**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/10**

**POETRY SEARCH AND EVALUATION***Staple this sheet to the printed poem.*

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|  | Title and Author of the Poem  “Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes |
| **SEARCH** | What is the title of the web page or book that the poem came from?  *I accessed this poem through the Poem Hunter website at*  *https://www.poemhunter.com/poems/mother/page-1/31108* |
| **SEARCH** | What **keywords** did you start with, and did you need to change them? Explain if you changed your **keywords** or combined them with other **keyword**s.  My thematic statement is “Parents can inspire or discourage their children.” I used p**arents** as a key word because it allowed me to search for sources that are about both **mothers** and **fathers**. I also changed the verbs **inspire** **and discourage** to nouns, so, at least in my searches, they were changed to **inspiration** and **discouragemen**t. I did this because nouns are more effective keywords than other parts of speech.  I found **mother** to be a very effective keyword. |
| **SEARCH** | Describe how you found the poem once you got to the web page or the book.   * If you used a web page, describe the path of links you used. * If you used a book, describe your search through the table of contents or the index.   *My thematic statement is, “Parents can inspire or discourage their children,” so I used* ***parents*** *as a keyword. At the* ***Poem Hunter*** *website, I clicked on* ***Poems About*** *and didn’t see* ***parents*** *listed as a topic. I clicked on* ***More Topics*** *and a longer list of topics opened. Both the* ***fathers*** *and* ***mother****s were listed as topics. I clicked on* ***mothers****. The poem “Mother to Son” was the first in the list. I read through many of the poems but decided to stay with it because it was written by Langston Hughes, a famous writer. It worked well for this assignment because the author used strong visual images as well as dialectic speech.* |

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| **EVALUATE** | **Evaluate** the appropriateness of the poem for this assignment.   * + Read the entire poem if it’s short.   + OR   + Read the first and last stanza and the first lines of each stanza in between if the poem is longer. This strategy is called skimming.   + Explain which reading method you used and why.   *This poem is written in one stanza with 20 lines so I read the entire poem. I read the whole thing rather than skimming it.*  List 5 keywords from your reading of the poem that explain the poem’s content.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | *tacks* | *splinters* | *dark* | | *Climbin’* | *hard* |  |   Write a “One Sentence Summary” of the poem’s content, utilizing the 5 keywords from your reading of the poem.  *A mother encourages her son to persevere by comparing her life to a staircase, with splinters and tacks that she has climbed even when it was dark and the climbin’ was hard.*  In **one** or more sentence(s), explain how this poem connects to your **thematic statement**.  *My thematic statement is “Parents can inspire or discourage their children.” The narrator of this poem, is a woman who has led a hard life, but continues to persevere. She tries to inspire her son to take her life as inspiration, and to persevere as she has done.*  STANDARD IV.A.3 |
| **EVALUATE** | Find information that explains your author’s literary background. In no less than two sentences summarize the author’s literary background. Cite the source for the information on the author’s background.  *James Mercer Langston Hughes was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist from Joplin, Missouri. He moved to New York City as a young man, where he made his career. He was one of the earliest innovators of the then-new literary art form called jazz poetry.*  “Langston Hughes.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 Jan. 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langston\_Hughes. |