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**“Let America be America Again” Discussion Questions**

READ these Directions Aloud: Read Aloud and annotate “Let America Be America Again.” In your tables, discuss the following questions in detail. Each question should take 3-5 minutes or more to discuss. Make sure you stay on topic. Choose a scribe from your group to write down notes about what people said. Your scribe should write down what was said AND who said it. If you don’t participate in this discussion or your scribe writes weak, superficial, undetailed answers, the whole group could be in trouble. Be prepared to present on at least 1-2 of your answers to the class.

**Part One: Let America Be America Again**

1. Research Langston Hughes briefly. Who was he and who was he writing to in “Let America be America Again”? Was he right?
2. What is the main idea Langston Hughes wants his reader to understand about America? Pick two separate lines from the poem and discuss how they support what you think is the main idea. Write them down and explain how each line supports your theory.

Main Idea:

Evidence #1:

Evidence #2:

1. Hughes comments that America’s plan of “dog eat dog [and] of mighty crushing the weak” is an old, stupid plan. Do you agree with him? Who and what is he talking about?
2. Hughes states that the American dream is almost dead today. What is the American Dream and do you agree with him?

**Part Two: America as a Dystopia**

1. What is a Dystopia? (Look the definition up if you must) What makes a world dystopian? Think of popular movies and stories you’ve read. List them below.
2. Does Hughes believe that America is and has always been dystopian? Does the author believe that America can still change and return to its glory? Write down two lines that prove one way or another below.

Your Opinion:

Evidence #1:

Evidence #2:

1. Do you believe that America is quickly turning into a dystopia? Argue whether or not you believe it is a dystopian. What elements of America could be considered dystopian? What flaws do you see in our society and world even?