

langston hughes short stories

langston hughes short stories are celebrated for their profound insight into the African American experience, blending rich cultural themes, social commentary, and accessible storytelling. This article explores Langston Hughes's enduring legacy as a master of short fiction, offering an in-depth look at his most famous works, writing style, and historical context. Readers will discover how Hughes's stories reflect the spirit of the Harlem Renaissance, address issues of race and identity, and continue to influence contemporary literature. We'll examine the themes, notable titles, and literary techniques that make his short stories essential reading for anyone interested in American literature. Whether you are a student, educator, or enthusiast, this comprehensive guide to Langston Hughes short stories will equip you with valuable insights and knowledge. Read on to explore the impact and artistry of one of the twentieth century's most influential writers.

- Overview of Langston Hughes as a Short Story Writer
- Historical and Cultural Context
- Major Themes in Langston Hughes Short Stories
- Notable Langston Hughes Short Stories
- Writing Style and Literary Techniques
- Legacy and Influence on Literature

Overview of Langston Hughes as a Short Story Writer

Langston Hughes is widely recognized as a leading figure in American literature, particularly for his contributions to poetry and short fiction. While often associated with his iconic poems, Hughes's short stories are equally important in understanding his artistic vision and social impact. His stories are known for their vivid portrayals of everyday life within African American communities, their accessibility to a broad audience, and their ability to capture the complexities of identity, hope, and resilience. Hughes's short stories often appeared in magazines and anthologies, reaching readers beyond traditional literary circles. He used the short story form to highlight both the struggles and joys of his characters, making his work relatable and memorable. As a prolific writer, Hughes crafted dozens of short stories that remain relevant for their historical insight and literary merit.

Historical and Cultural Context

The Harlem Renaissance

Langston Hughes's short stories were deeply influenced by the Harlem Renaissance, a vibrant cultural movement that flourished in the early twentieth century. The Harlem Renaissance marked a period of artistic, musical, and literary innovation among African American creatives in New York City. Hughes emerged as a leading voice during this era, drawing inspiration from the community's energy and optimism. His stories often reflect the aspirations and challenges faced by African Americans in a rapidly changing society, emphasizing themes of pride, solidarity, and social justice. Through his fiction, Hughes helped to elevate Black voices and foster a greater understanding of the African American experience.

Social and Political Influences

The social and political climate of Hughes's time significantly shaped his short stories. Issues such as segregation, discrimination, and economic hardship are woven throughout his narratives, providing authentic glimpses into the realities of Black life in America. Hughes's stories also address topics like migration, urbanization, and generational conflict, illustrating how larger societal forces impact individuals and families. His commitment to social activism is evident in his writing, as he often challenged stereotypes and championed equality. By situating his stories within real-world contexts, Hughes created works that resonate with readers across generations.

Major Themes in Langston Hughes Short Stories

Racial Identity and Pride

One of the most prominent themes in Langston Hughes short stories is racial identity. Hughes explores the complexities of being Black in America, highlighting both the pride and the pain associated with cultural heritage. His characters grapple with issues of self-worth, prejudice, and the search for belonging. Through nuanced portrayals, Hughes affirms the dignity of African Americans and celebrates their contributions to society.

Hope and Resilience

Hope and resilience are recurring motifs in Hughes's short fiction. Despite facing adversity, his characters

often display remarkable strength and perseverance. Hughes uses everyday situations—whether in the workplace, family, or community—to illustrate how hope can sustain individuals through difficult times. These stories encourage readers to find optimism even in challenging circumstances.

Social Justice and Equality

Hughes's commitment to social justice is evident throughout his short stories. He frequently addresses issues of inequality, from economic disparity to racial prejudice, and advocates for change through his storytelling. By highlighting the struggles of marginalized groups, Hughes inspires empathy and raises awareness about the need for social reform.

Community and Family

The importance of community and family is another central theme in Hughes's work. His stories depict tight-knit neighborhoods, supportive families, and communal bonds that help individuals navigate life's challenges. Hughes emphasizes the role of collective strength and shared experiences, portraying how connections with others can foster hope and healing.

Notable Langston Hughes Short Stories

“Thank You, Ma’am”

“Thank You, Ma’am” is among Langston Hughes's most beloved short stories. The narrative centers on a young boy, Roger, who attempts to steal a woman's purse but is instead met with compassion and understanding. The story explores themes of trust, forgiveness, and moral education, offering a powerful message about kindness and personal growth. Hughes's straightforward style and memorable characters make this story a favorite in classrooms and literary discussions.

“Why, You Reckon?”

In “Why, You Reckon?”, Hughes delves into the motivations behind a crime committed by two young men in Harlem. The story examines economic hardship, moral dilemmas, and the complexities of human behavior. By presenting characters with relatable struggles, Hughes encourages readers to consider the broader societal factors that influence individual choices.

“One Friday Morning”

“One Friday Morning” tells the story of Nancy Lee, a talented African American student who dreams of winning a scholarship for her artistic achievements. When Nancy faces discrimination, the narrative highlights themes of hope, determination, and the ongoing fight for equality. Hughes’s empathetic portrayal of Nancy’s journey underscores the importance of perseverance and advocacy.

Other Significant Short Stories

- “Berry” – Explores issues of race, labor, and economic struggle in the context of a summer camp.
- “Red-Headed Baby” – Examines family, identity, and the complexities of parenthood.
- “Mother to Son” – Although primarily known as a poem, Hughes’s themes of resilience and advice echo throughout his short stories.
- “Cora Unashamed” – Focuses on a Black domestic worker’s emotional journey and the intersection of race and class.

Writing Style and Literary Techniques

Accessible Language and Dialogue

Langston Hughes is praised for his accessible language, making his short stories relatable to a wide audience. He often employs colloquial speech and authentic dialogue, capturing the rhythms of everyday conversation. This approach grounds his narratives in real-life experiences and enhances character development.

Symbolism and Imagery

Hughes frequently uses symbolism and vivid imagery to convey deeper meanings in his stories. Everyday objects, settings, and actions often represent broader themes such as hope, freedom, or social injustice. His descriptive passages immerse readers in the environments of his characters, adding richness and emotional resonance to his work.

Economy of Form

Hughes's mastery of concise storytelling is evident in his short fiction. He distills complex ideas into brief, impactful narratives, allowing readers to engage with important themes without unnecessary exposition. This economy of form makes his stories memorable and effective, encouraging reflection and discussion.

Legacy and Influence on Literature

Impact on African American Literature

Langston Hughes's short stories have had a profound effect on African American literature. By centering Black voices and experiences, Hughes paved the way for future generations of writers. His emphasis on authenticity and social consciousness continues to inspire authors exploring themes of identity and justice.

Influence on Contemporary Writers

Hughes's innovative approach to storytelling has influenced countless contemporary writers. His blend of literary artistry and social commentary serves as a model for those seeking to address complex issues through fiction. Many modern authors acknowledge Hughes's legacy in their own explorations of culture, community, and personal growth.

Educational Value

Langston Hughes short stories are widely studied in educational settings for their historical significance and literary excellence. They offer accessible entry points for discussions about race, culture, and ethics. Educators use his works to encourage critical thinking, empathy, and appreciation for diverse perspectives.

Preservation of Cultural Memory

Through his short stories, Hughes has contributed to the preservation of African American cultural memory. His vivid portrayals of life, struggle, and triumph ensure that the experiences of his characters remain part of the literary and historical record. As a result, Hughes's stories continue to enlighten and inspire readers around the world.

Trending Questions and Answers about Langston Hughes Short Stories

Q: What are the most famous Langston Hughes short stories?

A: Some of the most famous Langston Hughes short stories include “Thank You, Ma’am,” “One Friday Morning,” “Why, You Reckon?” and “Berry.” These stories are widely studied for their powerful themes and memorable characters.

Q: What themes are commonly found in Langston Hughes short stories?

A: Common themes in Langston Hughes short stories are racial identity, hope, resilience, social justice, equality, community, and family. His work often explores the African American experience in depth.

Q: How did the Harlem Renaissance influence Langston Hughes’s short stories?

A: The Harlem Renaissance provided Hughes with inspiration and a supportive community of artists. His short stories reflect the movement’s focus on Black pride, creativity, and social activism.

Q: Why is “Thank You, Ma’am” considered a classic short story?

A: “Thank You, Ma’am” is considered a classic because it delivers a universal message about kindness, forgiveness, and personal growth while showcasing Hughes’s accessible writing style.

Q: What literary techniques does Langston Hughes use in his short stories?

A: Hughes often uses accessible language, realistic dialogue, symbolism, vivid imagery, and concise storytelling to create engaging and meaningful short fiction.

Q: Who are the main audiences for Langston Hughes short stories?

A: Langston Hughes short stories are read by students, educators, literary scholars, and anyone interested in American literature and African American history.

Q: How do Langston Hughes short stories address issues of race and social justice?

A: Hughes's stories confront racial discrimination and social inequality by highlighting the struggles, hopes, and resilience of his characters. He advocates for empathy and social change through his narratives.

Q: Are Langston Hughes's short stories still relevant today?

A: Yes, Langston Hughes short stories remain relevant due to their universal themes, historical insight, and continued influence on literature and social thought.

Q: What impact did Langston Hughes have on future generations of writers?

A: Hughes's focus on authentic representation and social issues helped pave the way for future African American writers and inspired broader literary movements.

Q: How can educators use Langston Hughes short stories in the classroom?

A: Educators use Hughes's stories to teach literary analysis, discuss themes of race and identity, and foster empathy and understanding among students.

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Langston Hughes Short Stories: A Journey into the Heart of the Harlem Renaissance

Langston Hughes, a towering figure of the Harlem Renaissance, gifted the world with more than just poetry. His short stories, often overlooked amidst his celebrated poems and plays, offer a profound and intimate glimpse into the lives, dreams, and struggles of Black Americans during a pivotal era. This post delves deep into the world of Langston Hughes' short fiction, exploring his recurring

themes, stylistic choices, and the lasting impact of his captivating narratives. We'll examine key stories, analyze his masterful use of language, and uncover the enduring relevance of his work today. Prepare to embark on a literary journey that illuminates the human experience with unparalleled sensitivity and power.

Exploring Key Themes in Langston Hughes' Short Stories

Hughes' short stories are a tapestry woven with recurring threads that reflect the complexities of Black life in America. These themes resonate powerfully even today.

The Search for Identity: Many of Hughes' stories grapple with the search for identity within a society that often denies Black individuals their full humanity. Characters navigate the challenges of racial prejudice, societal expectations, and the internal conflict of self-discovery. This is vividly depicted in stories where characters struggle to reconcile their African American heritage with the dominant white culture.

The Power of Community: Hughes frequently highlights the importance of community and the strength found in collective experiences. The vibrant cultural life of Harlem, with its jazz clubs, churches, and close-knit neighborhoods, serves as a backdrop for many narratives, emphasizing the support and resilience found within the Black community. This sense of community acts as both a refuge and a source of inspiration for his characters.

The Struggle for Equality: The fight for racial equality is a central theme woven throughout Hughes' short stories. He

doesn't shy away from portraying the harsh realities of racism and discrimination, but he also showcases the unwavering spirit and determination of his characters to overcome adversity. This struggle for equality is not merely a political battle, but a deeply personal one affecting every aspect of life.

The Importance of Art and Expression: Hughes, himself an artist, underscores the power of art as a form of resistance, expression, and social commentary. His stories often feature characters who find solace and strength in music, literature, and other creative outlets. The act of creating becomes a way to fight back against silencing and oppression.

Notable Langston Hughes Short Stories and Their Significance

While Hughes penned numerous short stories, some stand out for their impact and enduring relevance.

"Thank You, M'am": This poignant tale explores themes of compassion, forgiveness, and the unexpected connections forged between individuals from different backgrounds. Its simplicity belies its profound message about human kindness and redemption.

"Why, You Reckon?": This story, set during the Great Depression, poignantly depicts the struggles of Black Americans during a time of widespread economic hardship. It

showcases the resilience and resourcefulness of its characters in the face of adversity.

"The Weary Blues": While known for his poetry, this short story vividly captures the essence of blues music and its importance to the Black community. It demonstrates how music can express deep emotions and provide solace during difficult times.

"One Friday Morning": This story addresses the insidious nature of racism within the education system. It showcases the resilience of a young Black girl in the face of prejudice and underscores the importance of education as a pathway to opportunity.

Langston Hughes' Literary Style and Techniques

Hughes' writing style is marked by its simplicity, directness, and accessibility. He masterfully employs vernacular language, capturing the authentic voices and rhythms of his characters. His use of dialect adds depth and realism to his stories, making them relatable and emotionally resonant.

He frequently uses vivid imagery and detailed descriptions to bring his stories to life. The settings, characters, and events are painted in a way that engages the reader's senses. His storytelling is character-driven, focusing on the inner lives and experiences of his protagonists.

Furthermore, he often incorporates elements of humor and irony into his narratives. This subtly lightens the weight of serious themes, enriching the stories with complexity and nuance.

The Enduring Legacy of Langston Hughes' Short

Stories

Langston Hughes' short stories continue to resonate with readers today because they explore universal themes of identity, community, and the struggle for equality. His masterful use of language and storytelling techniques makes his work accessible and engaging. His legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of social justice and the enduring power of the human spirit. His stories offer valuable insights into the history and culture of the Black experience in America, providing a window into a vital period in American history. They offer lessons in compassion, resilience, and the power of the human spirit that transcends time and place.

Conclusion

Exploring the short stories of Langston Hughes is to embark on a journey into the heart of the Harlem Renaissance and beyond. His works remain powerfully relevant today, offering timeless insights into the human condition and the ongoing struggle for equality and justice. Through his masterful storytelling, Hughes gifted us with narratives that are both deeply personal and universally resonant.

FAQs

1. Where can I find Langston Hughes' short stories? Many of his short stories are collected in anthologies, and individual stories can be found online through various digital libraries and academic databases. You can also find them in many public libraries.
2. What makes Langston Hughes' short stories unique? Hughes' unique style blends vernacular language, vivid imagery, and deeply relatable characters to explore complex themes of identity, race, and community in a powerful and accessible way.
3. Are Langston Hughes' short stories appropriate for all ages? While many are suitable for young adults and older readers, some stories touch upon mature themes that may require parental guidance for younger readers.
4. How do Langston Hughes' short stories relate to the Harlem Renaissance? His short stories are central to understanding the artistic and intellectual flowering of the Harlem Renaissance, capturing the hopes, dreams, and struggles of the Black community during this pivotal period.
5. What is the lasting impact of Langston Hughes' short stories? His stories continue to inspire readers and offer valuable insights into the Black experience in America, prompting ongoing conversations about racial justice, social equality, and the enduring power of the human spirit.

langston hughes short stories: Langston Hughes: Short Stories Langston Hughes, 1997-08-15 Stories capturing “the vibrancy of Harlem life, the passions of ordinary black people, and the indignities of everyday racism” by “a great American writer” (Kirkus Reviews). This collection of forty-seven stories written between 1919 and 1963—the most comprehensive available—showcases Langston Hughes’s literary blossoming and the development of his personal and artistic concerns in the decades that preceded the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Many of the stories assembled here have long been out of print, and others never before collected. These poignant, witty, angry, and deeply poetic stories demonstrate Hughes’s uncanny gift for elucidating the most vexing questions of American race relations and human nature in general. “[Hughes’s fiction] manifests his ‘wonder at the world.’ As these stories reveal, that wonder has lost little of its shine.” —The Cleveland Plain Dealer

langston hughes short stories: Thank You, M'am Langston Hughes, 2014-08 When a young boy named Roger tries to steal the purse of a woman named Luella, he is just looking for money to buy stylish new shoes. After she grabs him by the collar and drags him back to her home, he's sure that he is in deep trouble. Instead, Roger is soon left speechless by her kindness and generosity.

langston hughes short stories: The Big Sea Langston Hughes, 2022-08-01 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of The Big Sea by Langston Hughes. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

langston hughes short stories: The Best Short Stories by Black Writers Langston Hughes, 1969-02-28 Collects short stories by African American writers such as James Baldwin, Zora Neale Hurston, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ralph Ellison, and Alice Walker

langston hughes short stories: Not So Simple Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper, 1996-08-01 The Simple stories, Langston Hughes's satirical pieces featuring Harlem's Jesse B. Semple, have been lauded as Hughes's greatest contribution to American fiction. In Not So Simple, Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper provides the first full historical analysis of the Simple stories. Harper traces the evolution and development of Simple from his 1943 appearance in Hughes's weekly Chicago Defender column through his 1965 farewell in the New York Post. Drawing on correspondence and manuscripts of the stories, Harper explores the development of the Simple collections, from Simple Speaks His Mind (1950) to Simple's Uncle Sam (1965), providing fresh and provocative perspectives on both Hughes and the characters who populate his stories. Harper discusses the nature of Simple, Harlem's everyman, and the way in which Hughes used his character both to teach fellow Harlem residents about their connection to world events and to give black literature a hero whose day-after-day heroism would exemplify greatness. She explores the psychological, sociological, and literary meanings behind the Simple stories, and suggests ways in which the stories illustrate lessons of American history and political science. She also examines the roles played by women in these humorously ironic fictions. Ultimately, Hughes's attitudes as an author are measured against the views of other prominent African American writers. Demonstrating the richness and complexity of this Langston Hughes character and the Harlem he inhabited. Not So Simple makes an important contribution to the study of American literature.

langston hughes short stories: The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes James Langston Hughes, 1994 Here, for the first time, is a complete collection of Langston Hughes's poetry - 860 poems that sound the heartbeat of black life in America during five turbulent decades, from the 1920s through the 1960s.

langston hughes short stories: The Best of Simple Langston Hughes, 2015-10-13 Langston Hughes's stories about Jesse B. Semple--first composed for a weekly column in the Chicago Defender and then collected in Simple Speaks His Mind, Simple Takes a Wife, and Simple Stakes a Claim--have been read and loved by hundreds of thousands of readers. In The Best of Simple, the author picked his favorites from these earlier volumes, stories that not only have proved popular but

are now part of a great and growing literary tradition. Simple might be considered an Everyman for black Americans. Hughes himself wrote: ...these tales are about a great many people--although they are stories about no specific persons as such. But it is impossible to live in Harlem and not know at least a hundred Simples, fifty Joyces, twenty-five Zaritas, and several Cousin Minnies--or reasonable facsimiles thereof. As Arnold Rampersad has written, Simple is one of the most memorable and winning characters in the annals of American literature, justly regarded as one of Hughes's most inspired creations.

langston hughes short stories: *Selected Poems of Langston Hughes* Langston Hughes, 1990-09-12 Langston Hughes electrified readers and launched a renaissance in Black writing in America—the poems in this collection were chosen by Hughes himself shortly before his death and represent stunning work from his entire career. The poems Hughes wrote celebrated the experience of invisible men and women: of slaves who rushed the boots of Washington; of musicians on Lenox Avenue; of the poor and the lovesick; of losers in the raffle of night. They conveyed that experience in a voice that blended the spoken with the sung, that turned poetic lines into the phrases of jazz and blues, and that ripped through the curtain separating high from popular culture. They spanned the range from the lyric to the polemic, ringing out wonder and pain and terror—and the marrow of the bone of life. The collection includes *The Negro Speaks of Rivers*, *The Weary Blues*, *Still Here*, *Song for a Dark Girl*, *Montage of a Dream Deferred*, and *Refugee in America*. It gives us a poet of extraordinary range, directness, and stylistic virtuosity.

langston hughes short stories: *Not Without Laughter* Langston Hughes, 2012-03-05 Poet Langston Hughes' only novel, a coming-of-age tale that unfolds amid an African American family in rural Kansas, explores the dilemmas of life in a racially divided society.

langston hughes short stories: *The Return of Simple* Langston Hughes, 2011-04-01 Collected humorous stories from the iconic American writer's newspaper column, featuring his most memorable and spirited fictional character. In 1940, Langston Hughes introduced Jesse B. Semple, or "Simple," to readers in his Chicago Defender column, "From Here to Yonder." From his familiar perch in a fictional Harlem bar, Simple held forth on a variety of subjects—low wages, interracial marriage, birth control, race riots, the police—then central to black life in urban America. More than fifty years later, Simple's concerns are, startlingly, still ours, and his voice, ringing with poetic wisdom and humor, reminds us of the rich African American folk tradition Langston Hughes helped to revive. This brilliantly edited collection by Akiba Sullivan Harper brings together the best stories from a number of Simple volumes long out of print and a few never before published. Its feel is so contemporary and relevant to American life one must marvel at Hughes's ability to pass through the barrier of time. Praise for *The Return of Simple* "A glorious revelation . . . a chance for fairweather Hughes fans to acquaint themselves with something other than his poems and plays. This is the author as loquacious unleashed social commentator, who—prompted by 'just one more beer, my friend'—holds up a mirror and shows us the world, which hasn't changed very much, not in all this time." —Boston Globe "Hughes's slices of urban black life belong also to the larger continuum of great American humor, from Mark Twain to Armistead Maupin. Quite simply, an indispensable part of our cultural heritage." —Kirkus Reviews

langston hughes short stories: *Something in Common and Other Stories* Langston Hughes, 1963

langston hughes short stories: *Remember Me to Harlem* Langston Hughes, Carl Van Vechten, 2007-12-18 Langston Hughes is widely remembered as a celebrated star of the Harlem Renaissance -- a writer whose bluesy, lyrical poems and novels still have broad appeal. What's less well known about Hughes is that for much of his life he maintained a friendship with Carl Van Vechten, a flamboyant white critic, writer, and photographer whose ardent support of black artists was peerless. Despite their differences — Van Vechten was forty-four to Hughes twenty-two when they met—Hughes' and Van Vechten's shared interest in black culture lead to a deeply-felt, if unconventional friendship that would span some forty years. Between them they knew everyone — from Zora Neale Hurston to Richard Wright, and their letters, lovingly and expertly collected here

for the first time, are filled with gossip about the antics of the great and the forgotten, as well as with talk that ranged from race relations to blues lyrics to the nightspots of Harlem, which they both loved to prowl. It's a correspondence that, as Emily Bernard notes in her introduction, provides "an unusual record of entertainment, politics, and culture as seen through the eyes of two fascinating and irreverent men.

langston hughes short stories: The Best Short Stories by Negro Writers Langston Hughes, 197?

langston hughes short stories: That Is My Dream! Langston Hughes, 2017-10-03 "Dream Variation," one of Langston Hughes's most celebrated poems, about the dream of a world free of discrimination and racial prejudice, is now a picture book stunningly illustrated by Daniel Miyares, the acclaimed creator of *Float*. To fling my arms wide In some place of the sun, To whirl and to dance Till the white day is done.... Langston Hughes's inspiring and timeless message of pride, joy, and the dream of a better life is brilliantly and beautifully interpreted in Daniel Miyares's gorgeous artwork. Follow one African-American boy through the course of his day as the harsh reality of segregation and racial prejudice comes into vivid focus. But the boy dreams of a different life—one full of freedom, hope, and wild possibility, where he can fling his arms wide in the face of the sun. Hughes's powerful vision, brought joyously to life by Daniel Miyares, is as relevant—and necessary—today as when it was first written.

langston hughes short stories: The Ways of White Folks Langston Hughes, 2011-09-07 A collection of vibrant and incisive short stories depicting the sometimes humorous, but more often tragic interactions between Black people and white people in America in the 1920s and '30s. One of the most important writers to emerge from the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes may be best known as a poet, but these stories showcase his talent as a lively storyteller. His work blends elements of blues and jazz, speech and song, into a triumphant and wholly original idiom. Stories included in this collection: Cora Unashamed Slave on the Block Home Passing A Good Job Gone Rejuvenation Through Joy The Blues I'm Playing Red-Headed Baby Poor Little Black Fellow Little Dog Berry Mother and Child One Christmas Eve Father and Son

langston hughes short stories: The Sweet Flypaper of Life Roy DeCarava, Langston Hughes, 1984 Told through the eyes of the grandmotherly Sister Mary Bradley, this is a heartwarming description of life in Harlem.

langston hughes short stories: Laughing to Keep from Crying Langston Hughes, 1952 A novel about Black life.

langston hughes short stories: Zora and Langston: A Story of Friendship and Betrayal Yuval Taylor, 2019-03-26 A Finalist for the 2019 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in Biography "A complete pleasure to read." —Lisa Page, Washington Post Novelist Zora Neale Hurston and poet Langston Hughes, two of America's greatest writers, first met in New York City in 1925. Drawn to each other, they helped launch a radical journal, *Fire!!* Later, meeting by accident in Alabama, they became close as they traveled together—Hurston interviewing African Americans for folk stories, Hughes getting his first taste of the deep South. By illuminating their lives, work, competitiveness, and ambitions, Yuval Taylor savvily details how their friendship and literary collaborations dead-ended in acrimonious accusations.

langston hughes short stories: Finding Langston Lesa Cline-Ransome, 2018-08-14 A Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction When eleven-year-old Langston's father moves them from their home in Alabama to Chicago's Bronzeville district, it feels like he's giving up everything he loves. It's 1946. Langston's mother has just died, and now they're leaving the rest of his family and friends. He misses everything-- Grandma's Sunday suppers, the red dirt roads, and the magnolia trees his mother loved. In the city, they live in a small apartment surrounded by noise and chaos. It doesn't feel like a new start, or a better life. At home he's lonely, his father always busy at work; at school he's bullied for being a country boy. But Langston's new home has one fantastic thing. Unlike the whites-only library in Alabama, the Chicago Public Library welcomes everyone. There, hiding out after school, Langston discovers another

Langston--a poet whom he learns inspired his mother enough to name her only son after him. Lesa Cline-Ransome, author of the Coretta Scott King Honor picture book *Before She Was Harriet*, has crafted a lyrical debut novel about one boy's experiences during the Great Migration. Includes an author's note about the historical context and her research. Don't miss the companion novel, *Leaving Lymon*, which centers on one of Langston's classmates and explores grief, resilience, and the circumstances that can drive a boy to become a bully-- and offer a chance at redemption. A Junior Library Guild selection! A CLA Notable Children's Book in Language Arts A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year, with 5 Starred Reviews A School Library Journal Best Book of 2018

langston hughes short stories: *Langston Hughes* Hans A. Ostrom, 1993 #N/A

langston hughes short stories: *Langston Hughes* Henry L. Gates, 2000-02-11 James Langston Hughes (1902 -- 1967) With a career that spanned the Harlem Renaissance of the twenties and Black Arts movement of the sixties, Langston Hughes was the most prolific Black poet of his era. Between 1926, when he published his pioneering *The Weary Blues*, to 1967, the year of his death, when he published *The Panther and the Lash*, Hughes would write sixteen books of poems, two novels, seven collections of short stories, two autobiographies, five works of nonfiction, and nine children's books; he would edit nine anthologies of poetry, folklore, short fiction, and humor. He also translated Jaques Roumain, Nicolás Guillén, Gabriela Mistral, Federico Garcia Lorca, and write at least thirty plays. It is not surprising that Hughes was known, variously, as Shakespeare in Harlem and as the poet laureate of the American Negro. -- from the Preface by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

langston hughes short stories: *The Panther and the Lash* Langston Hughes, 2011-10-26 Hughes's last collection of poems commemorates the experience of Black Americans in a voice that no reader could fail to hear--the last testament of a great American writer who grappled fearlessly and artfully with the most compelling issues of his time. "Langston Hughes is a titanic figure in 20th-century American literature ... a powerful interpreter of the American experience." --The Philadelphia Inquirer From the publication of his first book in 1926, Langston Hughes was America's acknowledged poet of color. Here, Hughes's voice--sometimes ironic, sometimes bitter, always powerful--is more pointed than ever before, as he explicitly addresses the racial politics of the sixties in such pieces as *Prime, Motto, Dream Deferred*, *Frederick Douglass: 1817-1895*, *Still Here*, *Birmingham Sunday*, *History*, *Slave*, *Warning*, and *Daybreak in Alabama*.

langston hughes short stories: *The Weary Blues* Langston Hughes, 2022-01-31 Immediately celebrated as a tour de force upon its release, Langston Hughes's first published collection of poems still offers a powerful reflection of the Black experience. From *The Weary Blues* to *Dream Variation*, Hughes writes clearly and colorfully, and his words remain prophetic.

langston hughes short stories: *Vintage Hughes* Langston Hughes, 2004-01-06 Presents selected works from *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*, and *The Ways of White Folks*.

langston hughes short stories: *Coming Home* Floyd Cooper, 1996

langston hughes short stories: *The Big Sea* Langston Hughes, 2015-03-02 Introduction by Arnold Rampersad. Langston Hughes, born in 1902, came of age early in the 1920s. In *The Big Sea* he recounts those memorable years in the two great playgrounds of the decade--Harlem and Paris. In Paris he was a cook and waiter in nightclubs. He knew the musicians and dancers, the drunks and dope fiends. In Harlem he was a rising young poet--at the center of the Harlem Renaissance. Arnold Rampersad writes in his incisive new introduction to *The Big Sea*, an American classic: This is American writing at its best--simpler than Hemingway; as simple and direct as that of another Missouri-born writer...Mark Twain.

langston hughes short stories: *The Life of Langston Hughes* Arnold Rampersad, 2002-01-10 The second volume in this biography finds Langston Hughes rooting himself in Harlem, receiving stimulation from his rich cultural surroundings. Here he rethought his view of art and radicalism and cultivated relationships with younger, more militant writers such as Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison.

langston hughes short stories: *The Short Stories* Langston Hughes, 2002 For the first time in many years, Langston Hughes's published collections of stories are now available in a single book.

Included in this volume are: *Ways of White Folks*, originally published in 1934; *Laughing to Keep from Crying*, originally published in 1952; and additional stories from *Something in Common* and *Other Stories*, originally published in 1963; as well as previously uncollected stories. These fictions, carefully crafted in the language Hughes loved, manifest the many themes for which he is best known. We meet and come to know many characters—black and white, young and old, men and women—all as believable as our own families, friends, and acquaintances. Hughes's stories portray people as they actually are: a mixture of good, bad, and much in-between. In these short stories, as in the *Simple* stories, the reader enjoys Hughes's humor and irony. The stories show us his inclination to mock himself and his beloved people, as much as he ridicules the flaws of those who belittle his race. His genuine characters interact and realistically bring to life this era of America's past. By maintaining the form and format of the original story collections, this volume presents Hughes's stories as he wanted them to be read. This volume will be an invaluable addition to the library of anyone interested in African American literature generally and the fiction of Langston Hughes specifically.

langston hughes short stories: *The Book of Negro Folklore* Langston Hughes, Arna Bontemps, 1959

langston hughes short stories: *Ann Tenna* Marisa Acocella Marchetto, 2015-09-01 From the celebrated New Yorker cartoonist and acclaimed author of *Cancer Vixen*, a brilliant, funny, and wildly imaginative first novel: the story of an influential gossip columnist brought face-to-face with her higher self—and a challenge to change her life for the better. Glamorous, superconnected Ann Tenna is the founder of Eyemauler, a New York City-based Web site that's always the first to dish the most up-to-the-minute dirt on celebrities and ordinary folks alike. Ann has ascended to the zenith of the New York media scene, attended by groups of grovelers all too willing to be trampled on by her six-inch Giuseppe Zanottis if it means better seats at the table. But as high as her success has taken her, Ann has actually fallen far—very far—from her true self. It takes a near-fatal freak accident on her birthday—April Fool's Day—and an intervention from her cosmic double in a realm beyond our own to make Ann realize the full cost of the humanity she has lost. Told with laugh-out-loud humor, spot-on dialogue (including via cameo appearances from Coco Chanel, Gianni Versace, and Jimi Hendrix, to name just a few), and stunning, full-color artwork, *Ann Tenna* is a timely, necessary tale for our overly "media-cated" times: the newest, much-anticipated adventure from a supremely gifted artist at the height of her powers.

langston hughes short stories: *Father and Son* Langston Hughes, 2015-05-18 A Vintage Shorts "Short Story Month" Selection Colonel Norwood is the despotic owner of Big House Plantation, where he lives alone but for the occasional company of his black mistress, Coralee Lewis. But this summer, a new breeze is blowing in with the warm Georgia wind—his son is coming home. From the publication of his first book in 1926, Langston Hughes was hailed as the poet laureate of black America. In "*Father and Son*," Hughes reveals himself to be a writer of prose just as lasting as his poetry, and one of the true icons of modern American letters. The staggering final story in the collection *The Ways of White Folks*. An eBook short.

langston hughes short stories: *A Raisin in the Sun* Lorraine Hansberry, 2011-11-02 Never before, in the entire history of the American theater, has so much of the truth of Black people's lives been seen on the stage, observed James Baldwin shortly before *A Raisin in the Sun* opened on Broadway in 1959. This edition presents the fully restored, uncut version of Hansberry's landmark work with an introduction by Robert Nemiroff. Lorraine Hansberry's award-winning drama about the hopes and aspirations of a struggling, working-class family living on the South Side of Chicago connected profoundly with the psyche of Black America—and changed American theater forever. The play's title comes from a line in Langston Hughes's poem *Harlem*, which warns that a dream deferred might dry up/like a raisin in the sun. The events of every passing year add resonance to *A Raisin in the Sun*, said *The New York Times*. It is as if history is conspiring to make the play a classic.

langston hughes short stories: *Langston Hughes in the Classroom* Carmaletta M.

Williams, 2006 Carmaletta M. Williams provides high school teachers with background on Hughes and the Harlem Renaissance as well as help in teaching Hughes's poetry, short stories, novels, and autobiography. Though high school English teachers often include a few poems by Langston Hughes in their curriculum, they may not know the impressive range of his writing, which includes poetry, novels, short stories, plays, librettos, political propaganda, and autobiography. This volume in the NCTE High School Literature Series contextualizes the work of this key figure of the Harlem Renaissance and the New Negro Movement. Because Hughes's life experiences are so closely intertwined with his work, each chapter first demonstrates how Hughes's life and art reinforce each other, with a focus on Hughes's blues poetry, the novel *Not without Laughter*, his autobiography, and short stories. Each chapter closes with a section called *In the Classroom*, which offers practical suggestions for discussion, activities, and assignments, and includes samples of student work. A detailed chronology, a glossary of terms, and a selected bibliography round out the many useful features of this resource guide. By combining the study of literature, music, and history, *Langston Hughes in the Classroom: Do Nothin' till You Hear from Me* provides the tools teachers need to make the works of Langston Hughes come alive for their students in the twenty-first-century classroom.

langston hughes short stories: First Book Of Jazz Langston Hughes, 1995-10-21 An introduction to jazz music by one of our finest writers. Langston Hughes, celebrated poet and longtime jazz enthusiast, wrote *The First Book of Jazz* as a homage to the music that inspired him. The roll of African drums, the dancing quadrilles of old New Orleans, the work songs of the river ports, the field shanties of the cotton plantations, the spirituals, the blues, the off-beats of ragtime -- in a history as exciting as jazz rhythms, Hughes describes how each of these played a part in the extraordinary history of jazz.

langston hughes short stories: Stories from the Tube Matthew Sharpe, 1998 The debut of a startlingly original literary voice, in the tradition of Robert Olen Butler's *Tabloid Dreams*--this collection of ten short stories was inspired by television commercials.

langston hughes short stories: Shakespeare in Harlem Langston Hughes, 1942 A book of light verse.

langston hughes short stories: Nothing is Terrible Matthew Sharpe, 2000 *Jane Eyre* on acid: a hip, hallucinatory, and hilarious coming-of-age novel by the author of *Stories from the Tube*.

langston hughes short stories: The Collected Works of Langston Hughes: The poems, 1941-1950 Langston Hughes, Dolan Hubbard, Leslie Catherine Sanders, Steven Carl Tracy, 2001 The sixteen volumes are published with the goal that Hughes pursued throughout his lifetime: making his books available to the people. Each volume will include a biographical and literary chronology by Arnold Rampersad, as well as an introduction by a Hughes scholar. Volume introductions will provide contextual and historical information on the particular work.

langston hughes short stories: Love to Langston Tony Medina, 2002 This inspiring biography on Langston Hughes celebrates his life through poetry.

langston hughes short stories: A Raisin in the Sun Lorraine Hansberry, 2016-11-01 *A Raisin in the Sun* reflects Lorraine Hansberry's childhood experiences in segregated Chicago. This electrifying masterpiece has enthralled audiences and has been heaped with critical accolades. The play that changed American theatre forever - *The New York Times*. Edition Description

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