

The questions on this worksheet are all in reference to the poem found on page 636 of your textbook. The questions on this page should be answered on a separate sheet of paper. They should be turned in to your class's classwork bin before you leave class today. The answers will be discussed later today or tomorrow. You will NOT be allowed to continue this at home. The assignment will be graded, and your paper will be disposed of if you cause any form of disruption to the other students' work environment.

1. Preview the text. Look at the title and the picture. Tell me what you believe you are about to read. Your answer should reflect thoughts (plural) and some level of depth (meaning the first few words to come to your mind is not an acceptable answer).

Read the poem three times!!!

2. Who is the speaker within this poem? What led you to this answer?
3. Who is the speaker's audience? What led you to this answer?
4. Who is the poet's audience? This is not a question with an answer you can simply point to. This is an answer you must guess based on your own opinions, but your opinions are only valid if there is an explanation behind them. Make sure this is reflected in your answer.
5. Explain what is meant by line 2 of the poem. Within your answer, you should also explain what the ***crystal stair*** is a symbol of.
6. Explain what is meant by lines 3-7 of the poem. What is the picture the speaker is trying to paint for her audience?
7. Explain what is meant by lines 8-13 of the poem. What is the point that the speaker is trying to make to her audience?
8. Explain what is meant by lines 14-20 of this poem. What is the message being delivered to the reader?
9. Why was the poem broken down the way it was throughout the last three questions (lines 3-7, lines 8-13, and lines 14-20)?
10. Langston Hughes is an educated man, and a master of the English language. This language used in this poem does not show that. Obviously, this was no accident. It was done on purpose. Why? Explain your thoughts clearly and in detail.

HOMEWORK: Rewrite this poem as a prose letter from. Do not attempt to use flowery language, symbolism or anything else Langston Hughes used for style in this poem. Just write a letter from the speaker to her audience that conveys the same messages in approximately two paragraphs. Make sure you use the five components of a friendly letter when you do this assignment. (You need to copy this assignment because you cannot take this paper with you.)