

Poetry and Art—Creating with Rhythm and Mood

Langston Hughes was a famous African American poet. Jacob Lawrence knew him and even illustrated some of Hughes's poems, including "One-Way Ticket." Read "One-Way Ticket," which, like *The Migration Series*, is about moving.

One-Way Ticket

by Langston Hughes, 1949

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—
But 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!

Rhythm in Poetry

Poems, like songs, have **rhythm** and a **beat**. Poets sometimes **repeat** words or lines to help make a **pattern** so you can hear this rhythm.

What line or words does Hughes repeat in the poem to create a pattern and rhythm?

.....

.....

Why do you think that he repeats this line?

.....

.....

Mood in Poetry

Poets can also create a **mood** in their poems, to make you feel a certain way when you read them.

A poem can have a happy, upbeat mood, or it can have a sad, slow mood, depending on the words and sounds the poet chooses.

Mood: What kind of mood does the poem have? What feeling do you get when you read it?

.....

Why?

.....

.....

see other side



Rhythm in Art

Art can also have **rhythm**! Jacob Lawrence painted with a lot of repeated patterns, to make figures appear to be **moving**.

Look closely at the panels from *The Migration Series*. What does Lawrence repeat in his panels to make a pattern or a rhythm? The same shape? Color? Person?

Mood in Art

Art can have a **mood** too! Artists can use color or shapes to create a mood. Blue might mean sad. Jagged lines might mean excitement.

What mood do you feel when you look at *The Migration Series*? Is there one overall mood, or are there different moods from panel to panel?

Can you find one example of

An “excited” panel?

A “sad” panel?

A “hopeful” panel?

How does Lawrence create these moods? Through color? Line? Explain:



Jacob Lawrence, *The Migration Series*, Panels No. 1, 3, 13, and 23, 1940–41.