

## Grade 8 Literature Worksheet

Read the poem below and respond to the questions that follow.

### Mother to Son

By Langston Hughes

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've 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've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',  
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair

1. Who is the speaker addressing in the poem?
2. Identify the comparative device being used in the poem.
3. Identify two things which the poet compares to life.
4. What do you understand from the lines below?

“Well, son, I'll tell you:  
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And places with no carpet on the floor—  
Bare.”

5. Based on the content of the poem what can you say about the mother as it relates to her feelings towards her son? Use evidence from the poem to support your views.
6. How can the content of this poem be related to real-life experiences?