

Langston Hughes



Langston Hughes was born in 1902 and died in 1967 of cancer. He was a great poet that inspired many lives. He had many experiences traveling the world and living in Harlem that influenced his writing. Hughes was known as "Harlem's Poet"(Langston). Hughes inspired many through the depression giving motivational speeches and writing. He kept black American life a reality in front of a wide audience of readers.

Some of Hughes works are:

The Negro Speaks of Rivers (1921)

The Weary Blues (1926)

Not Without Laughter (1930)

The First Book of Jazz (1955)

Fields of Wonder (1947)

Autobiography, and I Wonder As I Wander (1956).

Quotes from Hughes:

- "We younger Negro artists who create now intend to express our individual dark-skinned selves without fear or shame. If white people are pleased we are glad. If they aren't it doesn't matter" (Trussell).
- "The depression brought everybody down a peg or two. And the Negro had but few pegs to fall" (Langston).
- "Blues had the pulse beat of the people who keep on going" (Trussell).

Quotes about Hughes:

- His friends said, "No one enjoyed being a Negro as much as Langston Hughes" (Brief Biography).
- "He portrayed the humor, wit, endurance, and faith of his people with extraordinary skill"(Brief Biography).
- "Hughes enhances our love of humanity, our vision of the just society with a spiritual transcendence and ever-widening horizons of joy and hope" (Brief Biography).
- "With his rich poetic voice, nurturing generosity, warm humor, and abiding love of black people, Langston Hughes was one of the dominant voices in American literature of this century and perhaps the single most influential black poet" (Brief Biography).
- He has "given a voice to the African American experience" (Trussell).

Summary by Sara Erickson

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