

## Grade 6 English Language Arts

Week of February 16 – February 19

### Lesson 2: I Dream a World – Second Read

The perspectives of authors is often influenced by family, friends, gender, and life experiences. Messages sometimes reflect the society or culture around them.

Langston Hughes (pictured here) was an American writer who lived from 1902 - 1967. He lived during a time when African American people were striving for equality. Hughes' father was a wealthy man who was half African - half White. Despite African American history of capture from Africa and slavery in America, Langston Hughes' father had strong beliefs and blamed African Americans for their troubles.

Langston Hughes, the author of *I Dream A World*, was not pleased with his father's attitude or beliefs of blaming the African American's themselves and wrote this poem to share his dream of a peaceful and just world.



#### **Second Reading:**

Remember, this is a slower read, to try to understand the poem better. Explore the poem again using your **reading powers!**

- **Make connections.** (Think: This poem reminds me of....) If you can connect to what you already know, it will be easier to understand what you are reading.
- **Question** the text. (Think: I wonder..., What if..., What was the author really trying to say?)
- **Infer.** (Think: Probably, Most likely, It seems as though...)
- **Visualize.** (Think: What would this look or be like? What does the author want me to picture?)

**Annotating** the poem can help readers to collect their thoughts, inferences, connections, questions, and ideas. Remember, annotating looks like this (the blue text beside the poem).

#### **The Road Not Taken**

*By Robert Lee Frost*

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair  
And having perhaps the better claim,

*I think diverged must mean separated as there are two roads to look down.*

*I wonder why the choice made the traveler sorry? Why is he sad he can't travel both roads?*

Complete the **Second Read** by **annotating** the poem, *I Dream a World*. This means that you can record your connections, questions, inferences, visuals, and even ideas about the poem.

## **I Dream A World**

*By Langston Hughes*

I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn

I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.

A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,

Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind-  
Of such I dream, my world!

(Source: <http://www.learningfromlyrics.org/Langstons.html>)

