

# Black History Month – Poetry

Did you know February is Black History Month? Listed below are several excellent poems written by African American authors. Select one of the poems to read and complete the activity described in Step 2.

**Step 1:** Select a poem to read

[Maya Angelou - "Still I Rise"](#)

[Langston Hughes - "Dreams"](#)

[Langston Hughes - "Theme for English B"](#)

[Nikki Giovanni- "Knoxville, Tennessee"](#)

[James Weldon Johnson - "Lift Every Voice and Sing"](#)



**Step 2:** On a separate piece of paper, complete the following:

**Part 1:**

- Write the **title** and **author** of the poem
- Write a **one sentence summary** of what you think the poem is about
- Write down what you think the **theme** of your poem is - *what lesson does the author want you to learn?*
- Write down one word to describe the **mood** (the feeling created in the reader)\*
- Write down one word to describe the **tone** (the attitude of the speaker toward the subject/audience)\*

*\*examples of mood and tone words: excited, relieved, hopeful, scared, anxious, concerned, joyful*

**Part 2:** Turn the poem into a **concrete poem**. Remember that word placement and shapes are very important in a concrete poem. Based on what the poem is about and the feeling you want to give your reader, create a shape or pattern with the words. *Do not change or add any words!*

**Upon Completion:** Work on your Adversity Narrative draft -- *your draft is due tomorrow!*