**Mother to Son**  
*by Langston Hughes*

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| --- |
| Well, son, I'll tell you: Life for me ain't been no crystal stair. It's had tacks in it, And splinters, And boards torn up, And places with no carpet on the floor— Bare. But all the time I'se been a-climbin' on, And reachin' landin's, And turnin' corners, And sometimes goin' in the dark Where there ain't been no light. So, boy, don't you turn back. Don't you set down on the steps. 'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.  Don't you fall now— For I'se still goin', honey,  I'se still climbin', And life for me ain't been no crystal stair. |

Who is the speaker?

Who is the speaker’s intended audience?

Speaker compares \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ using an extended metaphor.

What can the reader infer?

What does the speaker describe?



What can the reader infer?

What can be inferred based on the dialect?

What does the speaker continue to do?

What does the speaker say to do?

What are some examples of dialect in the poem?

What can the reader infer?

What has the speaker done?

What is the topic of the poem?

Write a theme statement for the poem.

What does the speaker want?

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_

**Quiz**

**“Mother to Son”** by Langston Hughes Directions: Reread the poem, “Mother to Son” and answer the following comprehension questions.

1. To what are splinters and tacks compared to in the poem?

A memories

B tools

C hardships

D childhood

2. Which type of person is most like the mother?

A someone who gives up at the first sign of trouble

B someone who doesn’t have advice for others

C someone who has a carefree, luxurious life

D someone who works hard despite setbacks

3. In line 2, the speaker says “Life for my ain’t been no crystal stair.” What does the speaker mean by *crystal stair*?

A bare and colorful

B breakable and hard

C rich and easy

D steep and dangerous

8. Discuss how this poem relates to the theme, “Life is not Fair,” specifically the essential question, “How can we make life worthwhile even though it seems unfair?” Use the experiences and words of the speaker as evidence to support your answer.

4. What is the most likely reason why the author uses words like “ain’t” and “I’se” ?

A to prove that the speaker has a crystal stair

B to encourage people to follow their dreams

C to make it sound like a real person’s conversation

D to show that the reader should trust the speaker

5. The speaker in “Mother to Son” would most likely describe herself as

A. timid

B. fortunate

C. determined

D. short-tempered

6. When the speaker talks about turning corners, she is most likely referring to

A. trying to escape from danger

B. feeling lost and confused

C. experiences disappointment

D. coping with changes in her life

7. Based on the speaker’s statements in “Mother to Son,” what can you infer about the reason for her talk with him?

A. The son wants to give up on something

B. They are resolving an argument

C. The mother needs to complain about her life

D. They are reuniting after a long separation.