**The Negro Speaks of Rivers**

By [Langston Hughes](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/langston-hughes)

I’ve known rivers:

I’ve known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.

I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.

I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.

I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I’ve seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I’ve known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers” from *Collected Poems.* Copyright © 1994 by The Estate of Langston Hughes. Reprinted with the permission of Harold Ober Associates Incorporated.

1. Read this poem several times: the first for feeling and the second for meaning
2. Question as you read! OR define what you already know. Record these questions or comments on the sheet.
3. Answer the researchable questions (eg. Vocab, author)
4. Read for a third time, looking for a deeper understanding by summarizing in your own words line by line or stanza by stanza
5. Read for sound- how does this poem “sound” to you?
6. Read for poetic devices. Look for **allusions, similes, personification**

Structure (how does the structure reflect identity??”:

Mood:

Tone:

Summary and purpose: