**DIRECTIONS FOR COLLABORATIVE WRITING EXERCISE**

As a group, write a paragraph explaining what main message you think Langston Hughes is trying to convey in this poem (next page). For this exercise your paragraph should include: a topic sentence, 3 supporting sentences (with direct quotes as evidence), and a concluding sentence. Use the copies of paragraph-writing template and removable post-it sentence strips provided.

Members choose role cards (provided):   
MAIN IDEA LEADER   
SUPPORTING EVIDENCE LEADERS (2-3)

EDITOR  
(If 5 group members, there can be 3 supporting evidence co-leaders.)

**Rules: Follow the order of tasks below. Only one person may speak at a time.**

1. **Main Idea Leader:**
   1. Reads text aloud, asking group members to circle words or phrases related to the main idea and underline supporting details.
   2. In “whip-around,” asks each group member for ideas about what is an important idea in the text.
   3. In a second “whip-around,” asks each group member for ideas about how to summarize the main idea of the text.
   4. Summarizes out loud for group one main idea for the topic sentence of the paragraph.
2. **Supporting Evidence Leader(s):**
   1. Lead the group in finding at least 3 pieces of evidence from the text that support the main idea.
   2. Facilitate group discussion so that each member will be ready to write a sentence with supporting evidence.
3. **Each member then writes a supporting evidence sentence on the post-it sentence strip and places in paragraph template. The Main Idea Leader also writes a topic sentence. Editor will lead group in brainstorming about a concluding sentence below.**
4. **Editor:**
   1. Reads the entire paragraph out loud as written.
   2. Leads group in brainstorming about concluding sentence and adds it to the paragraph.
   3. Leads group in suggesting edits. Each member may in turn suggest edits.
5. **Re-Write time (no more than 2 minutes). Any member can re-write sentence in response to proposed edits and add new revised sentence into paragraph.**
6. **Editor does final read-aloud and obtains group consensus (may need to repeat steps 5 & 6 to get consensus).**