

List two details from the writer's biography that might have influenced the writing or your understanding of the poem.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

As you read the poem: Underline parts that relate to historical facts, especially African American issues  
Circle words/phrases that stir up emotions  
Place a question mark next to ideas that you don't recognize and may need to research  
Place [ ] around parts of the poem that seem musical (call and response, rhythm, refrain, repetition, etc.)

After you read the poem, answer the following questions, quoting parts of the poem that led to your responses:

1. What historical background does a reader need to better understand this poem?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. How does the poem relate to African American issues or jazz? Refer to historical context and text of the poem.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Look at the emotional words you circled. Are those emotions more negative, or more positive? Both? What emotions do you think the writer wanted those words make you feel?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What musical qualities of the poem or song lyrics might influence the audience? How?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Think about your responses to questions 2-4. What might the poet be persuading the audience to think or do? Write your responses in a sentence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. What did you learn from reading this poem?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_