

**Workshop 9: The Streets of Harlem****Reading 3 Project: Langston Hughes's Harlem**  
**Homegrown Poetry**

*Langston Hughes wrote poetry about his beloved Harlem. What would your poetry say about where you live?*

**Project:** Write a poem about your neighborhood.

**Procedure****1. Decide what to say in your poem.**

Think about your neighborhood before you begin writing. List responses to these questions.

- How do you feel about where you live? What parts of your neighborhood do you love? What parts do you dislike? Explain.
- Who are the people of your neighborhood? What is your relationship to them?
- What sights and sounds do you observe? What would a visitor to your neighborhood hear? See? Smell? For instance, he or she might hear car horns honking on your busy street, or see a tractor working in a field, or maybe smell garbage that hasn't been picked up yet!
- Some poems rhyme, some don't. Will yours?

**2. Write.**

Write a draft of your poem. Do you like it? You can make changes so that it says what you want it to say. Keep working on it until it expresses your best ideas.

**3. Present.**

Read your poem aloud for your class or group. Or put your poem with others and make a book with an interesting title.