Poetry Study

Day 23
October 25th

• Daily Description: Describe standing in line for a seemingly long time.

• Agenda:
  – Daily Description
  – Review for Unit Test
  – Poetry Challenge
  – Organizing a compare/contrast essay
Today’s Objectives:

• I will be able to identify poems and poets.
Writing Contest

- Thrillschillsandwritingskills.com
Test over Harlem Renaissance

• Know the following terms:
  – Imagery
  – Concrete vs. Abstract
  – Metaphor
  – Sonnet
  – Rhyme
  – Meter (iambic pentameter)
Know the following Poets:

- Langston Hughes
- Countee Cullen
- Claude McKay
- Georgia Douglas Johnson
- James Weldon Johnson
- Gwendolyn Bennett
- Jessie Faucet
Be Able To:

• Match poem to poet
• Identify metaphors, sensory imagery, and concrete details in poems
• Identify theme in a poem
• Define terms (see above)
• Identify meter in poems
Poetry Challenge
Is this pain's surcease? Better far the ache,
The long-drawn dreary day, the night's white wake,
Better the choking sigh, the sobbing breath
Than passion's death!
Langston Hughes – “The Negro Speaks of Rivers”

• My soul has grown deep like the rivers.
Claude McKay – “If We Must Die”

• Like men we’ll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
• Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!
Gwendolyn Bennett: “To a Dark Girl”

• Oh, little brown girl, born for sorrow's mate,
  Keep all you have of queenliness,
  Forgetting that you once were slave,
  And let your full lips laugh at Fate!
James Weldon Johnson: “A Poet to His Baby Son”

- Tiny bit of humanity,
- Blessed with your mother’s face,
- And cursed with your father’s mind.
Countee Cullen – “Heritage”

- Africa? A book one thumbs
- Listlessly, till slumber comes.
Langston Hughes – “Mother to Son”

• So boy, don’t you turn back.
• Don’t you set down on the steps
• ’Cause you finds it’s kinder hard.
Gwendolyn Bennett – “Heritage”

• I want to hear the chanting
  Around a heathen fire
  Of a strange black race.
James Weldon Johnson – “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

• God of our weary years,
• God of our silent tears,
• Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Jessie Fauset – “La Vie C’est La Vie”

• I know a woman who would give
• Her chance of heaven to take my place;
• To see the love-light in your eyes,
• The love-glow on your face!
Claude McKay – “Harlem Shadows”

• Ah, stern harsh world, that in the wretched way
• Of poverty, dishonor and disgrace,
• Has pushed the timid little feet of clay,
• The sacred brown feet of my fallen race!
Georgia Douglas Johnson – “The Heart of a Woman”

• And tries to forget it has dreamed of the stars
• While it breaks, breaks, breaks on the sheltering bars.
Georgia Douglas Johnson – “My Little Dreams”

• For time’s deft fingers scroll my brow
• With fell relentless art—
Langston Hughes – “Harlem: A Dream Deferred”

- Does it stink like rotten meat?
  Or crust and sugar over--
  like a syrupy sweet?
James Weldon Johnson – “The White Witch”

- I felt those red lips burn and sear
- My body like a living coal;
- Obeyed the power of those eyes
- As the needle trembles to the pole;
- And did not care although I felt
- The strength go ebbing from my soul.
Georgia Douglas Johnson – “Little Son”

• The very acme of my woe,
The pivot of my pride,
My consolation, and my hope
Deferred, but not denied.
Claude McKay – “America”

• Her vigor flows like tides into my blood,
• Giving me strength erect against her hate,
• Her bigness sweeps my being like a flood.
Countee Cullen – “Yet Do I Marvel”

- Make plain the reason tortured Tantalus
- Is baited by the fickle fruit, declare
- If merely brute caprice dooms Sisyphus
- To struggle up a never-ending stair.
Georgia Douglas Johnson – “Afterglow”

• Now, by Reflection's placid pool
  On evening's mellowed brow,
  I smile across the backward way
  And pledge anew my vow;
Claude McKay – “The Tropics in New York”

• Set in the window, bringing memories
• Of fruit-trees laden by low-singing rills,
• And dewy dawns, and mystical blue skies
• In benediction over nun-like hills.
Gwendolyn Bennett – “Fantasy”

• A slim-necked peacock sauntered there
• In a garden of lavender hues,
• And you were strange with your purple hair
• As you sat in your amethyst chair
• With your feet in your hyacinth shoes.
Compare and Contrast Two (or more) Poems

• Last Time:
  – Choose two (or more) poems where you see points of intersection.
  – Analyze each poem.

• Today:
  – Decide upon points of comparison and contrast.
  – Write a compare/contrast essay with a clear thesis statement.
Analyzing Poetry

• 1) Give yourself a lot of time to read the poem several times. Trying reading it out loud.

• 2) Have a copy of the poem that you can take notes on. As you read, write down every observation, question, or feeling you get from the poem as you read. Pay special attention to how the poem begins and ends.
Analyzing Poetry

• 3) Look for the elements we’ve discussed in class:
  – Rhyme
  – Meter (like iambic pentameter)
  – Sensory Images
  – Concrete details
  – Metaphors
  – Form (like sonnets)
Consider the Following Questions:

- What are their titles?
- What do they describe or depict?
- What is their tone or mood? What is their form?
- Who created them?
- When were they created?
- Why do you think they were created as they were?
- What themes do they address?
- Do you think one is of higher quality or greater merit than the other(s)—and if so, why?
Look for Points of Comparison and Contrast
## Matrix

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<th>Point</th>
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• What’s relevant to the assignment?
• What’s relevant to the course?
• What’s interesting and informative?
• What matters to the argument you are going to make?
• What’s basic or central (and needs to be mentioned even if obvious)?
• Overall, what’s more important—the similarities or the differences?
Side-by-Side

• Discuss one poem.
• Discuss the next poem.
• Etc.
Back-and-Forth

- Start with your first point of comparison and discuss each poem regarding that point.
- Transition to your next point of comparison and discuss each poem in terms of that point.
- Etc.
Due Dates

• Unit Test Next Time