

# Your Theme for English II

**Grade Level** 7-12

## **Common Core State Standard**

### **Reading Standard**

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**Time of Activity** About forty-five minutes, not including the homework assignment (the writing component of the activity). This activity is an effective way to begin a unit on poetry. It's also a great way to start the school year since the writing activity asks students to write about themselves.

**About this Lesson** This is a classic piece of Hughes' poetry. It serves as an effective introduction to the study of poetry since the speaker of the poem is writing a poem for his instructor. The poet's task is to 'go home and write about himself.'

**Learning Outcomes** Students will learn to identify the author, speaker, voice, subject, and audience while learning how to read, analyze, and understand a poem. They'll write a poem to express their own ideas.

### **Materials**

A copy of the poem, "Theme For English B"  
Writing materials/ Computer

### **Activities**

**Step 1** Introduce the poem and the author to the students.

**Step 2** Ask students to silently read the poem, and then read it aloud to the class.

**Step 3** Show a copy of the poem on the overhead projector.

**Step 4** Begin questioning the students. Make notes on the transparency



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to help break the poem down and allow the students to analyze it more easily. Suggest students write on their own copies of the poem and record notes. During this time, students should be looking at their own copy of the poem and the copy on the overhead projector.

**Step 5** Introduce the writing assignment "Your Theme For English II". Ask them to write a poem as homework. Just as in the Langston Hughes example, you, the teacher, are the intended audience. You may want to specify a minimum and maximum length, which can vary depending on the students.

## Evaluation

Since this is the first poem that students may be writing for the class, it should be graded on basic elements such as:

- Following directions
- Specified Length
- Candor
- Development of Ideas
- Neatness

