 What is the theme of ‘Mother to Son’? After **reading** **Mother to Son (and an informational text on metaphors)**, write **an essay for our class literary magazine** in which you analyze how **Langston Hughes' use of metaphors** contributes to an understanding of **the theme of this poem**. Support your response with evidence from the text/s.

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| Include **several** **examples** from the texts in your response. |

 RL.5.2

Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.

 RL.5.4



Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.

No Matter What

Have you ever wanted to give up in life during a hard time? Langston Hughes’ poem, Mother to Son talks about how hard the mother’s life has been. She encourages her son to keep going, saying “Don’t you fall now, for I’se still goin, honey, I’se still climbing’, and life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.” Even though I believe the poem has multiple themes, I think the main one is perseverance – the ability to keep on trying, and in this case, her ability to keep going in life.

Langston Hughes, the author of Mother to Son, uses metaphor and figurative language –words and phrases that put a picture in the reader’s mind- to show us that the main theme of the poem is perseverance. In stanza one of the poem, the mother says to her son, “Life for me aint’ been no crystal stair.” Crystal stairs are easy to climb, so if her life hasn’t been a crystal stair, it hasn’t been easy. She says in stanza two, “But all the time, I’se been a –climbin’ on”, meaning that she didn’t stop. She just kept on climbing those stairs of life. The mother encourages her son in stanza three of the poem by saying, “So boy, don’t you turn back. Don’t you set down on the steps.” And then she says, “ For I’se still goin, honey, I’se still climbin’” That means that she wants him to keep going in life because she’s still going, even though her life has been hard. This is Langston Hughes’ use of figurative language and metaphors that helps us to understand that the main theme of the poem is perseverance.

Every human being has gone through tough times in their life, including the mother in Mother to Son. But she kept on going and didn’t give up, even though her life hadn’t been easy. She didn’t just quit and refuse to go any farther. She helped her son when he was in the middle of something hard and he didn’t know what to do. She had to have a lot of perseverance to keep going, which let me now that theme of the perseverance, not giving up, not matter what.