

## APPENDICES

### The Original Poems

#### As I Grow Older

It was a long time ago. 1

I have almost forgotten my dream.

But it was there then,

In front of me,

Bright like a sun—

My dream. 6

And then the wall rose,

Rose slowly,

Slowly,

Between me and my dream.

Rose until it touched the sky— 11

The wall.

Shadow.

I am black.

I lie down in the shadow.

No longer the light of my— 16

dream before me,

Above me.

On the thick wall.  
 Only the shadow.  
 My hands! 21  
 My dark hands!  
 Break through the wall!  
 Find my dream!  
 Help me to shatter this darkness,  
 To smash this night, 26  
 To break this shadow  
 Into a thousand light of sun,  
 Into a thousand whirling dreams  
 Of sun! 30  
Cross  
 My old man's a white old man 1  
 And my old mother's black.  
 If ever I cursed my white old man  
 I take my curses back.  
 If ever I cursed my black old mother 5  
 And wished she were in hell,  
 I'm sorry for that evil wish  
 And now I wish her well  
 My old man died in a fine big house.  
 My ma died in a hack.  
 I wonder were I'm going to die,  
 Being neither white nor black? 12

Democracy

Democracy will not come 1

Today, this year

Nor ever

Through compromise and fear.

I have as much right 5

As the other fellow has

To stand

On my two feet

And own the land.

I tire so of hearing people say, 10

Let things take their course.

Tomorrow is another day.

I do not need my freedom—

when I'm dead.

I cannot live on tomorrow's bread.

Freedom 16

Is a strong seed

Planted

In a great need.

I live here, too. 20

I want freedom

Just as you.

I, Too, Sing America

I, Too, Sing America. 1

I am the darker brother.

They send me to eat in the kitchen

When company comes,

But I laugh,

And eat well,

And grow strong. 7

Tomorrow,

I'll be eat at the table

When company comes.

Nobody'll dare

"Eat in the kitchen,"

Then. 13

Besides,

They'll see how beautiful I am

And be ashamed—

I, too, am America. 17

## BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

James Langston Hughes was born on February 10, 1902, in Joplin, Missouri, but he grew up in Lawrence, Kansas. Langston Hughes began writing when he was in high school, and even at this early age, he had developed his ideas in expressing his voice that made him famous.

Langston Hughes was one of the leaders of the Harlem Renaissance and was known during his lifetime as “the poet laureate of Harlem,” (Daniel, 2002: 01) Besides being the part of the Harlem Renaissance, he also worked as a journalist, dramatist, and as a children’s author. Many of his poems, which tell about the joys and the miseries of the ordinary black men in America, have been published and translated.

Besides the jobs mentioned above, Langston Hughes also worked as a seaman and he had been traveling to Africa and Europe. In 1929, Langston Hughes went to Lincoln University in Oxford on a scholarship and received a B.A degree there. From then on Hughes earned his living as a writer, portraying black life in the United States with idiomatic realism. He also lectured in schools and colleges, where he talked with the black youth who had literary ability and encouraged them to write.

Langston Hughes’ first book of poetry is The Weary Blues and it was published in 1926. This book made him famous among literary people. He also wrote many novels during his life. One of his novels is Not Without Laughter and

it was published in 1930. It made him win the Harmon god medal for literature. He also wrote a book of poems for children with the title of The Dream Keeper. It came out in 1932. In 1934, Hughes also wrote a collection of short stories with the title of The Way of White Folk's. Besides writing novels and poetry, Langston Hughes also wrote dramas. His play Mulatto was performed on Broadway in 1935. Hughes' work included a volume of poetry, Montage of a Dream Differed, published in 1951. Other works of Langston Hughes are the short stories, Laughing to Keep from Crying, published in 1951 and Black Misery, a children's picture book which wryly illustrated black children and what it is like to grow up black in the United States. Black Misery was published in 1969.

James Langston Hughes died in 1967, in New York because of a lung cancer.