

Name: _____ pd. _____

Mother To Son Close Read

Objective: To complete a close read and understand the central meaning of the poem.

Directions: Read the poem and complete the steps/ questions below.

1. Underline at least 2 phrases that you are unsure of. (or realize readers need context clues to understand)
2. Highlight or circle at least 2 phrases that show excellent imagery or use of language.

Mother To Son

By Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor-
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So, boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps.
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now-
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

4 In one sentence using your own words, what does this mother want for her son?

5. What does the speaker define as the "human spirit" in the poem? Cite some words or phrases from the poem that support this:

6 How does perseverance relate to the concept of the human spirit?
