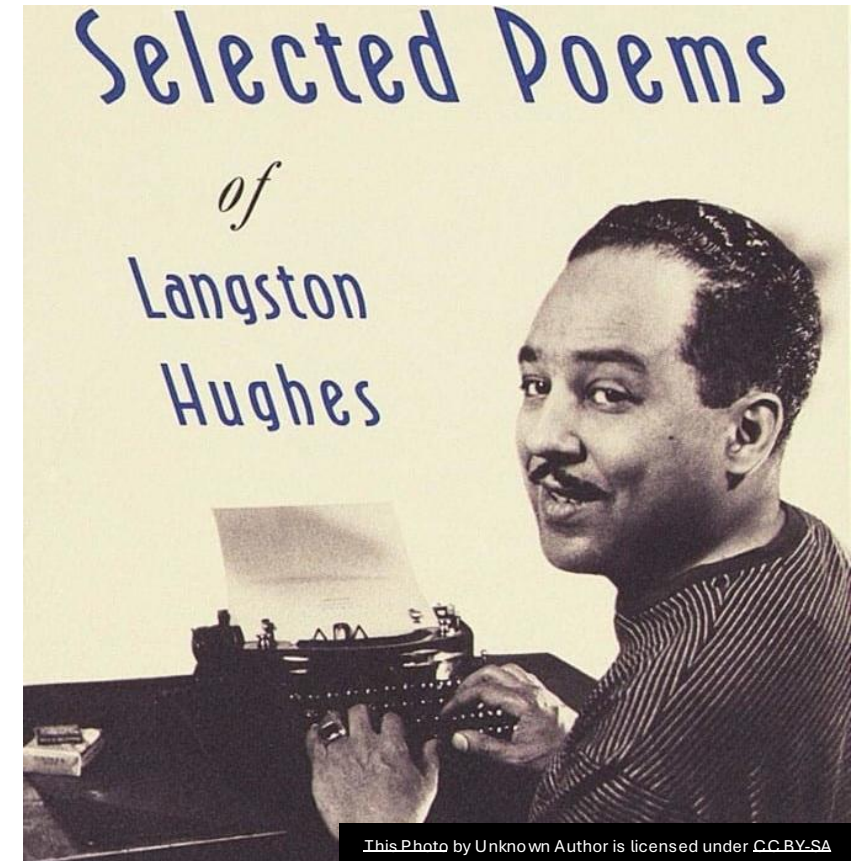


Unit 1, Lesson 4: Delving into the Heart of Hughes' Poetry: Roots, Identity, and Technique

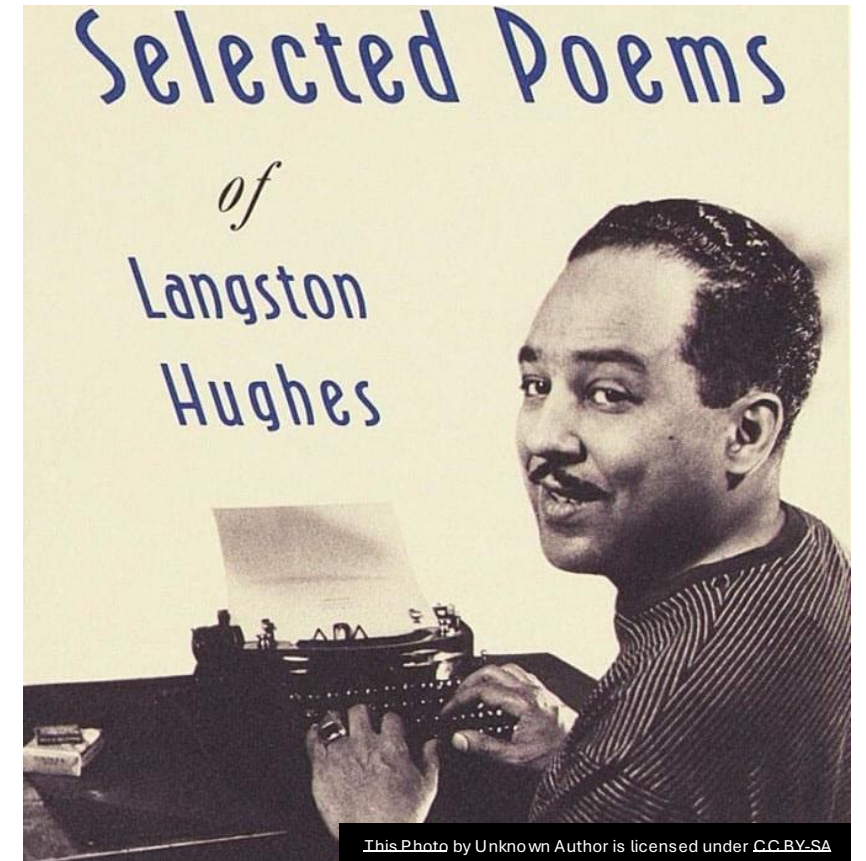
Understanding the Jazz and Blues Roots of Hughes' Poetry

- Langston Hughes often infused his poetry with elements of jazz and blues, reflecting the rhythms and themes of African American music.
- Examples:
 - "The Weary Blues"
 - "Jazzonia"
- How to Analyze:
 - Look for musical rhythms and cadences in the lines.
 - Identify themes of struggle, resilience, and everyday life ordinary in jazz and blues.
 - Note references to music, instruments, or specific songs.



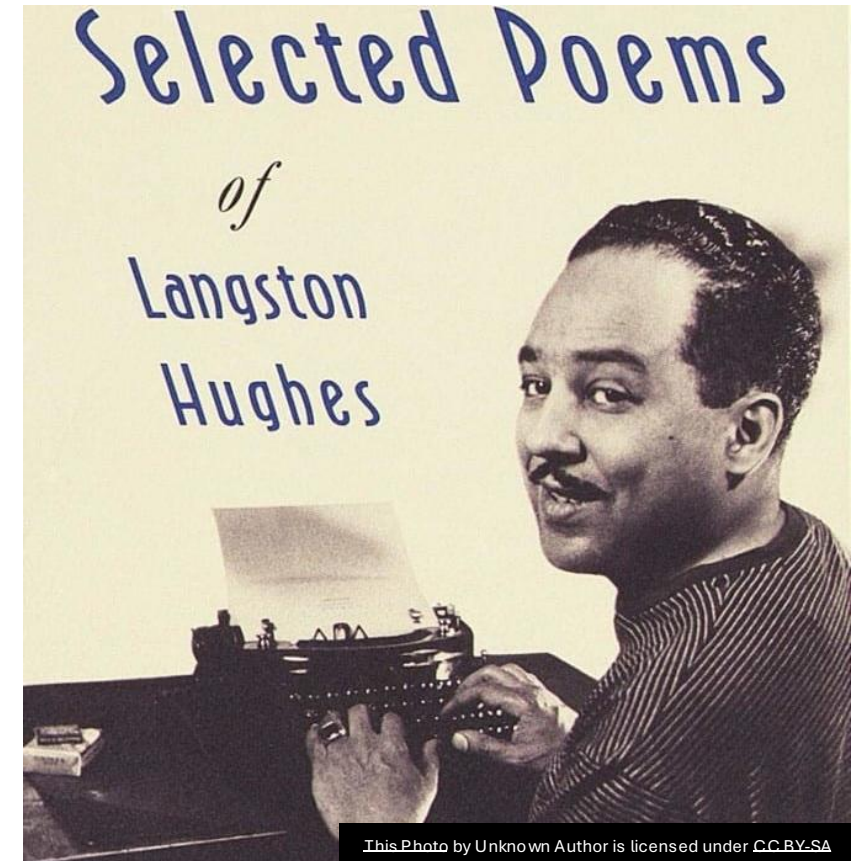
Alternate Methods of Creating Rhythm

- Definition:
 - The speaker of a poem is the voice that talks to the reader, which can be a character, the poet, or a cultural voice.
- Examples:
 - In "Mother to Son," the speaker is a mother advising her son.
 - In "I, Too," the speaker represents the voice of African Americans.
- How to Analyze:
 - Determine who the speaker is and their perspective.
 - Consider how the speaker's identity and experiences shape the poem.
 - Analyze the tone and attitude of the speaker towards the subject matter.



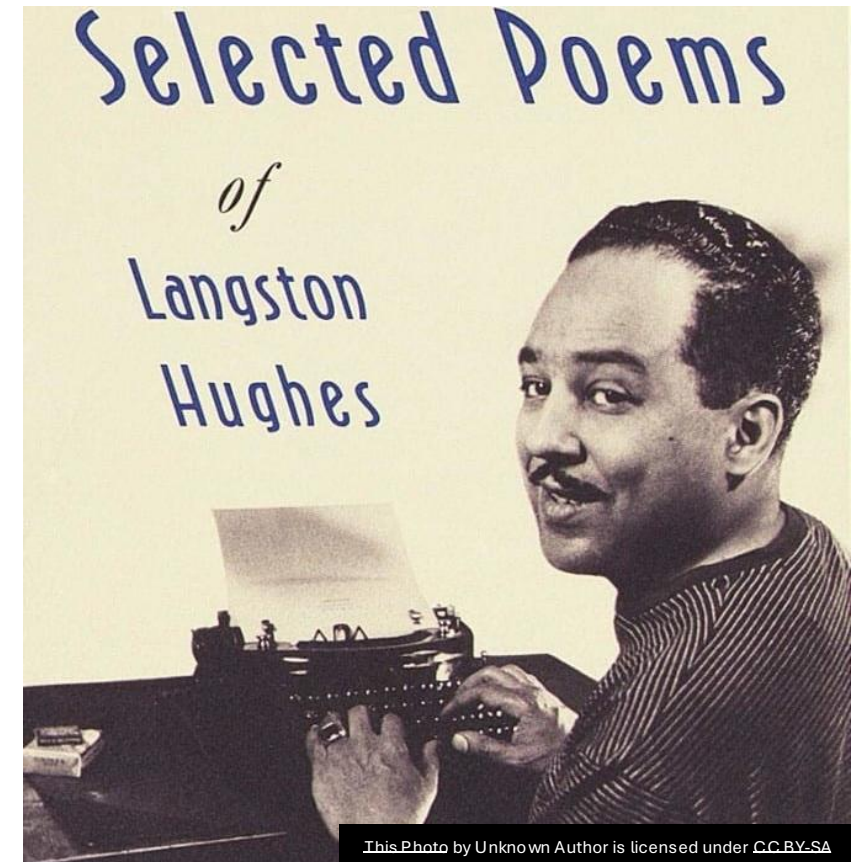
Analyzing What Shapes Identity

- Identity in poetry can be shaped by various factors such as culture, personal experiences, and historical context.
- **Examples:**
- "Theme for English B" explores personal and cultural identity.
- "Let America Be America Again" addresses national and racial identity.
- **How to Analyze:**
- Identify elements that reveal the speaker's identity (e.g., cultural references, personal anecdotes).
- Consider historical and social contexts that influence the poem.
- Analyze how the poem reflects the collective identity of a community or culture.



Speaker

- **Definition:**
- The speaker is the voice that talks to the reader in a poem. This voice can be a character, a representation of the poet, or a cultural entity.
- **Examples:**
- "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" features a speaker with a deep connection to African heritage.
- "Harlem" uses a speaker contemplating deferred dreams.
- **How to Analyze:**
- Identify the speaker and their relationship to the poem's content.
- Consider how the speaker's background and experiences influence the poem.
- Analyze the speaker's tone, mood, and perspective.



Refrain

- **Definition:**
- A refrain is one or more repeated lines of poetry that function like the chorus of a song, providing emphasis and rhythm.
- **Examples:**
- "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" uses the refrain "My soul has grown deep like the rivers."
- "Dream Variations" repeats the lines "To fling my arms wide" at the beginning of each stanza.
- **How to Analyze:**
- Identify the refrain and its placement within the poem.
- Analyze how the repetition enhances the poem's themes and emotional impact.
- Consider how the refrain contributes to the poem's rhythm and musicality.

