

## **Appendix**

### **Biography**

Langston Hughes was the most popular and significant black writer in the twentieth century. His poems were written in two modes: lyrics about black life combined with rhythms from jazz and blues, and poems about racial protest. He enriched his works with love of humanity, just society, and the needs and emotions of black people's hope toward equal treatment as American citizens (Rampersad 173). James Langston Hughes was born on 1 February 1902, in Joplin, Missouri, to a father named, James Nathaniel and a mother named, Carrie Mercer Langston Hughes. He grew up in Lawrence, Kansas with his maternal grandmother; Mary Langston Hughes, following his parents' divorce. Through Hughes' grandmother, he learned about the need to fight against segregation and to bring social justice to black race (Rampersad 163).

Hughes spent most of his boyhood in poverty; therefore, his mother looked for several jobs in order to support him and his grandmother. The frequent absences of his mother and the increase of his grandmother's age made his life very unhappy and lonesome. The only thing that rescued him from unhappy and lonesome life was his discovery of books (Rampersad 164). Then in 1915 until 1916, he moved with his mother in Lincoln, Illinois where he began to write poetry with the influence of Paul Laurence Dunbar and Carl Sandburg. Within 1916 to 1920, he finished his high school in Cleveland and lived for fifteen months in Mexico with his father (Waldron 1430). A year later, he composed a

poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" that would be considered as his most famous poem later, and his poem appeared in the *Crisis* for the first time, edited by W.E.B. Du Bois; then in Charles Johnson's *Opportunity*; and in a widening circle of journals (Rampersad 165). In 1921, Hughes enrolled to Columbia University where he spent only a year, and he began to do several works: as a merchant seaman in *S.S Malone* where the ship took him to Africa, as a dishwasher in a nightclub in Paris, and as a busboy in Washington D.C (Nichols 1487). Hughes diligently published his poems during all his time of travel and work, and when he came back to the United States in 1925, his first collection, "The Weary Blues", was published (Rampersad 165).

For Hughes, the discovery of New York, especially of Harlem Renaissance, brought the most important thing in his development as a writer. He could feel the language, music, and feeling of the common people of Harlem in him, and this made him proud with African culture (Nichols 1487). In 1926, he decided to continue his study at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and he graduated in 1929 (Waldron 1431). In 1930, his first novel, entitled Not Without Laughter appeared which strengthened his reputation as a great writer and his life, so that he could support himself. He became a public figure, and he still continued to write poems, autobiographies, plays, and screenplays. Following the successful of his first novel, he created the character of Jesse.B.Simple, a kind of person who is close to urban black life, but his wit and wisdom weaken the bourgeois pretentious of the upper black class and show the hypocritical nature of American racism (Rampersad 169). Hughes won several prizes and awards for his works,

and one of them was *Harmon Gold Award* for his novel Not Without Laughter (Waldron 1429).

Langston Hughes started his career from great personal sacrifice and kept maintaining it to the height of his success. He was proud to be the first black American who lived only by writings, and he was even proud that his works described much about African American community and its culture. In the end, Langston Hughes could enjoy all of his life efforts and live securely in the middle black class. He died on 22 May 1967 in New York, the city that gave him so much inspiration to his works and produced his creativity (Waldron 1432).

### **Synopsis**

Sandy is a young black boy from Stanton, Kansas and lives with his grandmother: Hager Williams, his mother: Annjelica Rodgers, and his aunt: Harrietta Williams in poor condition. In order to fulfill their daily needs, so aunt Hager has to work as a laundress, Annjee works as a servant for a rich white family named Mr. and Mrs. J.J. Rice, while Harriett leaves school and starts working as a waitress. Even Sandy and his female family live in poor condition, but he is happy to live with them because they love him, and he loves them so much. Therefore, the lost figure of Sandy's father does not influence his personality a lot. Sandy's father; Jimboy Rodgers, has been traveling for much time, and nobody knows when he comes back or leaves again, and this makes aunt Hager dislike him and regret for her daughter's marriage with him for he has no

intention to have a steady work and starts providing his family. Aunt Hager hopes that Sandy will not be like his father when he grows up later, so she teaches him how to be a responsible and obedient boy; therefore, he becomes well – trained to work hard by helping his grandmother and mother. Aunt Hager always reminds Sandy to get good education in order to achieve a better life since her three daughters left school before they finished their study. She minds if Sandy stops attending school after he passes the fourth grade like most black children often do because they usually go to black school until the fourth grade. In the fifth grade and up, black students will go to school where the teachers and most of the students are white. Most black parents do not care if their children do not have good education since they cannot afford the school fee for their children education. Moreover, most black parents are glad if their children go to work instead of going to school, so they can help their parents' income. When Sandy enters the fifth grade for the first time, he knows, then, why black people hate white people so much, why many black children do not want to continue their study. He experiences what is called being discriminated, and this makes him sad. Unlike other white students, he and some of his black friends are treated differently for instance, they have to sit at the back or their names are not mentioned in alphabetically order, but their names are called after mentioning all white students' names. However, Sandy tries to face this situation in order to fulfill his grandmother's wish. Soon, Sandy also faces the fact that one by one, people he loves, leaves him. It begins with his aunt Harriett who decides to join the World's Greatest Midway Carnival, then, his mother who finally decides to

catch up his father in Detroit. So, Sandy lives with his grandmother alone, and he becomes the center of his grandmother's attention. Disappointed by the condition that all her daughters left her, Sandy's grandmother expects him that he can be a successful person in the future and has a better life, so his grandmother trains him from the beginning to work hard in order to achieve his dream. Instead of going to school, Sandy begins to work in order to fulfill his school needs. When Sandy can manage his school and his work at the same time, he has to face the great loss in his life that is the death of his grandmother. Life seems new for Sandy after his grandmother passed away because he has to move to live with his prosperous aunt, Tempy (aunt Hager's eldest daughter) where Sandy begins to live regularly and properly. His aunt opens his mind about the importance to have high education and educates him how to speak in good English instead of using slang and how to behave decently, she also supports him to increase his reading habit and teaches him to have dainty appearance. She forbids him to associate with black people from lower class because it will make the upper class look down on her. His life with aunt Tempy opens his mind that among black people themselves are divided into two classes: black people from the upper and lower classes. Black people from the upper class look down black people from the lower class because they are lazy, uneducated, and impolite although many black people from the upper class started their life from the lower class before they got the chance to change their life. These upper class people still have fathers, mothers, and siblings who remain to the lower class. Black people from the lower class feel disgusted and angry with black people from the upper class because they

tend to imitate white people's behavior and style, while they are ashamed to their own black culture. Tempy's regulations confine Sandy to his social relationship with his friends and his former neighborhood, and this arises conflict with his aunt. Sandy cannot accept his aunt's manner dealing with his relationship with his friends. His conflict with his aunt gives pressure on Sandy because his aunt does not understand what he actually wants. Since Sandy often feel uncomfortable to associate with people from the upper class, added by his conflict with his aunt, these problems occur conflict for himself. He thinks that black people will always be discriminated by white people; no matter how hard they study in order to become smart person, or how hard they try to imitate white people's life and behavior, as long as they are black, white people will treat them badly. Being bored with the situation at Tempy's house, Sandy decides to live with his mother in Chicago; moreover, his mother lives alone there since his father goes to war in France. However, living in Chicago makes Sandy forget his education and start looking for a job in order to help his mother's income. Soon, he gets a job as an elevator-boy, but he becomes bored after two months working at this position. He realizes that he cannot make a progress if he stays with this kind of work with little salary and abandons his education. Moreover, he wants to fulfill his grandmother's wish that he will be a successful person and get a better life. Through his life experiences and the influences of people from his surrounding, Sandy's personality finally takes shape, he makes up his mind by having high education, it will lead him to achieve a better life and help his family out from poverty also his race to struggle against discrimination.

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