

ABSTRACT

Langston Hughes: The Adventures of a Feminist Sensibility

African-American poet, novelist, and playwright, Langston Hughes (1902 – 1967) was one of the principal interpreters of racial relationships in the United States. Influenced by William Edward Burghardt Du Bois (1868 –1963) and Walt Whitman (1819 – 1892), Hughes depicted the ordinary lives of black people. Hughes was boldly black at a time when black was not in vogue and he focused on the themes of ‘black is beautiful’ as he explored the black human condition in great depth. His main concern was the uplift of his people, whom he judged himself, the adequate appreciator of and whose might, resiliency and wit he wanted to record as part of the common American experience. Thus, his poetry and fiction centered generally on intuitive views of the working class lives of blacks in America, lives he portrayed as full of struggle, joy, laughter, and music. Permeating his work is pride in the African American identity and its diverse culture. *“My seeking has been to explain and illuminate the Negro condition in America and obliquely that of all human kind,”* Hughes is quoted as saying.

Some literary academics hold his works as too simple, too obvious and devoid of any depth. He was even termed ‘a sewer dweller’ having portrayed the lower class blacks. Reading his direct and honest language reflects that it is far more capable of instructing and delighting than deconstructing anything abstruse. The simple language triggers interest in his work. It is this very language and black dialect that assimilate his political