Poetry Study

Day 16
October 3

- Daily Description: What is something that you know for sure?

- Agenda:
  - Daily Description
  - Countee Cullen
  - Heritage
  - Writing a Truth Poem
Today’s Objectives

• I will know information about Countee Cullen.

• I will be able to write my own truth poem.
Gertrude Stein’s Salon

• Pablo Picasso (artist)
• Ernest Hemingway (*For Whom the Bell Tolls*)
• F. Scott Fitzgerald (*The Great Gatsby*)
• James Joyce (*Dubliners*)
• Ezra Pound (Poet)
• Thornton Wilder (*Our Town*)
• Sherwood Anderson (*Winesburg, Ohio*)
• Henri Matisse (artist)
The Harlem Renaissance

- Alain Locke (writer/philosopher)
- W. E. B. De Bois (intellectual/writer)
- Jessie Redmon Fauset (poet and literary editor of NAACP’s magazine, The Crisis)
- Georgia Douglas Johnson (poet and salon hostess)
- Jean Toomer (Cane)
- Langston Hughes (poet)
- Countee Cullen (poet)
- Gwendolyn Bennet (poet)
- Aaron Douglas (artist & UNL grad)
Countee Cullen
1903-1946
"If any event signaled the coming of the Harlem Renaissance, it was the precocious success of this rather shy black boy who, more than any other black literary figure of his generation, was being touted and bred to become a major crossover literary figure. Here was a black man with considerable academic training who could, in effect, write "white" verse-ballads, sonnets, quatrains, and the like--much in the manner of Keats and the British Romantics, (albeit, on more than one occasion, tinged with racial concerns) with genuine skill and compelling power."
“Heritage”

• In a group of three, read through Countee Cullen’s “Heritage.”

• As a group, answer the following questions:
  – What images does Cullen use to describe Africa?
  – How do his feelings for Africa affect his Christianity?
  – What is the answer to the question “What is Africa to Me?”
Writing a Truth Poem

- Think about something that you know for sure.

- Write a poem in which you share this truth with your readers.