

Theme for English B
Langston Hughes

The instructor said,

Go home and write
a page tonight.
And let that page come out of you ---
Then, it will be true.

I wonder if it's that simple?

I am twenty-two, colored, born in Winston-Salem.
I went to school there, then Durham, then here
to this college on the hill above Harlem,
through a park, then I cross St. Nicholas,
Eighth Avenue, Seventh, and I come to the Y,
the Harlem Branch Y, where I take the elevator
up to my room, sit down, and write this page:

It's not easy to know what is true for you or me
at twenty-two, my age. But I guess I'm what

I feel and see and hear. Harlem, I hear you:
hear you, hear me -- we two -- you, me, talk on this page.
(I hear New York, too) Me -- who?

Well, I like to eat, sleep, drink, and be in love.
I like to work, read, learn, and understand life.
I like a pipe for a Christmas present,
or records -- Bessie, bop, or Bach.

I guess being colored doesn't make me not like
the same things other folks like who are other races.
So will my page be colored that I write?
Being me, it will not be white.
But it will be
a part of you, instructor.
You are white --
yet a part of me, as I am a part of you.
That's American.

Sometimes perhaps you don't want to be a part of me.
Nor do I often want to be a part of you.
But we are, that's true!
As I learn from you,
I guess you learn from me --
although you're older -- and white --
and somewhat more free.

This is my page for English B.

THEME FOR ENGLISH B

Project

- Write your own **personal** theme defining who you are.
 - **EMPHASIZE YOUR INNER SELF (What do you think and feel about different things, people...?)**
 - The first 5 lines are to be exactly the same as the original poem.
 - The last line is to be the same as the original poem.
 - You need a **minimum of 26 original lines**. (The required 6 lines do not count towards this.)
 - Final copy must be **typed**. (See teacher immediately if this presents a problem.)
 - Final presentation should be creative, colorful, and personalized. (pictures, art work, clip art, stickers...) These should be on the same side as the theme.
 - Your poem should fit on one side of a piece of 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of paper.
 - You may use a maximum size backing paper of 10 X 12.
 - Do not simply use the format of the original poem.
 - You will present your theme orally to the class.
- * Some inner thoughts must be included.**

Date due _____

Before you begin writing, think about how the following answers can serve as inspiration.

1. Who are you?
2. How do you fit into the environment of your family, your school, your community, your country, and even our world?
3. How does your ethnicity, social class, or gender help define your personality and deepest, truest self?

Grade based on the following:

- Overall effect
- Writing creativity & structure
- Presentation (projection/voice/tone/eye contact)
- Design neatness & creativity