

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Free Verse Poetry: Langston Hughes

**Directions:** Free verse poetry does not have any specific structure, length, or rhyme scheme. In that way, it is flexible and can be designed according to what you want to communicate and what you want readers to feel. Let's review some samples. Read the poem below and answer the questions.

## excerpt "Mother to Son"

Well, son, I'll tell you:  
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor—  
Bare.  
But all the time  
I've been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark  
Where there ain't been no light.  
So boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.  
Don't you fall now—  
For I've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

1. What is the main message of the poem? Why is the poem called "Mother to Son?"