October 5th

• Daily Description: Describe a place you’d really like to visit.

• Agenda:
  – Daily Description
  – Claude McKay
  – Ladder of Abstraction
  – Writing a poem of longing
Today’s Learning Goals

• I will know about Claude McKay and his contributions to the Harlem Renaissance.

• I will be able to concretize abstractions and general words.

• I will be able to write a poem of longing.
• “Consistent in his various writings is his disdain for racism and the sense that bigotry's implicit stupidity renders its adherents pitiable as well as loathsome.”
(poetryfoundation.org)
Concrete and Specific Language

• Abstract – words that refer to intangible qualities, ideas, and concepts
  – Truth, honor, kindness

• Concrete – words that refer to tangible qualities or characteristics
  – Things we know through our senses
  – 102 degrees, obese Siamese cat, deep spruce green
General vs. Specific

• General – words that refer to large classes and broad areas
  – Sports teams, jobs, video games

• Specific – words that designate particular items or individual cases
  – Burke Bulldogs, chemical engineer, Call of Duty
Examples of Levels of Abstraction

• Abstractions:
  – life, beauty, love, time, success

• Broad Group Names:
  – people, men, goals, television

• More Definite Groups:
  – teen-agers, clothing industry, TV comedies

• Specific Nouns:
  – Levi 501 jeans, African violets, my niece Lauren
• Identify the concrete details in “The Tropics in New York.”
Writing a Poem of Longing

• Think about a person, thing, or place that you miss or wish you could see.

• List details about that person, thing, or place. Try to be as specific as possible and incorporate concrete images.