

The Negro Speaks of Rivers Key Info

Writer: Langston Hughes | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

Key Facts

- **Title:** The Negro Speaks of Rivers
- **Poet:** Langston Hughes (1901-1967)
- **Written Date:** Hughes wrote this poem when he was only 17
- **Publication Date:** June 1921, in *The Crisis* magazine. Later, it was included in Hughes' 1926 collection *The Weary Blues*.
- **Form, Meter, and Rhyme Scheme:** Free verse (no regular rhyme or meter)
- **Total Lines/Stanza:** 10 lines, divided into several uneven parts (no fixed stanza form)
- **Tone:** Proud, deep, spiritual