

Ms. Lilly

8th Grade English Language Arts

December Team

Evolving Individualism Unit: Literature Response Assignment

August 2012

Each of us is born with a history already in place. There are physical aspects that make us tall or not so tall, or give us curly or straight hair. Our parents might be rich or poor. We could be born in a crowded, bustling city or in a rural area. While we live our own individual lives, what has gone before us, our history, always has some effect on us. –Myers, Walter Dean. Bad Boy, 1.

Final Curve

When you turn the corner

And you run into yourself

Then you know that you have turned

All the corners that are left.

Langston Hughes

Directions:

After having thoroughly read and discussed both texts, compare the excerpt from Walter Myers's novel, *Bad Boy*, with Langston Hughes's poem, "Final Curve." What do you think is the main idea of each text? And how similar do you find these main ideas? How do you think that the selections' central themes may differ?

Compose your answers in three paragraphs.

**If you need help organizing your paragraphs, you may want to use the following structure for guidance:

Paragraph 1: *Refer to your notes and writing exercises from class to explain the main idea of only Myers's passage.*

- **Topic Sentence example:** *Walter D. Myers's passage from Bad Boy argues that _____.*
- **3 Supporting Sentences:** Use specific parts of Myers's text to explain your topic sentence.
 - Example of a supporting sentence: *When Myers writes, "Each of us is born with a history already in place," he means _____.*
- **Conclusion sentence should wrap up your paragraph and transition into your next paragraph by introducing Langston Hughes's poem, "Final Curve."**

Paragraph 2: *Refer to your notes and writing exercises from class to explain the main idea of only the Langston Hughes poem.*

- **Topic Sentence:** *Langston Hughes's poem, "Final Curve" argues that _____.*
- **3 Supporting Sentences:** Use specific parts of Hughes's poem to explain your topic sentence.
 - Example of a supporting sentence: *When Hughes writes about "turning corners," he means _____.*
 - Another example: *Hughes's line discussing "running into yourself" argues that _____.*
- **Conclusion Sentence should wrap up your paragraph and transition into your next paragraph by stating the texts' similarities and/or differences.**

Paragraph 3: *Refer to your notes and writing exercises from class in order to think through ways that you and we found the texts to be connected.*

- **Topic Sentence:** *Both Walter D. Myers's passage and Langston Hughes's poem discuss **individuality**.*
- **3 Supporting Sentences:** Use specific parts of Hughes's poem to explain your topic sentence. How do both texts discuss individuality? Which words in the passage express this? Which words in the poem express this?
- **Conclusion sentence.**