Poetry Portfolio Unit

Langston Hughes

*The Dream Keeper and Other Poems*

*Walkers With the Dawn* (page 56)

*Walkers With the Dawn* is a wonderful example of a poem to look at when talking about pace in poetry. Pace is the speed at which the poem is meant to be read. Usually, we can tell a poem’s intended pace by reading it through a few times. Is it short, choppy, and fast? Is it slow and long? Read *Walkers With the Dawn* and see if you can determine the poem’s pace.

1. What words in the poem seem to be emphasized the most?
2. What is the pace of this poem?

Activity: In a small group, you are going to create your poem for assignment #4 in your portfolio. Every member of your group will have the SAME poem for this assignment. Mrs. Campbell is going to give you a pace based on a body movement. It will then be your group’s job to create a poem that fits this pace. This poem will not fit to every person’s theme in your group, so this will be an exception to this portfolio rule. You will have to present your poem to the class, demonstrating your movement as your read. Your poem must be at least ten lines long with any number of stanzas and any rhyme scheme you choose. Good luck!