SEARCH</p>	<p>What is the title of the web page or book that the poem came from?</p> <p><i>I accessed this poem through the Poem Hunter website at https://www.poemhunter.com/poems/mother/page-1/31108</i></p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SEARCH</p>	<p>What keywords did you start with, and did you need to change them? Explain if you changed your keywords or combined them with other keywords.</p> <p>My thematic statement is "Parents can inspire or discourage their children." I used parents as a key word because it allowed me to search for sources that are about both mothers and fathers. I also changed the verbs inspire and discourage to nouns, so, at least in my searches, they were changed to inspiration and discouragement. I did this because nouns are more effective keywords than other parts of speech. I found mother to be a very effective keyword.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SEARCH</p>	<p>Describe how you found the poem once you got to the web page or the book.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you used a web page, describe the path of links you used. • If you used a book, describe your search through the table of contents or the index. <p><i>My thematic statement is, "Parents can inspire or discourage their children," so I used parents as a keyword. At the Poem Hunter website, I clicked on Poems About and didn't see parents listed as a topic. I clicked on More Topics and a longer list of topics opened. Both the fathers and mothers were listed as topics. I clicked on mothers. The poem "Mother to Son" was the first in the list. I read through many of the poems but decided to stay with it because it was written by Langston Hughes, a famous writer. It worked well for this assignment because the author used strong visual images as well as dialectic speech.</i></p>

EVALUATE

Evaluate the appropriateness of the poem for this assignment.

- Read the entire poem if it's short.
- OR
- Read the first and last stanza and the first lines of each stanza in between if the poem is longer. This strategy is called skimming.
- Explain which reading method you used and why.

This poem is written in one stanza with 20 lines so I read the entire poem. I read the whole thing rather than skimming it.

List 5 keywords from your reading of the poem that explain the poem's content.

<i>tacks</i>	<i>splinters</i>	<i>dark</i>
<i>Climbin'</i>	<i>hard</i>	

Write a "One Sentence Summary" of the poem's content, utilizing the 5 keywords from your reading of the poem.

*A mother encourages her son to persevere by comparing her life to a staircase, with **splinters** and **tacks** that she has climbed even when it was **dark** and the **climbin'** was **hard**.*

In **one** or more sentence(s), explain how this poem connects to your **thematic statement**.

My thematic statement is "Parents can inspire or discourage their children." The narrator of this poem, is a woman who has led a hard life, but continues to persevere. She tries to inspire her son to take her life as inspiration, and to persevere as she has done.

STANDARD IV.A.3

EVALUATE

Find information that explains your author's literary background. In no less than two sentences summarize the author's literary background. Cite the source for the information on the author's background.

James Mercer Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri. He moved to New York City as a young man, where he made his career. He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz poetry.

"Langston Hughes." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Jan. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langston_Hughes.

