

Name:

Day One

The Jazz Poet

Part 1: Silent read

➔ What is jazz poetry? Read silently.

Langston Hughes was a great African American writer. He was also the first jazz poet. In poems like “Juke Box Love Song,” he celebrated the 1920s music scene. He loved to write about popular music. In his poetry, he echoed the style and sound of jazz.

Jazz music was born in clubs and dance halls. It is experimental and free flowing. It uses punchy, quick notes called staccato notes and syncopated rhythms that change suddenly. A jazz trumpeter or singer might throw an extra pause into a melody or hold one note for a long time. The performer might also use a “blue note.” A blue note is one that is unexpectedly low. It sounds sad. Early jazz music was full of emotion. The music reflected the lives and the struggles of Black Americans.

Langston Hughes loved jazz. In fact, he chose to live in New York City where he could hear live music every day. He loved to sit in jazz clubs, writing poetry on party napkins. Like jazz music, his poetry “sang.”

Many of Hughes’s poems sound like jazz. They use syncopated rhythms. They use words that sound like quick, short staccato notes or long, low notes. They express deep emotions, just like jazz. Some Hughes poems make the reader want to move to the beat. Others echo in the reader’s heart like a blue note.



Day One

// one minute

The Jazz Poet

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Langston Hughes was a great African American writer. He was also the first jazz poet. In poems like “Juke Box Love Song,” he celebrated the 1920s music scene. He loved to write about popular music. In his poetry, he echoed the style and sound of jazz. 46

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75
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111
125
134

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168
174

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202
218
228

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What makes Langston Hughes a jazz poet?

What is a “blue note”?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Langston Hughes / was a great African American writer. // He was also the first jazz poet. // In poems like “Juke Box Love Song,” / he celebrated the 1920s music scene. // He loved to write about popular music. // In his poetry, / he echoed the style and sound of jazz. //

Jazz music / was born in clubs and dance halls. // It is experimental / and free flowing. // It uses punchy, / quick notes / called staccato notes / and syncopated rhythms that change suddenly. // A jazz trumpeter or singer / might throw an extra pause into a melody / or hold one note for a long time. // The performer might also use a “blue note.” // A blue note / is one that is unexpectedly low. // It sounds sad. // Early jazz music was full of emotion. // The music reflected the lives and the struggles / of Black Americans. //

Langston Hughes loved jazz. // In fact, / he chose to live in New York City / where he could hear live music every day. // He loved to sit in jazz clubs, / writing poetry on party napkins. // Like jazz music, / his poetry “sang.” //

Many of Hughes’s poems sound like jazz. // They use syncopated rhythms. // They use words that sound like quick, / short staccato notes // or long, / low notes. // They express deep emotions, / just like jazz. // Some Hughes poems make the reader want / to move to the beat. // Others echo in the reader’s heart / like a blue note. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.