

1931 1941

Name Hughes, (James) Langston 1902 Negro  White Southerner

Position Free-lance writer Columbia University, 1921-22 Special Field Creative Writing Group

College Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, B. A., 1929

University *no inst.*

Plan of Work: To write a series of one-act plays with small casts and simple sets suitable for production by Negro high schools, colleges, and amateur groups, each play to be built around an outstanding Negro historical character.

Action of Fellowship Committee:  
 Granted \$1,500



Has written following books:

The Weary Blues  
Fine Clothes to the Jew (poems)  
The Dream Keeper (poems)  
The Ways of White Folks - short stories  
Not Without Laughter - novel  
The Big Sea - autobiography

The following plays:

Mulatto - one year in New York, 8 months on road  
Don't You Want to be Free - 135 performances in New York  
Little Ham - 3 weeks, Gilpin Players, Cleveland  
Joy to my Soul - 2 weeks " "  
When the Jack Hollers  
Troubled Island  
Front Porch

*c/o Harper, Apt. 1-D  
634 St. Nicholas Ave.  
New York City 30*

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UNIVERSITY

HUGHES, LANGSTON

PUBLICATIONS

SHAKESPEARE IN HARLEM, Alfred Knopf, February, 1942.

Songs: New Wind a Blowin', and Freedom Road, Musette Publishing Co, New York  
The Negro Speaks of Rivers, Handy Brothers, New York.  
That Eagle, in Stage Door Canteen show in New York.  
Go-and-get-the-enemy Blues, with W. C. Handy.

New book of poems "Fields of Wonder" to be published in spring of 1947 by  
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.

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CAREER

Member of Advisory Editorial Board of Common Ground.

Radio play Brothers chosen as a War Script of the Month Extra by Writers War Board.

Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, New York, summer of 1942. (writers colony)

Received Litt. D. degree from Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, 1943.

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LANGSTON HUGHES

REAPPOINTMENT

(40)

Request for Reappointment

Creative Writing

Tough case

For Hughes is unjustly top

and maybe fellowships should  
exist just for the purpose

of carrying such creative men.

But he's already had two  
from the Fund.

Very reluctantly I say

Name Langston Hughes

Field: Creative Writing

Author  
Hollow Hills Farm  
Monterey, California

Plan of Work

To write a series of one-act plays with small casts and simple sets suitable for production by Negro high schools and colleges and amateur groups, or on the air, each play to be built around an outstanding Negro historical character and written in such a way as to allow production in the South where the need for such material is great; to precede the writing of these plays by three or four months of reading of the necessary background material for historical accuracy and inspiration; the whole project to aid in providing the current need of Negro youth for the inspirational and heroic out of their own background and history, and to provide the various Negro little theatre groups with material stemming from their own racial roots.

Duration of work one year, beginning June, 1941.

Personal Data

Born Joplin, Missouri, February, 1902. Single.

Age: 39

Undergraduate Work

Columbia University, 1921-22

Lincoln University, B. A., 1929, Pennsylvania.

Graduate Work

*expects to begin June 1, 1941*

~~Experience~~

PUBLICATIONS: Books:- three books of poems - The Weary Blues, Fine Clothes to the Jew, The Dream Keeper; Knopf

Short stories: The Ways of White Folks - Knopf

Novel: Not Without Laughter - Knopf

Autobiography: The Big Sea - Knopf

PLAYS:  
Accomplishments

Mulatto, which ran one year in New York and 8 months on road.  
Don't You want To Be Free, 135 performances in New York.  
Little Ham, three weeks, Gilpin Players, Cleveland.  
Joy to My Soul, two weeks Gilpin Players, Cleveland.  
When the Jack Hollers (with Arna Bontemps) one week, Cleveland  
Troubled Island, Cleveland and Detroit  
Front Porch, one week, Cleveland

Rosenwald Fellowship, 1931, nine months for lecture of South, \$1,000; Guggenheim award, 1935, nine months for work on an opera libretto with William Grant Still and for gathering material for novel, \$1,800.

References

Prof. Benjamin Lehman, English Department, University of California  
Mrs. Rowena Jelliff, Director of the Gilpin Players, Cleveland  
Arna Bontemps  
Ridgeley Torrence, playwright, New York City  
Carl Van Vechten, New York City

Budget Summary

Total Amount Needed \$ 1,500  
From Applicant uncertain  
From Fund \$1,500

AMOUNT GRANTED



320 2/21

Name Langston Hughes REAPPOINTMENT Field: Creative Writing  
 5120 South Parkway  
 Chicago, Illinois

**Plan of Work**

To complete the second volume of my autobiography (continuing and bringing up to date THE BIG SEA already published) a fourth of which is now completed. The second volume will cover experiences in and a description of the life of colored peoples in Haiti, Soviet Asia - and its solution of the racial minorities problem - China, Japan, and Spain during the Civil War. Also a further exploration of the problems of the Negroes, particularly the intellectuals, in the USA, and their relations to the general progress of America toward democracy and the Four Freedoms proposed for the entire world. The writing to be done in part on the campus of Fort Valley State College, where I have been invited to work by Dr. Bond, and to produce some plays.

Twelve months, beginning in June, 1942.

**Personal Data** Born Joplin, Missouri, February, 1902. Age: 40  
 Single.

**Undergraduate Work** Columbia University, 1921-22  
 Lincoln University, Pennsylvania, B. A., 1929

**Graduate Work**

**PUBLICATIONS:** Books: The Weary Blues, Fine Clothes to the Jew, The Dream  
**Experience** Keeper, Shakespeare in Harlem. (poems)

The Ways of White Folks (short stories) Knopf  
Not Without Laughter - (novel) Knopf  
The Big Sea (autobiography) Knopf

**PLAYS****Accomplishments**

"Mulatto", which ran one year in New York, 8 months on the road  
 "Don't You Want To Be Free", 135 performances in New York  
 "Little Ham", three weeks, Gilpin Players, Cleveland  
 "Joy to My Soul", two weeks, Gilpin Players, Cleveland  
 "When the Jack Hollers" (with Arna Bontemps) one week, Cleveland  
 "Troubled Island", Cleveland and Detroit  
 "Front Porch", one week, Cleveland

**Fellowships:** Rosenwald Fund, 1931, \$1,000; Guggenheim Foundation, \$1,800, for nine months of work on an opera libretto with William Grant Still and for gathering material for novel; Rosenwald Fund, 1941, \$1,500.

**References**

Mr. Russell W. Jelliffe, Karamu House, Cleveland  
 Mr. Carl Van Vechten, New York  
 Professor Ben Lehman, University of California

**Budget Summary**

Total Amount Needed	\$ 1,800
From Applicant	?
From Fund	\$ 1,800

Sent to Committee

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 AMOUNT GRANTED  
 UNIVERSITY