

Hadden
Creative Writing
Week 3 & 4

Name: _____

Directions: Read the following poem and answer the reflection questions.

“Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor—
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So, boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps.
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

1. What's your initial reaction to the poem? Can you relate to it at all? Explain.

1. List two examples of imagery from the poem.

2. What is the mood of the poem? (How does it make you feel)

3. Who is the speaker of the poem?
4. What structural or stylistic techniques does the poet use?
5. What is the message of the poem?

Name: _____

Directions: Read the following poem and answer the reflection questions.

“somewhere i have never travelled” by E.E. Cummings

*This poet intentionally does not use the standard conventions of the English language

somewhere i have never travelled, gladly beyond
any experience, your eyes have their silence:
in your most frail gesture are things which enclose me,
or which i cannot touch because they are too near

your slightest look easily will unclothe me
though i have closed myself as fingers,
you open always petal by petal myself as Spring opens
(touching skilfully, mysteriously)her first rose

or if your wish be to close me, i and
my life will shut very beautifully, suddenly,
as when the heart of this flower imagines
the snow carefully everywhere descending;

nothing which we are to perceive in this world equals
the power of your intense fragility: whose texture
compels me with the colour of its countries,
rendering death and forever with each breathing

(i do not know what it is about you that closes
and opens; only something in me understands
the voice of your eyes is deeper than all roses)
nobody,not even the rain, has such small hands

1. What's your initial reaction to the poem? Can you relate to it at all? Explain.

2. List two examples of imagery from the poem.

3. What is the mood of the poem? (How does it make you feel)

4. Who is the speaker of the poem?

5. What structural or stylistic techniques does the poet use?

6. What is the message of the poem?