

Langston Hughes (1902-1967)



“Langston Hughes was the most popular, the most versatile, and the most durable,” wrote Kalstone.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langston_Hughes

Harlem Renaissance (1915-1929)

- a notable phase of black American writing centred in Harlem (a predominantly black area of New York City) in the 1920s. Announced by Alain Locke's anthology *The New Negro* (1925), the movement included the poets Langston Hughes, Jean Toomer, Countee Cullen, and Claude McKay, continuing into the 1930s with the novels of Zora Neale Hurston and Arna Bontemps. It brought a new self-awareness and critical respect to black literature in the United States. <<http://www.answers.com/topic/harlem-renaissance>>

Importance of Langston Hughes

- “The bard of Harlem”
- In his days, Hughes was the most successful black writers in America.
- Hughes wanted to capture the dominant oral traditions of black culture in written form.

“Mother to Son” (1920s)

- Most famous of Hughes’s early poems
- What is the image of woman here?
- What are the themes of this poem?

“I, Too” (1925, 1959)

- What is the poet’s attitude toward America?

“The Weary Blues” (1925)

- A folk poem and a dramatization of the creation of a folk poem