

Notes 4/7/06 **Negro Art, VMR, and Harlem Renaissance**

Poems (Book EE)

1. *If we Must Die*
 - a. Hope through hard times
 - b. Fight back for rights
 - i. like DuBois' active resistance
2. *Harlem Dance*
 - a. Prostitution is not life- her mind isn't in it
 - i. Forced into prostitution- common for blacks of 1920s
 - b. Not a prostitute at all?
 - i. She is dancer, while the spectators dates are prostitutes
3. *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*
 - a. African roots- **African** American
 - i. African rivers and the Mississippi
 - ii. Black People are new to American culture- they aren't defined by it
4. *Mother to Son*- Langston Hughes
 - a. Mom gives advice to son
 - i. Life is hard, but don't give up
 - b. Generational disparities
 - i. Life gets easier with each new generation
5. *Theme for English B*
 - a. Race doesn't dictate character
 - i. Just because "colored" does make me like dif. things
 - b. Teacher assigns paper- white teacher to black student
 - i. Can related to each other (the listen to the same music and have similar interests).
 - c. Only black student, but does make a difference
 - i. Influenced by whites
 - ii. Different from African Americans in different places
6. *I, Too*
 - a. It isn't fair now, but America will see the beauty of African Americans someday
 - i. No outrage of whites
 - ii. People should laugh it off today, wait for tomorrow

Negro Art

- Concept of being black and American
 - Does America help black man transcend blackness?
 - Before success, black man is just a negro, afterwards he just human
- Romance
 - African American embracing heritage
 - History's application

- Art embraces culture
- Propaganda
 - Mount Calvary
 - Black Jesus
 - White people die and are holy
 - Blacks that look up to white martyr are holy
- Building More Stately Mansions
 - Blacks are laborers through out history
 - Egypt to Empire State Building
- Children at bottom- hold the globe- future is bright
- Realizing history- embracing culture