**The Negro Speaks of Rivers**

By [Langston Hughes](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/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.

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Please find the rest of the poem in the internet or an anthology and read the rest of the poem. Read at least three times and provide following information for the poem:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Persona: |  |
| Tone: |  |
| Mood: |  |
| Figures of Speech: |  |
| Most striking images: |  |
| Meter/ Rhyme Pattern: |  |

Notes/Questions for You

Needless to say, this, like most works of the Harlem Renaissance, is a political statement. What is the message of the poem?

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Political poems can easily turn into crude propaganda. What aspects of this poem protect it from being mere propaganda?

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Persona does not only refer to black origins or rivers of Africa. How does this add to the effect of the poem?

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