

Jamming  
Davis

Title: The Negro Speaks of Rivers

Author: Langston Hughes

Source Date: 1921

Source Type: Poem

Poem  
poem?

Summary: "The Negro Speaks of Rivers" connects the African American experience to the ancient and enduring rivers of the world. Hughes references rivers of the world. Hughes references rivers such as the Euphrates, Congo, Nile, and Mississippi, symbolizing the deep roots and resilience of black people throughout history. The poem emphasizes a sense of timelessness and continuity, suggesting that the African American soul is as ancient and enduring as these rivers.

Analysis: The poem uses the rivers as symbols of life, history, and continuity. By linking the African American experience to these ancient rivers, Hughes underscores the depth of black culture and history. The poem suggests that African Americans have a profound and unbroken connection to the past, which empowers and sustains them in the present. This perspective is crucial for understanding the resilience and strength of African American communities in the face of historical and ongoing challenges. It also highlights the importance of recognizing and valuing the rich cultural heritage the African Americans bring to the broader tapestry of American life.