

Name: _____ pd. _____

“Mother to Son” Imitation Poem

Objective: Use stylistic elements of "Mother to Son" to craft an imitation poem. Develop a theme that embodies traits of the human spirit within your poem.

Directions: Choose one of the assignments below to complete an imitation poem of Langston Hughes' "Mother to Son" poem. **Draft + brainstorm= Th. 9/20, beginning of class**

Typed final copy= Fri. 9/21 e-mailed by 9/21 at 11:59 pm.

Requirements for both pieces:

- Must have a relevant title
- Develop a clear theme using symbolism or extended metaphor
- 18 to 20 significant lines long
- Have a clear voice and intended audience

Option 1: Write a response poem that goes from son to mother. What would he say back? Think about traits that the mother exhibits that connect to the 'human spirit.' Is the son proud of the mother? Worried? Has he taken her advice?

Option 2: Write a response poem that goes from the speaker to a specific person in the speaker's life.

Examples include: son/ daughter to adult family member, brother/ sister to sibling/ peer, etc.

Create your own symbolism or extended metaphor that is not the crystal stair. Use this for the speaker to relate to their audience.

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.

“Mother to Son” Imitation Poem Brainstorm:

Directions: Use ideas/ resources and space to come up with ideas for your imitation poem. Must do this or an alternate brainstorming activity for full credit on poem.

I am choosing: (circle) **OPTION 1** **OPTION 2**

Themes about life:	Activities you do/ Places you go/ Objects you have:
Life is like....	Life is.....
Parts/ Aspects of simile comparison:	Parts/ Aspects of metaphor:

What did the mother want to say?

What did the son want to say?