

Primary Source Investigation
Brief background: Langston Hughes



Panoram of Joplin, MO Hughes' birthplace

Cite as:

Panoram of Joplin, Missouri. 1910. *Taking the Long View: Panoramic Photographs, 1851-1991. American Memory*. Library of Congress. <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/pan:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(pan+6a13758\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/pan:@field(NUMBER+@band(pan+6a13758)))>.



Portrait of Jay Higginbotham, Pete Johnson, Henry Allen, and Lester Young, National Press Club: The famous Henry "Red" Allen Band accompanied Hughes in a 1958 poetry recording.

Cite as:

Gottlieb, William P. Portrait of Jay Higginbotham, Pete Johnson, Henry Allen, and Lester Young, National Press Club, Washington, D.C. 1940. *William P. Gottlieb: Photographs from the Golden Age of Jazz. American Memory*. Library of Congress. <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gottlieb:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(gottlieb+03621\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/gottlieb:@field(NUMBER+@band(gottlieb+03621)))>.



Scottsboro Limited a drawing by Prentiss Taylor, dedicated to Langston Hughes. At the trial in Scottsboro, Alabama, nine black youths accused of raping two white females declared their innocence, but were convicted. Several years later the courts reversed the convictions against the men. *Scottsboro Limited* includes four poems protesting the treatment of the group widely known as the "Scottsboro Boys," and a play in verse by Langston Hughes, with illustrations by Prentiss Taylor, a white artist.

Cite as:

Taylor, Prentiss. *Scottsboro Limited*. 1931. *African American Odyssey*. American Memory, Library of Congress. <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/aaodyssey:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(cph+3d02205\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/aaodyssey:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3d02205)))>.



Chicago, Illinois. Good Sheperd Community Center. Mr. Langston Hughes at a rehearsal of his new play.

Cite as:

Delano, Jack. Chicago, Illinois. Good Sheperd Community Center. Mr. Langston Hughes at a rehearsal at of his new play. 1942. *America from the Great Depression to World War II: Photographs from the FSA-OWI, 1935-1945. American Memory.* Library of Congress <[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fsaall:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(fsa+8d03175\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/fsaall:@field(NUMBER+@band(fsa+8d03175)))>.



Draft, Ballad of Booker T: Despite his own very liberal beliefs, Hughes defended African American activists who held more conservative views. For example, in the 1941 poem "Ballad of Booker T.," Hughes defends Booker T. Washington, a former slave and more conservative advocate for equality. Rather than criticize him, the poet focused on Washington's strategy to gain racial equality.

Cite as:

Drafts of Langston Hughes's poem "Ballad of Booker T. 1941. *Words and Deeds in American History: Selected Documents Celebrating the Manuscript Division's First 100 Years.* American Memory, Library of Congress. <[http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(mcc/024\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field(DOCID+@lit(mcc/024)))>.