

SONG OF AMERICA by Thomas Hampson

Worksheet created by Dr. Mark Clague (University of Michigan)

Song of America is a 13-program radio series by American lyric baritone Thomas Hampson. Use the web to fill in the life dates and birth place blanks and then listen to the associated episode to answer the remaining questions. If you're interested in listening to other episodes, go to <http://songofamerica.net/radio>

LANGSTON HUGHES AND THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE (Program 12)

James Mercer Langston Hughes (Feb. 1, _____ — May 22, _____)

Hughes was born in:

What potential distortion does Hampson's introduction of the Harlem Renaissance repeat?

Langston Hughes's father was a _____ but could not pursue this profession in the United States because of racism.

The NAACP magazine titled *The* _____ published Hughes's first poem in 1921. This poem was titled (4 words):

In the eighth grade Langston Hughes was voted _____ .

Why did Langston Hughes want to attend Columbia University in New York City?

Describe the recitation of "I, Too" by Langston Hughes. Which words does he emphasize?

One of the themes found in Hughes's poetry is a celebration of (circle one)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| a. ordinary people | c. political activists |
| b. musicians | d. the intelligensia |

In translation, Hughes's poetry impacted society in which country?

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. China | 3. Germany | 5. Australia |
| 2. Pakistan | 4. France | 6. Mexico |

According to Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, the influence and legacy of Hughes includes

1. the celebration of music & blues
2. his love of black people & refusal to be ashamed of his color
3. the civil rights movement

Each stanza Hughes's poem "Dream Variations" begins with the line

1. "To smile the world wide..."
2. "To fling my arms wide..."
3. "To bridge the great divide..."