

Identify significant literary devices that define a writer's style and use to interpret work

Lang. Arts

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Essential Question:

How does Langston Hughes' poem, "Mother to Son", advise the reader to overcome difficulty and keep from giving up in life?

Questions:

Notes:

① What is the significance of the speaker in the poem?

① Speaker -
 * voice that communicates a poem's ideas, actions, descriptions, & feelings
 - similar to narrator
 - can be unknown or specific (like character)

② How does a poet's choice of speaker affect the mood/meaning of a poem?

② Impt.
 - Poet's choice of speaker contributes to the poem's mood/meaning
 - who speaks is as impt. as what is said
 - different points of view regarding same event (ie. parent, child, elderly person)
 - * the person telling the story gives point of view and affects the message told ← P.O.V.*

③ How does Hughes use vocabulary to contribute to and convey his message?

③ Vocab - helps to understand meaning
 "crystal stair" = luxuries (metaphor) ^{compares 2 things}
 ie. "Life for me ain't been no crystal stair"
 "reachin'" - replace letter at end of word (dialect)
 "cause" = because → slang
 var. lang used by group speech patt.

Summary:

The speaker/voice in the poem is important because it communicates the ideas/feelings of the poem. Who the poet chooses as the speaker identifies the point of view and affects the message/meaning. Hughes uses vocabulary and style to convey the message that life is hard when Mother says "Life for me aint been no crystal staircase."

Questions:	Notes:
<p>④ How are literary elements used in "Mother to Son" to convey the author's message?</p>	<p><u>Literary Elements:</u></p> <p>① <u>Speaker:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - voice of poem - creates tone (attitude) - attitude based on P.O.V. <p>② <u>Character:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - person <p>③ mother - hardworking, determ. son - wants to give up because life is diff.</p>
<p>⑤ How does the poet's choice of speaker contribute to the mood / meaning of the poem?</p>	<p>④ <u>Mood:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - emotional quality - atmosphere <small>← feeling get from poem</small> <p>⑤ <u>Meaning:</u></p> <p>message in poem lesson</p> <p>(use on essay test as ex.)</p> <p>⑥ Mother - uses her <u>victory</u> & <u>survival</u> of diff. exp. to motivate son</p> <p>⑦ <u>Hard life</u> - filled with many difficulties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - "tacks, splinters, torn-up boards" - "climbin', reachin', turnin'" = struggle - "goin' in the dark" no light to guide the way not giving up is like climbing stairs... if she could do it so can he (Mother's message)

Summary: The mother's words in Hughes' poem "Mother to Son" shows life as a climb up a staircase full of tacks, splinters, torn up boards and sometimes without light; but even though it is a hard climb, she says don't sit down on the steps and give up, keep climbing until you achieve.