

Freedom from Discrimination in Literature: Langston Hughes

By Sage Mann, SUNY, College at Oneonta

Subject	English Language Arts
Context	To study Langston Hughes and his literature
Objectives	To explore the racial aspect of discrimination and oppression in several Hughes' poems
Resources	Article 2 from the UDHR Copies of poems: I, Too, Sing America Dinner Guest, Me Children's Rhymes
Introduce	1. Give a previous introductory lesson on the UDHR to acquaint the students with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. 2. Ask the students to consider Article 2 of the UDHR- Freedom From Discrimination. Encourage questions and comments related to the statement and definition of any words on the poster
Teach	3. Briefly explain the Harlem Renaissance and surrounding time periods. 4. Explain how Hughes is a significant author who mostly writes about freedom from discrimination and other life issues. Describe a bit about his personal life. Show a picture of Hughes so students gain a sense of the reality of his presence. 5. Organize the class into small groups. Hand out one of the three poems to each group and allow them to read and discuss the piece. 6. Have students share the poems with the entire class. Discuss poems with students and reinforce/explain relevance to freedom and expression towards discrimination.
Close	7. Assign a journal entry. Students will respond to any one of the poems and connect it to Article 2 and freedom from discrimination.
Further Study	*Explore other authors who write about forms of discrimination and oppression. *Read other poems by Hughes