Poetry Portfolio Unit

Langston Hughes

*The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*

Today, you will begin a unit over poetry. Throughout this unit, you will be completing a variety of tasks that you will combine at the end to create one large portfolio that demonstrates all of your work.

The book we will utilize for this unit is a collection of poems written by Langston Hughes called *The Dream Keeper and Other Poems.* We will talk about a variety of poems in this book as well as complete some fun activities. In order to prepare you to read Hughes in this unit, you are going to start by getting to know him as an author a little bit better.

First, read through the information on the back of this sheet. This was gathered from the Scholastic website. After you have read through the passage once on your own, you will need to get out two different colored highlighters. Make a key at the top of you page with one color labeled “important information” and the other labeled “fun facts”.

You will then skim the article a second time, looking for **THREE**of the most important pieces of information about the article. Think to yourself, if I had to sum up this author using only three details from this passage, which three would I pick? In the margins next to each of these details, provide a brief description of why you think each detail is so vital.

Next, skim the article a third time, looking for **THREE** details that are simply fun facts. These pieces of information are good to know about the author, but aren’t crucial in understanding him. In the margins next to each of these details, provide a brief explanation of why you picked these details as “fun facts.” What do they bring to the reader?

Be prepared to discuss your choices and provide an explanation to a small group as well as the class. Also, be prepared to hand this in at the end of our meeting. Good luck!