**Brinn**

**Harlem Renaissance**

**Harlem- a neighborhood in upper Manhattan, New York**

**Renaissance- rebirth or revival**

The **Harlem Renaissance** was the name given to the cultural, social, and artistic movement set in **Harlem, New York** between the end of World War I (1918) and the middle of the 1930s. During this time **Harlem** was a cultural center, drawing black writers, artists, musicians, photographers, poets, and scholars. This is the first time African Americans were free to celebrate their culture and express themselves. Many of these artists sent messages about the importance of black people advancing up the ladder of success.

“To You,” by Langston Hughes

To sit and dream, to sit and read,

To sit and learn about the world

Outside our world of here and now—

Our problem world—

To dream of vast horizons of the soul

Through dreams made whole,

Unfettered free—help me!

All you who are dreamers, too,

Help me to make our world anew.

I reach out my dreams to you.

**Analysis:**

1. **Lines 1-2:** The speaker wishes “to sit and dream, to sit and read, to sit and learn about the world.” How is it possible to make the world a better place by reading and dreaming?

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1. **Lines 3-4:** The speaker wishes to exist “outside our world of here and now – our problem world.” What are some problems about the world you would like to solve?

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1. **Lines 9-10:** “Help me make our world anew. I reach out my dreams to you.” How do these lines compare to the actions of Roger and Mrs. Jones in Hughes’s short story, “Thank You Ma’am”?

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