

Name _____ Date _____

“Mother to Son” by Langston Hughes

Selection Test

Critical Reading

On the line, write the letter of the best answer.

- _____ 1. Which of the following words best summarizes the content of the poem “Mother to Son”?
- a. celebration
 - b. description
 - c. warning
 - d. advice
- _____ 2. What is the mother in “Mother to Son” trying to tell her son?
- a. For some people, life is easy.
 - b. In her experience, life can be difficult.
 - c. Life can become easier over the years.
 - d. Life gives you what you deserve.
- _____ 3. Which of the following words or phrase best captures the symbolic meaning of the following line from “Mother to Son”?
- places with no carpet on the floor - /bare
- a. home
 - b. poverty
 - c. street life
 - d. desert
- _____ 4. What part of the word *quarried* best helps you understand its meaning?
- a. quarri
 - b. qua
 - c. ried
 - d. ed
- _____ 5. Who is “honey” in the following line from “Mother to Son”?
- For I’s still goin’, honey...
- a. the neighbor
 - b. the poet
 - c. the mother
 - d. the son

- _____ 6. In “Mother to Son”, what does the “crystal stair” symbolize?
- a. a path to heaven
 - b. a difficult life
 - c. an easy life
 - d. a fragile life
- _____ 7. Which of the following statements applies best to Langston Hughes’s poem “Mother to Son”?
- a. The mother has had a very hard life and wants to pass on her wisdom and determination to her son.
 - b. The injustices of society make it impossible for some people to live with any hope.
 - c. The only way to become a man is to make a decisive break with an overbearing mother.
 - d. The son would be utterly lost without his mother to guide his way.