

Invictus

By William Ernest Henley

Out of the night that covers me,
 Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
 For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
 I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
 My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
 Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
 Finds and shall find me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
 How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate,
 I am the captain of my soul.

THEME FOR ENGLISH B

By Langston Hughes

The instructor said,
Go home and write
a page tonight.
And let that page come out of you---
Then, it will be true.
I wonder if it's that simple?
I am twenty-two, colored, born in Winston-Salem.
I went to school there, then Durham, then here
to this college on the hill above Harlem.
I am the only colored student in my class.
The steps from the hill lead down into Harlem
through a park, then I cross St. Nicholas,
Eighth Avenue, Seventh, and I come to the Y,
the Harlem Branch Y, where I take the elevator
up to my room, sit down, and write this page:
It's not easy to know what is true for you or me at twenty-two, my
age. But I guess I'm what I feel and see and hear, Harlem, I hear you:
hear you, hear me---we two---you, me, talk on this page. (I hear
New York too.) Me---who? Well, I like to eat, sleep, drink, and be in
love. I like to work, read, learn, and understand life. I like a pipe for
a Christmas present, or records---Bessie, bop, or Bach. I guess being
colored doesn't make me NOT like the same things other folks like
who are other races. So will my page be colored that I write? Being
me, it will not be white. But it will be a part of you, instructor. You
are white--- yet a part of me, as I am a part of you. That's American.
Sometimes perhaps you don't want to be a part of me. Nor do I
often want to be a part of you. But we are, that's true! As I learn
from you, I guess you learn from me--- although you're older---and
white--- and somewhat more free.
This is my page for English B.