

Racism in the Twenties

Hook? Draw in readers who may not know Hughes' work with some information about the historical period.

Langston Hughes' life was during Harlem's Renaissance. Other than that, Langston Hughes began writing at an early age. Also, he published his first poems when he was in high school. The poem (Theme for modern, not English B) is clearly talking about the racism in America during the twenty ^{year} ¹⁹²⁰⁻¹⁹³⁵ centuries. There are many lines in the poem, which show that black people experience racism at that time. One of which is that he mentioned that

Thesis

"You are white". In this line the poet left a very big distance that means that white people had more freedom than black people at that time.

Avoid getting into specific discussion of particular lines just yet. Your overall claims for the paper as a whole should go here instead.

The speaker studied in a school where he was the only colored person there. Therefore, he was afraid of being dealt with in a racist way. That can be understood through the first lines of

Give some plot summary about the speaker, assignment, speaker's situation, etc. See your notes on using this term.

the poem. He mentioned "I am the only colored student in my class" which represents his fear out of the situation at the time when black people were being discriminated just for being black.

- What do you mean? Explain. Do you mean that he describes the long distance after this line, which shows how perplexed he was because he did not tell anything else that. Other than that, He pointed out something about having needs like others

and that can be noticed through line twenty to twenty five. He said that "I like to eat, sleep, drink and be in love" (line 21). In other words, the poet wanted to tell the read that being colored does

make me different from others especially when it comes to the needs or desires of a normal person.

How does this next point connect to your previous point? Use a transition that links the two.

Yes - good insight. Dig deeper - what's the significance of his starting with basic physical needs and then proceeding to the emotional level? Analyze more.

Topic sentence should include the literary strategy / technique and deeper meaning rather than being plot summary.

See previous comment about topic sentences. Correct these as necessary in the remainder of the draft.

Clearly, the poet talks about his suffering during that period when black or colored people were being oppressed just because of their different color. This can be grasped through line 25-26 "I guess being colored does not make me not like what other folks like who other races." What I personally meant when I mentioned that was that the poet noticed that people were dealing with him in a different way. In other words, they would not allow him to do what he wanted to do. He mentioned that "I like a pipe for Christmas present, or records—Bessie, bop, or Back." Would being a black person not make him like what other people like? In one of our readings we did in class or from our writing conference. based-on-reality movies, which is called Hidden Figures, I saw how black women who were scientists at that time had even to go to a restroom that is very far away from the research building. According to Debunking Myths about Mental Illnesses Among Blacks article at <http://www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org>, black people do not need care for their mental health. This is clearly a kind of racism where black people lose their rights of mental health just for their color. Eventually, everybody should be treated fairly in society.

See previous comment about MLA-style citations. Correct these throughout. Run-on. Frame quotations grammatically. Use slashes in between lines of poetry. Correct this throughout the draft. Unnecessary... omit. Close reading of the quotation?

How does this connect to the question you posed in the previous sentence / to the rest of the paragraph?

Transition?

Due to racism, Hughes could not live in the university campus, but he had to live away from the university. This can be understood from line 10 to 15 in which he states "The steps from the hill lead down into Harlem, thorough a park, then I cross St. Nicholas. Eighth Avenue, Seventh, and come to the Y...". In other words, the speaker meant that he was walking a lot just to reach his apartment at the Harlem Branch Y. consequently, he had experienced racism during that period when black people could not live on campus.

This is obvious / surface-level. Deeper meaning / close reading?

He pointed out that white people are blessed with freedom while black people do not have much of freedom. The speaker talked about that frankly from line 35 to line 40 in which he stated that "Sometimes perhaps you do not want to be a part of me. Not do I often want to be a part of you. But, we are, that's true..... and somewhat freer.". the speaker

What does it mean for the meaning of the poem?

mentioned that he learns from a white old man and the old man learns from him. Even though, the white person is freer than him. The space here shows that white people were living freely more than black people. Consequentially, this shows the discrimination in America at that time.

How does it show this? Explain.

This restates what is said in the quotation... analysis?

what → In all, the context show racism at a period that Langton Hughes faced in his life. This can be noticed from the lines of this poem (Theme for ENGLISH B). The poet lived in Harlem Renaissance. In that time, black people were suffering from discrimination. In one of the line he mentioned that "You are white....". this distance means that white people lived more freely at that time. He pointed out that "I like a pipe for Christmas present, or records—Bessie, bop, or Back". In other words, would being a black person not make him like what other people like? It seems like black or colored people at that time were not able to get what they want. Eventually, freedom means a lot for the poet.

Work Cited Page

www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org, Kimya N. Dennis,

www.scholarsstrategynetwork.org/brief/debunking-myths-about-mental-illness-among-blacks.

Where is the poem? Use the
Purdue OWL website linked in your
assignment for instructions on MLA-
style citation. The poem should be
cited as a selection in an anthology.