

Name: _____
American Literature
The Harlem Renaissance

One Way Ticket

By Langston Hughes

I pick up my life,

And take it with me,

And I put it down in

Chicago, Detroit,

Buffalo, Scranton,

Any place that is

North and East,

And not Dixie.

I pick up my life

And take it on the train,

To Los Angeles, Bakersfield,

Seattle, Oakland, Salt Lake

Any place that is

North and West,

And not South.

I am fed up

With Jim Crow laws,

People who are cruel

And afraid,

Who lynch and run,

Who are scared of me

And me of them

I pick up my life

And take it away

On a one-way ticket-

Gone up North

Gone out West

Gone