

Presenting the poetry of Langston Hughes

Learning Targets:

- encourage students' appreciation of and critical thinking about poetry
- adapt speech to a variety of purposes, audiences, and situations in order to meet communicative goals.



Langston Hughes

1902 (Joplin) – 1967 (New York City)

James Mercer Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist. He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz poetry. Hughes is best known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance. He famously wrote about the period that "the negro was in vogue" which was later paraphrased as "when Harlem was in vogue".

Project guidelines:

1. Read through poems by Langston Hughes
 - a. [Poetry.com](https://www.poetry.com)
 - b. [PoetryFoundation.org](https://www.poetryfoundation.org)
2. Pick a poem that speaks to you
3. Find a way to present that poem to the class
 - a. Potential ideas:
 - i. Create artwork inspired by the poem
 - ii. Recite the poem like a poetry slam
 - iii. Create a lyric video
 - iv. Rewrite the poem using creative lettering
 - v. Find images to represent your poem
 - vi. Write your own analysis – explain what it means to you and why you chose the poem
 - vii. Play an instrument – pick a song inspired by the feeling of your poem
 - viii. Anything else creative!
4. Be ready to present to the class tomorrow!

Name:

Presenting Langston Hughes Project

Progressing

Meeting

Expanding

Craft & Structure - Understands figurative language, form, and point of view and how they impact a text.

Grammar - Uses appropriate language conventions in speaking and writing.

Creating - Able to create for a variety of purposes independently.

Speaking & Listening - Adapts speech to a variety of contexts; listens to understand.

Learning habits: Completes assignments with attention to quality and timeliness and seeks assistance when necessary

The dream keeper

Bring me all of your dreams
You dreamers
Bring me your
Heart Melodies
That may I wrap them
In a blue cloth cloth
Away from too rough fingers
Of the world

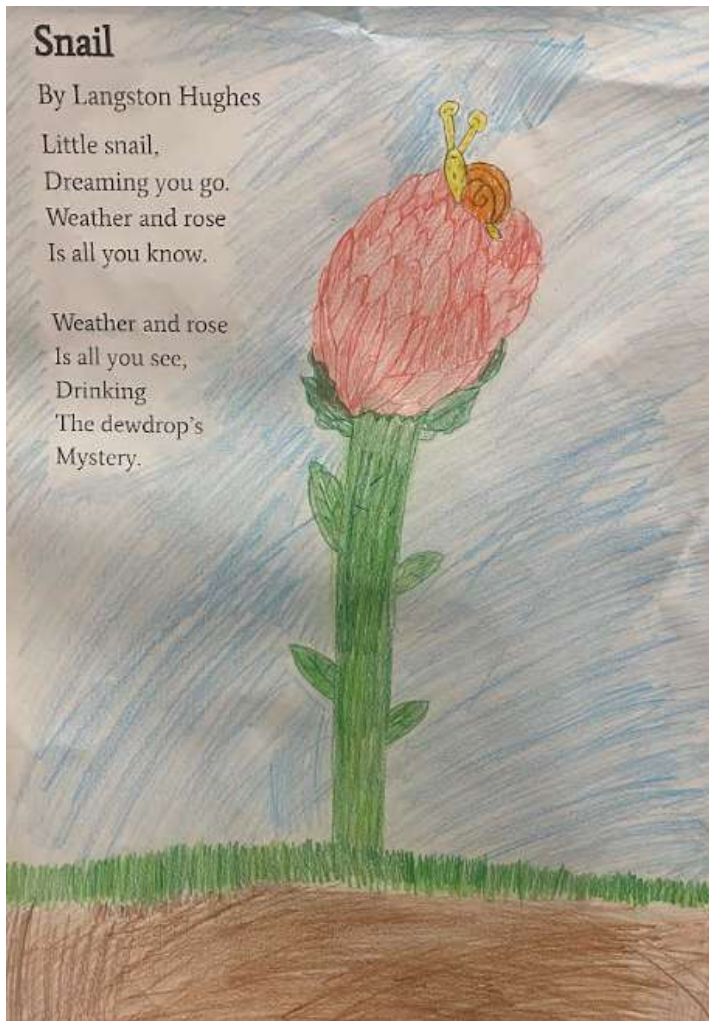
The dream keeper

Snail

By Langston Hughes

Little snail,
Dreaming you go.
Weather and rose
Is all you know.

Weather and rose
Is all you see,
Drinking
The dewdrop's
Mystery.





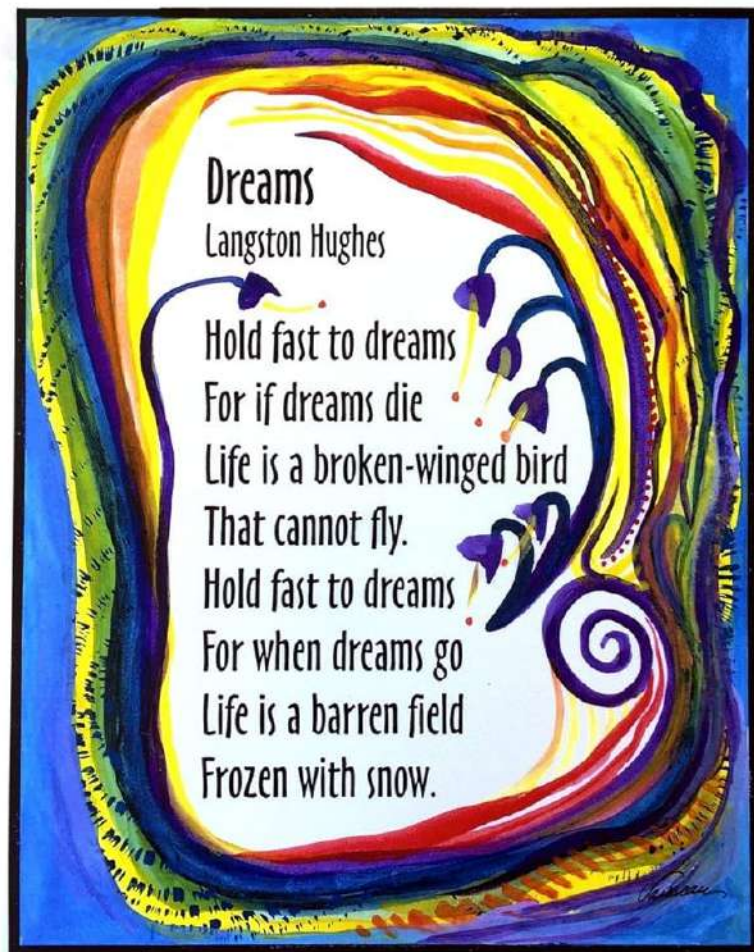
OLDDOG QUEENIE

"Old Dog Queenie
was such a meanie
she spent her life
Barking at the scenery."

- Longston Hughes



Examples:







The night is beautiful,
So the faces of my people.

The stars are beautiful,
So the eyes of my people.

Beautiful, also, is the sun.

Beautiful,

also, are the souls
of my people.

Langston Hughes

