

Langston Hughes, “Theme for English B,” p. 1106

1. Who is the “speaker” in this poem?

What do you know about Langston Hughes that suggests that he, the poet, and the speaker he has used as the voice in this poem are similar?

2. Why do you think the poet begins with a description of where the speaker of the poem lives, of the route that person must follow to get from campus to home?
3. Can you locate any lines in this poem that seem “musical,” that have a steady rhythm or beat? What are they?
4. What similarities does the speaker suggest he shares with his instructor?

What differences?

5. Identify words in this poem that suggest the time (historical era) in which the poem was written.
6. What do you think is the main idea or point that the writer wants to get across to readers of this poem?