

NAME:

Topic: Poetry

Mother to Son (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.

Questions – Read each question below and answer.

1. How many stanzas are in this poem?
2. Who would you say is the speaker in this poem?

3. What three (3) pieces of advice did the mother give to her son ? (3pts)
4. What kind of life has the mother led? How do you know? (2pts)
5. Why do you think the mother advised her son? (2pts)
6. What is the tone in the poem? (1pt)
7. What does the mother compare her life to? Explain what she means. (3pts)
8. Even though there have been obstacles, what has the speaker continued to do? (1pt)
9. How would you explain the theme of this poem? (2 pts)
10. Identify TWO examples of imagery that appeals to the sense of sight. (2 pts)