

LANGSTON HUGHES AND HIS POETRY

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ABSTRACT: James Mercer Langston Hughes is an American poet, public figure, author, playwright, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri. One of the innovators of the literary movement called jazz poetry, Hughes is known as a leader of the Harlem Renaissance. In this article, I will provide information about Langston Hughes, the central figure of the flourishing of black intellectual, literary and artistic life that took place in several American cities in the 1920s, especially in Harlem, and his creative works. While getting acquainted with the works of English poets, the beautiful works and meaningful poems of Langston Hughes attracted my special attention.

Keywords: Writer , poem , literature , Harlem , poet , Renaissance , America , journal , works.

INTRODUCTION: First published in 1921 in *The Crisis* – official magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. – The Negro Speaks of Rivers – became Hughes's signature poem and was collected in his first book of poetry, *The Weary Blues* 1926. Hughes's first and last published poems appeared in *The Crisis*; more of his poems were published in *The Crisis* than in any other journal. Hughes's life and work were enormously influential during the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s , alongside those of his contemporaries , Zora Neale Hurston , Wallace Thurman , Claude McKay , Countee Cullen , Richard Bruce Nugent , and Aaron Douglas. His poetry and fiction portrayed the lives of the working-class blacks in America, lives the portrayed as full of struggle , joy

, laughter, and music. Permeating his work is pride in the African- American identity and its diverse culture. – My seeking has been to explain and illuminate the Negro condition in American and obliquely that of all human kind, Hughes is quoted as saying. He confronted racial stereotypes , protested social conditions, and expanded African America's image of itself; a – People's poet – who sought to reeducate both audience and artist lifting the theory of the black aesthetic into reality. His many poetry collections have been warmly received by readers and poetry lovers. The most famous of them;

- *The Weary Blues*, Knopf 1926

- Fine Clothes to the Jew, Knopf, 1927
- The Negro Mother and Other Dramatic Recitations, 1931
- Dear Lovely Death, 1931
- The Dream Keeper and Other Poems, Knopf, 1932
- Scottsboro Limited: Four Poems and Play, Golden Stair Press ,N.Y 1932
- A New Song 1938. incl, the poem □ Let America be America Again □
□ **The Weary Blues** □ was first published in the Urban League magazine Opportunity, written in 1925.

The Weary Blues

Droning a drowsy syncopated tune,
Rocking back and forth to a mellow croon,
I heard a Negro play.

Down on Lenox Avenue the other night
By the pale dull pallor of an old gas light
He did a lazy sway. . .

He did a lazy sway. . .

To the tune those Weary Blues.

With his ebony hands on each ivory key
He made that poor piano moan with melody.

O Blues!

Swaying to and fro on his rickety stool
He played that sad raggy tune like a musical fool.

Sweet Blues !

Coming from a black man □ s soul.

O Blues !

In a deep song voice with a melancholy tone
I heard that Negro sing, that old piano moan □

□ Ain □ t □ got nobody in all this world,

Ain □ t got nobody but ma self

I □ s gwine to quit ma frownin

And put ma troubles on the shelf □

Thump, thump, thump, went his foot on the floor.

He played a few chords then sang some more □

□ I got the Weary Blues

And I can □ t be satisfied

Got the Weary Blues

And can □ t be satisfied □

I ain □ t happy no mo

And I wish that I had died. □

And far into the night he crooned that tune.
The stars went out and so did the moon.
The singer stopped playing and went to bed
While the Weary Blues echoed through his head.
He slept like a rock or a man that's dead.

Langston Hughes died of complications from prostate cancer on May 22, 1967, in New York City. In his memory, his residence at 20 East 127th Street in Harlem has been given landmark status by the New York City Preservation Commission, and East 127th Street has been renamed □ Langston Hughes Place □

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