

Due Date: 10.22.24

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### Source Analysis

Title: The Negro Speaks of Rivers, At Blackwater Pond

Author: Langston Hughes, Mary Oliver

Source Date: 2002, 2006-2010

Source Type: Poem, Poem

Context (what is important to note about the creator, when it was created, its audience, or its format?): \_\_\_\_\_

Langston Hughes lived most of his life in the United States in Joplin Missouri. He also wrote this poem to show a connection that African Americans have with rivers from Africa and America. Mary Oliver is known for her symbolism of nature through her writing, and it clearly shows in this poem.

Summary (what important facts about the source's content should we note for our discussion): \_\_\_\_\_

The author giving a story about being from Africa, but now living in the United States. Although being apart from his country and his culture, he describes how he feels a connection to his roots from the river. The 2<sup>nd</sup> poem describes a connection between the person and nature, and how it alludes to her view on the circle of life.

Analysis (what should we take away to better understand our problem and its stakeholders?): \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of The Negro Speaks of Rivers, there's a concluding line that states "My soul has grown deep like the rivers." In my opinion I think he's alluding to the actual depth to the bodies of water and comparing it to the depths of his soul. I think we should take away that everything has multiple meanings, and that the right answer for one person isn't the right answer for everyone.