

Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 7: Lesson 17 Read and analyze the structure of “The Negro Speaks of Rivers.”

“The Negro Speaks of Rivers”

By Langston Hughes

I’ve known rivers:

I’ve known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

I bathed in the Euphrates when dawns were young.

I built my hut near the Congo and it lulled me to sleep.

I looked upon the Nile and raised the pyramids above it.

I heard the singing of the Mississippi when Abe Lincoln went down to New Orleans, and I’ve seen its muddy bosom turn all golden in the sunset.

I’ve known rivers:

Ancient, dusky rivers.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

Independent Practice:

Write a paragraph explaining how Langston Hughes uses structure and language to develop a theme in “The Negro Speaks of Rivers.”

Sourced from EL Education